

Exploring the medicinal value of Shigru and Madhushigru: An Insights from Nighantu

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DOI:10.21760/jaims.10.4.26

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Background: Shigru and Madhushigru are very important drugs described in various classical text of Ayurveda. It is mainly indicated in Vidradhi, Shotha, Shoola, etc.

Materials and Methods: All the available Ayurvedic Nighantu were referred for the collection of data regarding Shigru and Madhushigru.

Observation and Result: The different synonyms of Shigru like Harita Shaka, Tikta Gandha, Shobhanjana, Mulaka Parni etc. and Madhushigru like Raktashigru, Sinhakesari, Raktapushpa, Murangi were observed. Properties of Shigru and Madhushigru like Tikta, Katu Rasa, Ushna Veerya, Katu Vipaka, Kaphavatahara Karma and actions of Shigru like Chakshushya, Grahi, Rochana, etc. and specifically Madhushigru Deepana and Sara action were described in different Nighantu.

Discussion: The collection of various information of the Shigru and Madhushigru from 27 Nighantu and compare its variations by their synonyms, properties and actions.

Conclusion: The present analysis shows that different types of synonyms, properties and functions described in different periods of Ayurvedic Nighantu can be used to identify and validate medicinal plants. Shigru and Madhushigru possess various pharmacological actions and can play an important role in the treatment of Shoola, Gulma, Vidradhi, Shotha, etc. diseases.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Nighantu, Rakta Pushpa, Shobhanjana, Shoola

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How to Cite this Article

Gabani A, Singh S, Dodiya H, Exploring the medicinal value of Shigru and Madhushigru: An Insights from Nighantu. J Ayu Int Med Sci. 2025;10(4):175-183.
Available From
<https://jaims.in/jaims/article/view/4222/>

To Browse



Manuscript Received
2025-03-14

Review Round 1
2025-03-28

Review Round 2
2025-04-08

Review Round 3
2025-04-18

Accepted
2025-04-28

Conflict of Interest
None

Funding
Nil

Ethical Approval
Not required

Plagiarism X-checker
12.36

Note



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Introduction

Ayurveda, often referred to as the science of life, plays a significant role in enhancing daily well-being. During ancient period numerous *Dravya* (substances) are documented for their nutritional and medicinal properties. Among these, *Shigru* (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.) and *Madhushigru* (*Moringa concanensis* Nimmo.) are prominent members of the *Moringaceae* family, recognized for their remarkable nutritional and therapeutic characteristics. These species exhibit various pharmacological properties, including *Shothahara*, *Shoolahara* and *Amadoshahara* effects.[1] Both *Shigru* and *Madhushigru* typically grow as small trees, reaching heights of 10 to 12 meters.[2] This article presents a comprehensive review of the available *Nighantu* that provide insights into the synonyms, properties, actions and indications of *Shigru* and *Madhushigru*, facilitating a deeper understanding of their roles in traditional medicine.

Observation

Table 1: Vernacular Name of *Shigru* and *Madhushigru*

Description	Shigru[3]	Madhushigru[4]
Latin name	Moringa oleifera Lam.	Moringa concanensis Nimmo.
Family	Moringaceae	Moringaceae
English name	Drumstick plant	Konkan Moringa
Gujarati name	Mitho Saragvo	Kadvo Saragvo

Materials and Methods

A total of 27 *Nighantu* were reviewed to compile comprehensive information regarding *Shigru* and *Madhushigru*. Additionally, the e-Nighantu portal was utilized as a supplementary resource.

The data collected were systematically organized and presented in tabular format to facilitate analysis and comparison of the various properties, synonyms, and therapeutic actions associated with these two medicinal plants.

