

A Critical Review on the medicinal tree Devdaru (Cedrus deodara (roxb) Loud.)

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Cedrus deodara (Roxb.) Loud., commonly known as Devdaru, is a sacred and medicinal tree native to the Himalayan region, widely revered in Hinduism. Traditionally, various parts of this tree, including its bark, heartwood, fruit, and seeds, have been used in Ayurveda to treat a range of ailments such as arthritis, respiratory disorders, skin diseases, and digestive issues. This review provides a critical evaluation of the pharmacological properties, therapeutic applications, and chemical constituents of Devdaru. The tree's medicinal properties are attributed to its rich content of terpenoids, flavonoids, and essential oils, which exhibit anticancer, antibacterial, antifungal, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and neuroprotective activities. The ethnopharmacological use of Devdaru spans across multiple regions, with indigenous communities employing it for over forty different diseases. Despite its extensive use, the mechanistic understanding of its effects remains limited, warranting further research in clinical and animal-based models. This paper underscores the therapeutic potential of *Cedrus deodara*, emphasizing the need for more focused studies to validate its efficacy and elucidate its biochemical mechanisms.

Keywords: *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.)Loud., Therapeutic Properties, Formulations and Indications, Rheumatism, Vata disorders, Pharmacological activities

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Introduction

As the name implies, *Deodaru* is considered a sacred tree in Hinduism. While the second part of the plant's name, "*Deva*" signifies durum, druid, tree, or truth, the first part identifies divinity, god, or divine.

Living amid forests with plenty of *Devdaru* trees is a favorite of ancient Indian sages and their families who were devoted to the Hindu god Shiva. Typically found in India's Himalayan mountains, which include those in central India as well as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

The tree is long, with small leaves and broad, straight branches. The tall, evergreen *Cedrus deodara* tree is almost 60 meters tall, with slender, horizontal branches that nod at the tips.

Long, glaucous green, acicular, and usually found in dense fascicles with a few single leaves scattered among them, the leaf is pointed-like and ranges in length from 2.5 to 5 cm.

Bark is grayish or radish brown with vertical and diagonal cracks. Every part is oleaginous, peppery, bitter, and slightly smelly. The Pinacea family includes the genus *Cedrus*, which is mainly found in tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

Despite the male and the plant is monoecious, female cones growing on different branches. The oval-shaped, 3–6 inch long, brown fruits have a hard or dry coating on them. The first blossoms develop in the fall. Well-drained soils are ideal for growing trees. Young trees are susceptible to frost and chilly winds, even though shade aids in growth.

Classification

Scientific Classification

Kingdom - Plantae

Division - Pinophyta

Class - Pinopsida

Order - Pinales

Family - Pinaceae

Genus - *Cedrus*

Species - *deodara*

The drug deodara has been classified under various Varga by Acharyas

SN	Samhita / Nighantu	Varga / Gana
1.	Charak Samhita	Anuvasanopag Mahakashaya Sthanyashodhan Varga Katuskandha
2.	Shushrut Samhita	Vata Sansamana
3.	Bhavaprakasha Nighantu	Karpuradi Varga
4.	Dhanvantari Nighantu	Gudhuchyadi Varga
5.	Kaideva Nighantu	Oushadhi Varga
6.	Madanpal Nighantu	Oushadhi Varga
7.	Nighantu Adharsha	Devdarvadi Varga
8.	Saligram Nighantu	Karpuradi Varga
9.	Priya Nighantu	Chandanadi Varga
10.	Raj Nighantu	Chandanadi Varga

Synonyms

SN	Synonyms	CS	SS	Ni.Aa.	Bha.Di.	RN	DN	KN	Bha. Ni.	MPL	SN
1.	Kilimam	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
2.	Daru	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
3.	Devdaru	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
4.	Drukilima	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
5.	Paribhadrak	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Pitadaru	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Pitadrum	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
8.	Putikashta	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Bhadradaru	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
10.	Shukrapadapa	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Suradaru	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
12.	Suraha	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+
13.	Surakashta	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Devkashta	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
15.	Bhadrakashta	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
16.	Agnidghadaruk	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Kasthadaru	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Sukashtha	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Mahadaru	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
20.	Snehavidha	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
21.	Snigdghadaru	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Shambhava	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Bhutihari	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Rudravata	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Amaradidaru	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Shivadaru	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Mastadaru	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
28.	Darvindradaru	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
29.	Surbhuruha	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
30.	Krimila	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
31.	Kshakradaru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
32.	Snehavriksha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-

