

Effect of Shodhan on Alkaloidal Content of Kuchala (*Strychnos nuxvomica* Linn.)

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Kuchala (Strychnos nuxvomica linn.) is one of poisonous drugs of Ayurveda used as nervine tonic, stomachic, tonic, febrifuge and spinal, respiratory and cardiac stimulant. In Ayurvedic texts it is categorised under upavisha and its different preparations like Navajeevan Rusa, Agnitundi vati, Kuchala rasa and Shudha Kuchala etc. are prescribed for treatment of nervous disorders and rheumatism. In these preparations only shodhit (detoxified) Kuchala is used.

Strychnine and brucine are the important constituents of Kuchala and are said to be very poisonous in comparatively large doses. Therefore it was proposed to find out the effect of Shodhan on these two constituents of Kuchala. The different Shodhan processes as described in Ayurvedic texts are :

1. Dried and ripe seeds are dipped in Kanji (a preparation). After three days the seeds are removed from Kanji. Outer cover is removed and dried in sun and powered in iron pan.

2. Mature seeds are digested in cow's milk for three hour in a Dolayantra over a mild fire and skin is removed immediately and seeds are powered immediately.

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