Table 2: References of *Shigru* and *Madhushigru* observed in various *Nighantu*

SN	Nighantu	Author & Period	Details		Abbreviation
			Shigru	Madhushigru	
1.	Sausruta Nighantu[5]	Acharya Sushruta (5th century AD)	5 Synonyms	5 Synonyms	Su. Ni.
2.	Ashtanga Nighantu[6]	Acharya Vahat (7th century AD)	3 Synonyms, 3 types of Shigru	3 Synonyms	As. Ni.
3.	Amarakosha[7]	Shrimad Amarsinha	5 Synonyms	1 Synonym	A.K.
4.	Paryayaratna Mala[8]	Madhavakara (9th century AD)	3 Synonyms	3 Synonyms	Pr. Rm.
5.	Siddhasara Nighantu[9]	Ravigupta (9th century AD)	4 Synonyms	Not mentioned	Si.S.N
6.	Madanadi Nighantu[10]	Acharya Chandranandana (10th century AD)	3 Synonyms, 3 types of Shigru given Shigru, Shigruka, Madhushigru	1 Synonym	Md. Ni.
7.	Dhanvantari Nighantu[11]	Mahendra Bhaugika (10th -13th century AD)	10 Synonyms, Shweta Maricha also given is Synonyms of Shigrubeeja.	1 Synonym	D.N
8.	Dravyaguna Samgraha[12]	Acharya Chakrapanidatta (11th century AD)	Not mentioned	-	D.G.S.
9.	Shabda Chandrika[13]	Acharya Chakrapanidatta (11th century)	10 Synonyms	2 Synonyms	S.C.
10.	Shodhala Nighantu[14]	Acharya Shodhala (12th century)	14 Synonyms, Shigru is also described in Kshara and Harita Varga, Karaviradi Varga, Taila Varga.	8 Synonyms	S.N.
11.	Nighantu Shesha[15]	Acharya Hemachandra (12th century)	11 Synonyms	1 Synonym	Ni.S.
12.	Abhidhana Ratnamala[16]	(12th -13th century AD)	8 Synonyms, In Katuskandha Shigru was described	Madhushigruka word described as synonym for Agatsya.	Ab.Rm.

SN	Nighantu	Author & Period	Details		Abbreviation
			Shigru	Madhushigru	
13.	Hridayadipika Nighantu[17]	Acharya Vopadeva (13th century AD)	4 Synonyms	1 Synonym	Hr.Di.
14.	Madhava Dravyaguna[18]	Acharya Madhav (13th century) Taila and Kshara of Shigru described.	2 Synonyms	1 Synonym	Ma.Dr.
15.	Siddhamantra[19]	Vaidya Acharya Keshava (13th century AD)	Not mentioned	-	Si.M.
16.	Madanapala Nighantu[20]	Acharya Madanapala (14th century AD)	4 Synonyms, Part wise characteristic given, in Katu Taila Shigru given.	1 Synonym	M.N
17.	Kaiyadeva Nighantu [21]	Acharya Kaiyadeva (1425 AD)	16 Synonyms, Shigru described in Ksharasaptaka, Dantadi Taila.	6 Synonyms	K.D.
18.	Sarsavati Nighantu[22]	16th century AD	8 Synonyms	4 Synonyms	Sa.Ni.
19.	Bhavaprakasha Nighantu[23]	Acharya Bhavamishra (16th century AD)	5 Synonyms	1 Synonym	B.N.
20.	Raja Nighantu[24] "Abhidhana Chudamani"	Narahari Pandit (17th Century AD)	10 Synonyms, Nila Shigru(8 Synonyms given) and Shweta Shigru (7 Synonyms given) also described. Shigrupatra described in Mulakadi Varga, Taila of Shigru also described.it is also in the Kshara Dashaka	8 Synonyms	R.N.
21.	Rajavallabha Nighantu[25]	Shri Rajavallabha (18th century)	Not mentioned	-	R.V.N.
22.	Laghu Nighantu[26]	Vyasa Keshavarama (18th century)	Not mentioned	-	L.N.
23.	Shaligrama Nighantu [27]	Acharya Shaligrama (19th century AD)	5 Synonyms	4 Synonyms	Sha.Ni.
24.	Abhidhanaa Manjari[28]	Acharya Bhashagacharya (1952 AD)	7 Synonyms, Shigru described in Dvayatha Varga (Haritashak-Shobhanjan), Also described in Chaturdhyartha varga.	8 Synonyms	A.M.N.
25.	Priya Nighantu[29]	Acharya P.V. Sharma (20th century AD)	3 Synonyms	Not mentioned	P.N.
26.	Nighantu Adarsha[30]	Bapalal Vaidya (20th century AD)	4 Synonyms	2 Synonyms	N.A.
27.	Shivakosha[31]	Shivadatta Mishra 1677 AD	2 Synonyms	Not mentioned	Si.K.

Synonyms of Shigru and Madhushigru

Out of 27 *Nighantu*, synonyms of *Shigru* & *Madhushigru* were found in 20 *Nighantu* & 18 *Nighantu* respectively. Total 59 & 32 synonyms were found for *Shigru* & *Madhushigru* respectively tabulated in table no. 2 & 3.