(CS- Charak Samhita, SS- Sushruta Samhita, NA- Nighantu Adharsha, RN- Raj Nighantu, KN- Kaidev Nighantu, DN- Dhanwantari Nighantu, BHA. NI.- Bhavaprakash Nighantu, SN- Saligram Nighantu)

The synonyms help us for better understanding of morphology, Habitat, Pharmacology, *Guna*, *Karma* and useful parts of *Deodara*, the term *Deodara* is mentioned in *Charak Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Madan Vinod*, *Bhavaprakash Nighantu*, *Nighantu Adharsh*, *Raj Nighantu*, *Madanpal Nighantu*, *Kaiyedeve Nighantu*, *Dravyaguna Vijnana* vol. 2 vegetable drug (Prof. P.V. Sharma), Ayurvedic Pharmacology and therapeutic uses of medicinal plants *Dravyaguna Vigyan*.

Synonyms with interpretation

The synonyms compiled from various *Samhitas* and *Nighantus* can be grouped as those describing the habit, morphology features and description of fruit, leaf bud, flower, latex and bark.

Synonyms

1. *Kilimam* - The wood is very light.
2. *Daru* - It is useful in constipation.
3. *Devdaru* - It signifies the God. It is superior.
4. *Dukilimah* - It secretes resins.
5. *Paribhadra* - Consumption of *Devdaru* helps in overall well-being of the person
6. *Pitadaru* - Its wood is yellow in colour.
7. *Pitadru* - Heartwood is yellow in colour. Its beauty is soothing to the eye.
8. *Putikashtha* - a) wood has pungent smell. b) The heartwood is holy, diminishes foul smell.
9. *Bhadradaru* - Its wood is superior.
10. *Shakrapadapah* - It is the tree of Indra.

Therapeutic Properties and Action

The pharmacotherapeutic properties and action of *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Linn. have been compiled from *Bhavaprakash Nighantu*, *Dhanvantari Nighantu*, *Kaideva Nighantu*, *Raj Nighantu*, *Madan Vinod Nighantu*, *Madanpal Nighantu*, *Bha. Di.*, *Charak Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Nighantu Adarsha*, and Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API), Ayurvedic Pharmacology and therapeutic uses of medicinal plant *Dravyaguna Vignyan* (Vd.V.M.Gogte).

As described in above mentioned *Nighantu* and text book are possess

Guna - *Laghu*, *Snigdha*

Rasa - *Tikta*, *Katu*

Vipaka - *Katu*

Virya - *Ushana*

Dosha Karma - *Kaphavatahara*

Therapeutic Indication

The drug *Cedrus deodara* has been described to be potent in treating *Vatavikara*, *Vibhandha*, *Adhamana*, *Sotha*, *Jwara*, *Hikka*, *Swasa*, *Kasa*, *Amadosha*, *Prameha*, *Kandu*, *Arsha*, *Vedanayuktavikara*, *Vrana*, *Karnaroga*, *Raktadosha*, *Slipada*, *Kaphajroga*, *Bhutagrahadosha* etc.

Kaiyedeve Nighantu - *Kasa*, *Swasa*, *Hikka*, *Kapha* and *Vatanashaka*, *Jwara*, *Prameha*, *Vibhandha*, *Adhamana*, *Kandu*, *Shopha*, *Raktavikara* and *pinas*.

Raj Nighantu - *Kaphavata Nashaka*, *Bhuta Dosha-paham*

Madanpal Nighantu - *Adhamana*, *Jwara*, *Sotha*, *Hikka*, *Kandu*, *Kaphavata Nashaka*.

Charak - *Hikka*, *Shwasa*

Sushruta - *Jwara*, *Sotha*

Vagabhatta - *Kaphaj Kasa*

Harita - *Vatajanyavrana*

Chakradatta - *Slipada*

Bhavaprakash Nighantu - *Hridagatvata*

Vangasen - *Kaphajanyagandamala*, *Slipada*

Shodhal Nighantu - *Kushta*, *Karnashula*, *Pillanetraroga*

Rasahridaya Tantra - *Pinasaadiroga*, *Kustha*

Vernacular Names

Sanskrit - *Bhadradaru*, *Surabhuruha*, *Amaradaru*, *Devakashtha*, *Daru*, *Suradaru*, *Indradaru*, *pitradu*, *suraha*, *surakashtha*, *putikashtha*