Table 3: Synonyms of Shigru observed in different Nighantu

SN	Synonyms	Su.Ni	As.Ni	Pr.Rm	Md.Ni	D.N	S.C	S.N	Ni.S	Ab.Rm	Hr.Di	M.N	K.N	B.N	R. N	Sha.Ni	A.M. N	P. N	N.A.	Si.S.N	A.K.
1.	Shigru	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	Harita Shaka	+			+	+		+					+		+		+	+			
3.	Mula Patra	+			+												+				
4.	Bahal Patra	+																			
5.	Tikshna Gandhi	+	+	+		+	+			+			+	+		+	+				+
6.	Shobhanjana		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+			+	+	+
7.	Bahala Pallava		+							+											
8.	Mulaka Parni			+		+		+					+								
9.	Krushna Gandha				+			+			+	+	+						+		

10.	Sukha Gandha				+																
11.	Sindhuka				+																
12.	Dirghaka					+															
13.	Laghupatraka					+		+													
14.	Avadanshakshama					+															
15.	Dansha					+			+												
16.	Mukhabhanga					+		+	+				+								
17.	Shigruka					+		+													
18.	Akshiva						+		+				+	+		+			+	+	
19.	Mochaka						+		+				+	+						+	
20.	Ugra						+														
21.	Shubhanaka						+														
22.	Kama						+														
23.	Kaminisha						+														
24.	Shighraka								+												
25.	Shwetaka								+												
26.	Shweta Maricha								+					+						+	
27.	Ghana Pallava								+												
28.	Avadamsha								+								+				
29.	Kshama								+												
30.	Mulakaparni								+												
31.	Shubhanjana									+				+			+				
32.	Subhangi									+											
33.	Madhugrunjana									+											
34.	Tikshnagrha									+											
35.	Mulakapallava									+											
36.	Vidradhi									+											
37.	Murangi										+			+							
38.	Mulakadala										+										
39.	Grunjana										+										
40.	Haritachhada										+			+							
41.	Bahudala											+						+			
42.	Bahulachhada												+	+							
43.	Shalankshama													+							
44.	Ghanachhada													+							
45.	Avadamsha													+							
46.	Vidradhighna													+							
47.	Mulakachhada													+							
48.	Shakapatra															+					
49.	Supatraka															+					
50.	Upadamsha															+					
51.	Kshamadamsha															+					
52.	Damshamoola															+					
53.	Komalaptraka															+					
54.	Bahumoola															+					
55.	Tikshnamoola															+					
56.	Shighraphala																+				
57.	Bahulatwaka																+				
58.	Tarkari																		+		
59.	Jaya																		+		
Total		05	04	04	07	11	09	15	11	08	04	04	18	06	10	05	08	02	04	04	06

Table 4: Synonyms of *Madhushigru* observed in different *Nighantu*

SN	Synonyms	Su.Ni	As.Ni	Pr.Rm	Md.Ni	D.N	S.C	Sh.N	Ni.S	Hr.Di	M.N	K.N	Sa.Ni	B.N	R. N	Sha.Ni	AM. N	N.A	A.K
1.	Madhushigru	+	+	+	+		+	+				+	+			+	+	+	+
2.	Shobhanjanaka	+															+		
3.	Bahalatwak	+																	
4.	Tiktagandha	+			+														
5.	Vishadadruma	+																	
6.	Madhura		+									+			+				
7.	Sinhakesari		+									+							
8.	Sugandha			+															
9.	Swadugandha			+								+							
10.	Raktashigru					+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+	+		+	
11.	Gudashigru						+												
12.	Raktapushpa							+											
13.	Sthulatwak							+											
14.	Madhutiktaka							+											
15.	Raktaghna							+											
16.	Gandhashigru							+											
17.	Kesari							+											
18.	Shubhanjana							+								+			
19.	Madhugandhika											+							
20.	Grunjanaka											+							
21.	Murangi				+								+		+		+		
22.	Shweta Maricha												+						
23.	Sutikshnaka												+						
24.	Raktaka														+				
25.	Bahulachhada														+				
26.	Sugandhakeasara														+				
27.	Sinha														+				
28.	Surangi															+			
29.	Sitamaricha																+		
30.	Madhusrava																+		
31.	Krushnagandha																+		
32.	Shalanakshama																		
Total		05	03	03	03	01	03	08	01	01	01	07	04	01	07	04	06	02	01

Rasapanchaka and Doshaghnata of Shigru and Madhushigru.

Out of 27 *Nighantu*, *Rasapanchaka* of *Shigru* is described in *Madanadi Nighantu*, *Dhanvantari Nighantu*, *Madanapala Nighantu*, *Kaideva Nighantu*, *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*, *Raja Nighantu*, *Shaligrama Nighantu*, *Priya Nighantu* & *Nighantu Adarsha*. Among them, diff. of opinion observed is mentioned in below table no. 5.

Table 5: *Rasapanchaka and Doshaghnata of Shigru*

SN	Text	Rasa			Veerya		Vipaka	Guna			Doshaghnata			
		Tikta	Katu	Madhura	Ushna	Shita	Katu	Ruksha	Laghu	Tikshna	Kaphahara	Vatahara	Pittahara	Pittakara
1.	Md.Ni.	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
2.	D.N.	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-
3.	M.N.	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+
4.	K.N.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
5.	B.N.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
6.	R.N.	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
7.	S.N.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
8.	P.N.	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+
9.	N.A.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Total		08	07	03	07	01	03	03	04	06	08	07	01	04

Out of 27 *Nighantu*, *Rasapanchaka* of *Madhushigru* is described in *Madanadi Nighantu*, *Madanapala Nighantu*, *Kaideva Nighantu*, *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*, *Raja Nighantu*, *Shaligrama Nighantu* and *Nighantu Adarsha*. Among them, the difference of opinion observed is mentioned in below table no. 6.

Table 6: *Rasapanchaka* and *Doshaghnata* of *Madhushigru*

SN	Text	Rasa			Veerya		Vipaka	Guna			Doshaghnata		
		Tikta	Katu	Madhura	Ushna	Shita	Katu	Ruksha	Laghu	Tikshna	Kaphahara	Vatahara	Pittahara
1.	Ma.Dr.	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	M.N.	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
3.	K.N.	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Sa.Ni.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
5.	B.N.	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
6.	R.N.	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+
7.	N.A.	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Total		04	04	03	01	00	02	02	03	04	04	03	01

Rogaghnata

After reviewing 27 *Nighantu*, *Rogaghnata* of *Shigru* were observed in 10 *Nighantu* are tabulated in table no. 7.

Table 7: *Rogaghnata* of *Shigru* observed in various *Nighantu*

SN	Rogaghnata	Su.Ni	Md.Ni	D.N.	Ma.Dr.	M.N.	K. N	B.N	R. N	S. N	P.N.
1.	Shirashoola	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
2.	Gulma	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
3.	Abhyantara Vidradhi	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Pleehaghna	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
5.	Krimihara	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+
6.	Vidradhi	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
7.	Shotha	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
8.	Amadosha	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Visha	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
10.	Medoroga	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
11.	Gulma	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
12.	Gandaghni	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-
13.	Vrana	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
14.	Apachi	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
15.	Mukhajadyahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
16.	Shoola	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
Total		03	03	07	03	03	09	12	02	12	05

Rogaghnata of *Madhushigru* were obser. in 5 *Nighantu* after reviewing 27 *Nighantu* are tabulated in table no. 8.

Table 8: *Rogaghnata* of *Madhushigru* observed in various *Nighantu*

SN	Rogaghnata	Ma.Dr.	M.N.	K. N	B.N	R. N
1.	Shothaghna	+	-	+	+	+
2.	Pleeha	-	+	-	+	-
3.	Vrana	-	+	-	+	-
4.	Vidradhi	-	+	-	+	-
5.	Krimi	-	-	-	+	-
6.	Medaroga	-	-	-	+	-
7.	Apachi	-	-	-	+	-
8.	Visha	-	-	-	+	-
9.	Gulma	-	-	-	+	-
10.	Ganda	-	-	-	+	-
11.	Adhmana	-	-	-	+	-
Total		01	03	01	11	01

Karma

The *Karma* of *Shigru* is elaborated in 8 *Nighantu*, including *Madanapala Nighantu*, *Kaideva Nighantu*, *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*, *Raja Nighantu*, *Shodhala Nighantu*, *Madhava Dravyaguna*, and *Nighantu Adarsha* which are mentioned in table no. 9.

Table 9: Karma of Shigru observed in different Nighantu

SN	Karma	Md.Ni	M.N	K. N	B.N.	R. N	S. N	P. N	N.A.
1.	Chakshusya	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+
2.	Grahi	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
3.	Vahnida	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Deepana	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
5.	Rochana	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+
6.	Kshara	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-
7.	Shukrala	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Hridya	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-
Total		01	02	07	06	02	06	01	03

The *Karma* of *Madhushigru* is elaborated in 7 *Nighantu*, including *Madanapala Nighantu*, *Kaiydeva Nighantu*, *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*, *Raja Nighantu*, *Shodhala Nighantu*, *Madhava Dravyaguna* and *Nighantu Adarsha* which are mentioned in table no. 10.