Assam - *Shajar Tuljeen*

Bengali - *Devdaroo*

English - *Deodar*, *Himalayan Cedar*

Gujrati - *Devdar*, *Teliyo Devdar*

Hindi - *Devdar*, *Devdaroo*

Kannada - *Deevdar*

Kashmir - *Dadar*, *Dar*, *Deodar*, *Diar*

Malayalam - *Devataram*

Marathi - *Devdar*, *Telya Dedaroo*

Punjabi - *Diyar*, *Dewdar*

Tamil - *Tevadaram*, *Tevadari*

Telgu - *Devdaree*

Chemical Constituents

Dihydromyricetin, Cedrine, Deodorine, Cedrin oxide, Kaempferol glucoside, Polyphenolic lignoids, Cededarine, Sesquiterpenes (a&b-Himochalene, Himachaloletc), P-methylacetophenone, atlantone, Lignins, Tannins, B-sitosterol, Abietic acid derivatives, Oleic, Ascorbic acid, Essential oil from wood.

Varieties

There is 2 varieties according to *Raja Nighantu*

1. *Devdaru - Cedrus deodara*
2. *Sarala Deodaru - Pinus longifolia*

Officinal Parts

Many parts of *Deodara* has been used for therapeutic purpose which include stembark, heartwood, fruit, seed and leaf.

Dosage

The stem bark, heartwood can be administered as *Churna* (powder) from- 3-6 gm (API)

Taila - 20-40 drops

Important Preparation and Indications

SN	Formulation	Indication
1.	Agurvadya Tail	Jwara
2.	Pippalyadya Tail	Anuvasanbasti for Arsha, Prolapsed rectum, Mutrakriccha
3.	Devdarvadi Tail	Karnshula
4.	Mahanil Tail	Internal and external application in various disease
5.	Sandhavadi Tail	InVatikyonirog for pain relief
6.	Gudhuchayadi Tail	VataVyadhi, Respiratory Disorders, Wound Healing
7.	Amrutadya Tail	Unmad, Apsmar
8.	Gandha Tail	Fracture, dislocation
9.	Anutaila	Vata Vyadhi, Respiratory Disorder
10.	Mahavishagarbha Tail	Vatarog, Mahavata rog ,gridhasi , Dandhaaptanak
11.	Mahabala Tail	Kushta , Hridaroga, Pandu, Gulma
12.	Prasarini Tail	Vatakhapha rog, Gridhasi, kubja
13.	Kshara Tail	Pus discharge in ear, Karnashula, Krimi
14.	Devdarubaladi Tail	Sarvangavata
15.	Chinchadi Tail	Vata Vyadhi
16.	Prabhanjanavimardan Tail	Vata Vyadhi
17.	Karpasayadi Tail	Apbahuka, Sarvangavata, Ardit, Pakshaghat
18.	Kottammucukkadi Tail	Vataroga
19.	Kalyanakgrita	Apasamar, Jwara, Kasa, Swas, Vatarakta, Unmad
20.	Hriveradigrita	Arsha, Atisara, Grahani, Pandu, Jwar, Aruchi etc.
21.	Katukadhya Grita	Raktapitta, Jwara, Daha, Arsh, Bhagandar
22.	Vyoshadi Grita	Vata Vyadhi
23.	Tryushanadya Grita	Kasa, Jwara, Pliha, Aruchi
24.	Panchagvaya Grita	Vishamajwara
25.	Pathadi Grita	Swarabheda, Kasa, Swasa
26.	Devdarvadi Grita	Udavart, Vataj rog
27.	Kalyanak Grita	Kshaya, Kasa, Swasa, Jwara
28.	Siddharathak Grita	Slow poisoning, Krimi, Kushta, Vishamjwara
29.	Nil Grita	LA in skin disease
30.	Lasunadi Grita	Vatajgulma
31.	Indukanta Grita	Vatavyadhi, Gulma, Shula
32.	Kiratadhya Churna	Grahani , Gulma, Shula, Aruchi, Jwara, Kamala, Mukharoga
33.	Sudarshan Churna	Jwara, Pliha, Gulma
34.	Rashanairandadikwatha Churana	Ekgavata, Sarwangavata
35.	Devadarubaladi Churana	Udar roga, Krimi roga
36.	Devdaruvyadi Churna	Aamavata
37.	Punarnavadi Mandur	Pandu, Arsha, Grahani,Vishamajwara
38.	Mandur Vatak	Pandu , Arsha, Grahani