Table 10: Karma of Madhushigru observed in different Nighantu

SN	Karma	M.N	K. N	B.N	R. N	S. N	Ma.Dr.	Nss.A.
1.	Raktaghna	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
2.	Sara	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
3.	Deepana	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
4.	Grahi	+	-	+	-	-	-	-
5.	Rochana	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
6.	Kshara	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
7.	Hridya	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
8.	Chakshusya	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
9.	Rasayana	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
Total		03	02	07	01	01	02	01

Discussion

This review article aims to compile and analyze the characteristics of *Shigru* and *Madhushigru* as described in 27 *Nighantu*, focusing on their synonyms, properties, and therapeutic actions. A total of 59 synonyms, 8 *Karma*, and 16 therapeutic indications for *Shigru* were identified, alongside 31 synonyms, 9 *Karma*, and 11 indications for *Madhushigru*.

The most frequently used synonyms for *Shigru* are *Shigru*, *Shobhanjana* and *Tikshnagandha*, while *Madhushigru* is commonly referred to as *Raktapushpa* across multiple *Nighantu* which can helpful in morphological identification are such as *Shweta Maricha*, *Komalapatra*, and *Bahala Pallava* for *Shigru*, whereas *Rakta Pushpa* and *Sthulatwak* are associated with *Madhushigru*.

The *Madanadi Nighantu* categorizes *Shigru* as possessing a *Tikta Rasa* (bitter taste) and followed by *Dhanvantari*, *Kaiydeva*, *Bhavaprakasha*, *Raja*, *Shodhala*, and *Priya Nighantu*, which also recognize its *Katu Rasa* (pungent taste). In contrast, *Madhushigru* is characterized by a *Madhura Rasa* (sweet taste) as noted in the *Kaiydeva* and *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*.

Ushna Veerya mentioned for the *Shigru* in *Dhanvantari*, *Madanapala*, *Kaiydeva*, *Bhavaprakasha*, *Raja* and *Priya Nighantu* while *Shita Veerya* mentioned in *Madanadi Nighantu* for *Shigru*. For *Madhushigru*, *Veerya* is only mentioned in *Madanapala Nighantu* and considered as a *Ushna Veerya*.

Both *Shigru* and *Madhushigru* exhibits *Katu Vipaka*, with references found in *Kaiydeva* and *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*.

The *Kaphahara* and *Vatahara* actions of *Shigru* are supported by several *Nighantu* including *Dhanvatari*, *Madanapala*, *Kaiydeva*, *Bhavaprakasha*, *Raja* and *Priya Nighantu*. Furthermore, the *Madanadi Nighantu* highlights its *Pittahara* properties. Action of *Madhushigru* include *Kaphahara* and *Vatahara*, as noted in the *Madanapala* and *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*.

Shigru is indicated for *Pleeha*, *Krimi*, *Vidradhi*, *Shotha*, and *Shoola*. Notably, *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu* mentioned its utility in *Paramartihrut*. *Madhushigru* is indicated for *Adhmana*, *Shotha*, and *Vrana*.

Furthermore, the *Chakshusya*, *Grahi*, and *Rochana* actions of *Shigru* are documented in *Kaideva* and *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*. In contrast, *Deepana* and *Sara* actions for *Madhushigru* are specifically mentioned in *Bhavaprakasha*, *Madanapala*, and *Kaiydeva Nighantu*.

Conclusion

Shigru and *Madhushigru* are two potent *Dravya* recognized for their efficacy in treating various diseases. Both are cited in 23 *Nighantu*, with *Shigru* possessing 59 synonyms and *Madhushigru* having 31 synonyms. Observed for *Shigru* *Shothaghna*, *Pleehaghna*, *Krimihara* and *Vidradhihara* as a main therapeutic indication whereas *Sothaghna* therapeutic indication is mentioned for *Madhushigru*. Both plants are characterized by *Tikta* and *Katu Rasa*. *Deepana*, *Rochana*, *Chakshusya Karma* mentioned for *Shigru* whereas *Deepana* and *Sara Karma* indicated for *Madhushigru*. This analysis highlights the diversity of synonyms, properties and actions documented across different historical periods in *Ayurvedic Nighantu*. Such information is crucial for the identification and usage medicinal plants used in therapeutics.

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