39.	Shrivestakadi Yoga	Urustambha
40.	Chandraprabhavati	Urinary disorder, joint Pain, kidney disorder
41.	Pradarantakaloha	Pradar rog, Shula
42.	Devdarvadi Kashayam	Udavart, Amatisar
43.	Dashamuladi Kwatha	Slipada, Shotha, Udara, Vataroga
44.	Rashanadi Kwath	Vatajroga
45.	Maharashanadi Kwatha	Joint Pain, Vataj Rog, Kampvata
46.	Devdarv Aristha	Ashadhyaprameha, Grahani, Arsha
47.	Khadira Aristha	Kushta, Hridaroga, Pandu, Gulma
48.	Pushakarmula Asava	Cronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder, Bronchitis etc
49.	Khadiradhya Lepa	Khaphaj Visharp
50.	Doshaghna Lepa	LA in Shotha

Therapeutic Uses

The various useful parts of *Deodaru* can be made into *Kwatha*, *Churna*, *Paste*, *Taila*, *Vati* etc. and applied in disease including *Vatajnayavyadhi*, *Sotha*, *Shoph*, *Tandra* etc.

In Charak Samhita

1. Fumigation in *Arshas* using *Tumburu*, *Vidanga*, *Devadaru* & *Akshata* (barley) combined with *Ghee*.
2. *Devadaru*, *Vaca*, *Vidanga*, *Bhutika*, and *Dhanyaka* decoction beneficial for *Kaphajaatisara*.
3. Paste prepared with *Devadaru*, *Haridra*, *Dariharidra*, *Vaca*, and *Katukarohini* taken with honey in *Urusthambha*.
4. *Devadaru* decoction recommended for *Hikka* and *Swasa* patients;

In Sushrut Samhita

1. *Devadaru*, *Shrivesthtaka*, *Sarjarasa*, and *Sarala* fumigation can aid in the healing of wounds.
2. To assist treat wounds, create *Ropana Taila* (healing oil) using *Devadaru*, *Kalanusarya* (*Tagara/Shailaja*), *Aguru*, *Haridra*, *Druharidra*, *Priyangu*, and *Rodhra*.
3. Septic wounds can be cleaned with oil made using *Devdaru*, *Sarala*, *Shimshipa*, *Aguru*, and *Gandhira*.
4. To treat *Sushk Akshipaka* eye condition, use a collyrium that contains pasted *Saindhava*, *Deadaru*, and *Shunti* with *Matulunga juice*.
5. In *Kaphaja Abhishyanda* and *Kapha Adhimantha*, *Devadaru*, *Balaka*, *Shumthi*, and *Kushta* were employed as *Lepas*.
6. Itching and irritation in the eyes can be cured by using a paste produced of *Devadaru*, *Shunti*, *Musta*, *Saindava*, and *Chameli* buds mixed with *Sura* as a collyrium in *Kaphaja Abhishyanda*.

7. To treat ear pain, make *Dipikataila* with *Devadaru*, *Kushta*, and *Sarala*.

8. The *Tikshna* with *Deodaru* and *Citraka* useful in *Nasaarava disease*.

9. The usage of *Sarala*, *Kinihi*, *Devadaru*, *Danti*, and *Ingudi* in smoking therapy is beneficial for *Kaphaja Pratishyaya*.

10. The administration of *Galaganda* benefits from oil processed using *Devadaru*, *Amrutvalli*, *Nimba*, *Himsra*, *Abhaya*, *Vrukshaka*, *Pippali*, and *Bala*.

11. *Devadari*, *Shatapushpi*, *Vaca*, *Kushta*, *Harenuka*, *Kustumburu*, *Nalada*, and *Musta* were all used in the decoction. When combined with sugar and honey, the decoction helps treat *Vatik Jwara*.

12. *KaphavataJwara* can be treated using a decoction of *Devadari*, *Nagara*, *Dhanyaka*, *Bharngi*, *Abhaya*, *Vaca*, *Parpataka*, *Mustaka*, *Bhutika*, and *Katphala* combined with honey and *Hingu*.

13. *Devadaru*, *Nala*, *Vetasa*, and *Murva* roots are used to make a decoction that helps with all kinds of fevers.

14. *Bhadradaru* and *Citraka* paste made daily can be applied externally to help with *Slipada*

15. The *Ghruta* made with herbs like *Sarjika*, *Sauvarcala*, and *Devadaru* treats *Vataja Gulma* and serves as an appetizer.

16. Smoking sticks made with herbs like *Devadaru*, *Haridra*, *Candana*, etc., aid in *Shwasa* when mucus is obstructed.

17. To alleviate the urine condition, one *Aksha* of paste of *Devadaru*, *Musta*, *Abhaya*, *Murva*, and *Madhuka* is given as a drink.

18. *Amaja* kind of *Atisar* benefits from decoction of *Deodaru*, *Siddharthaka*, *Shatahwa* and *Katurohini*.

In Astanga Hridaya

1. *Sannipatajvara*: beneficial decoctions of *Vyaghri*, *Devadaru*, *Nisha*, *Ghana*, *Patolapatra*, *Nimbhatvak*, *Triphala*, and *Katuki*
2. *Dhumapana*, a cigarette made from the leaves of *Haridra*, the roots of *Eranda*, *Laksha*, *Manashila*, *Devadaru*, *Ela*, and *Mamshi*, can heal *Hikka* and *Swasa*.
3. *Lehya* (confections) made with a mixture of honey and *Tilataila*, *Devadaru*, *Shathi*, *Rasna*, *Karkatakhyia*, and *Duralabha*, heal coughs brought on by *Kapha* and *Vata*.
4. Patients with hiccups and dyspnea should drink *Devadaru* decoction when they are thirsty.
5. With oil, *Bilva*, *Rasna*, *Yava*, *kola*, *Devadaru*, *Punarnava*, *Kulatha*, and *Panchamula* can be used as *Nasya*, *Pana*, and Enema in *Vatajahrudroga*.
6. In all forms of *Mutraghata*, powdered *Devadaru*, *Ghana*, *Murva*, *Yashtimadu*, and *Haritaki* are ingested with water, milk, or Sura.
7. *Devadaru*, which is prepared as a paste using goat urine and used topically, eliminates many eye conditions.
8. Eyelash swelling and irritation can be relieved by using powdered *Jati*, *Saindhava*, *Devadaru*, and *Mahaushadha* buds mixed into a wick with *Prasanna* (Sura scum).
9. *Trikatu* and oil extract from *Devdaru's* burned wood are combined, and in the case of *Kaphajkasa*, *Yavakshara* is taken.

Bhavaprakash Chikitsa

1. *Vata Vikara*: Paste made from *Devadaru* and *Nagara* is particularly helpful internally for a variety of *Vata*

Results

The well-known medicinally active tree *Cedrus deodara* has long been used to treat a variety of conditions, including leprosy, boils, rheumatism, ulcers, bone fractures, sprains, and boils, either by itself or in conjunction with other herbs. The majority of the 105 chemical constituents identified by phytochemical research from various plant sections are members of the terpenoids and flavonoids class.

Important pharmacological effects, such as anticancer, antibacterial, antifungal, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, antidiabetic, antiurolithiatic, antiarthritic, and antiasthmatic properties, were demonstrated by crude extracts, essential oils, fractions, and isolated components of *Cedrus deodara*.

Discussion

Cedrus deodara, or *Devdaru*, is a medicinal tree with a rich history of use in Ayurveda, treating various health conditions such as *Vata* disorders (arthritis and rheumatism), respiratory issues (cough and asthma), digestive problems (constipation), and skin ailments (ulcers and boils). Phytochemical analyses identify over 105 constituents, mainly terpenoids and flavonoids, including dihydromyricetin, cedrine, and kaempferol glucoside, which are known for their antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anticancer properties.

Research highlights *Devdaru's* pharmacological activities, including anticancer, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, neuroprotective, and immunomodulatory effects. However, further research is needed to elucidate its mechanisms of action, validate its efficacy through clinical trials, and standardize its preparations.

Conclusion

The ethnopharmacology, traditional use, and biological activity of *C. deodara* are discussed in the current publication together with the specific restrictions on the current study. *C. deodara* has been used to treat around forty illnesses by indigenous people from 28 different ethnic groups, including those from India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Korea. According to the results of numerous research, *C. deodara* has a variety of characteristics, such as immunomodulatory and anticancer effects, as well as the ability to affect the neurological system.

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