



# Review on Pippali (Piper Longum Linn.) With Special Reference to Ayurvedic Nighantus

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**ABSTRACT:** Medicinal plants are an important part of human evolution. Medicinal plants are widely used in traditional cultures all over the globe for centuries. Even after rise of modern medicine plant-based medicine retain their popularity in modern society. According to WHO 80% population of the world relies on the traditional medicine for treatment of various diseases. Immunity booster is one of the area where plant based medicines are more trusted. Pippali (Piper longum Linn.) is one of the best known immunity booster described in Ayurveda. Pippali is also used as a home remedy in respiratory tract diseases. The drug is described in all ayurvedic nighantus. Nighantus have described the pharmacognostic and pharmacological properties of plants by their synonyms. Hence the aim of the study is to collect, elaborate & discuss the synonyms and properties described in different nighantus regarding Pippali. The study reveals that total 37 synonyms are coined to Pippali out of which denotes the 15 morphological characters, 6 denotes rasadi properties, 8 denotes the habitat of plant and 7 denotes pharmacological actions of the plant. It is also found that Pippali has been indicated in 17 clinical conditions like Shwasa, Kaasa, Gulma, Arsha, Pliha, Meha, Kushtha, Shula, Ajirna, Aruchi, Jwara, Trushna, Udar, Krumi, Pandu, Hrudroga, Kshaya. Findings of this review may help academicians and researchers as a ready reference.

**Key Words:** Pippali, Piperlongum, synonyms, Nighantus.

## I. INTRODUCTION:

Plants are the basis of human's existence on this planet. Besides being the primary source of food for human being, plants are the basic necessity for treatment of various health ailments. Plant based medicines are important part of many ancient cultures across the globe. Ayurveda is one of the ancient medicinal culture which has its roots in India. Ayurveda has always prioritized prevention

than cure. Pippali is one of the widely used immunomodulator described in Ayurveda. Pippali is also used as a home remedy for different health ailments. The drug is described in detail in ayurvedic nighantus. Nighantus have described drugs through their synonyms. Nighantus of later period have also written their properties and indications. Compiling the data about Pippali (Piper longum) will be a good resource for academicians and researchers. In this paper, the literature like synonyms, rasapanchak, actions and indications of Pippali has been compiled and the data obtained is presented systematically in tabular manner.

## II. MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY:

All the available nighantus were search for the data regarding Pippali. The verse describing synonyms and properties of Pippali. the synonyms, rasapanchak, actions and indications were systemically organized and presented in tabular form. The e-book, "eNighantu" was used for this study. Thenighantus having description of Pippali were numbered and the numbers were used instead of the title of Nighantu while presenting the data. The numbering of Nighantu is as follows;

1. Abhidhanmanjari<sup>1</sup>
2. Abhidhanratnamala<sup>2</sup>
3. Ashtang Nighantu<sup>3</sup>
4. Kaiyadev Nighantu<sup>4</sup>
5. Dhanvantari Nighantu<sup>5</sup>
6. Paryayaratnamala<sup>6</sup>
7. Bhavprakash Nighantu<sup>7</sup>
8. Madanpal Nighantu<sup>8</sup>
9. Raj Nighantu<sup>9</sup>
10. Laghu Nighantu<sup>10</sup>
11. Saraswati Nighantu<sup>11</sup>
12. Shodhal Nighantu<sup>12</sup>
13. Sushrut Nighantu<sup>13</sup>
14. Siddhasaara<sup>14</sup>
15. Dravyagunasangraha<sup>15</sup>

**Paryaya:**

Paryayas are the way to narrate a drug in nighantus. Nighantus have put down paryaya to describe morphological characters, Rasapanchak (Rasa, Virya, Vipak, Guna, Doshaghata), Habitat, Pharmacological actions. Pippali has 37 paryayas in

different nighantus, out of which 15 paryayas indicate the morphological characters like colour, shape; 7 paryayas are indicative of rasapanchaka, 8 paryayas signify habitat and 7 describes pharmacological actions.

**Table 1.** Synonyms assigned to Pippali

Sr. No.	Synonyms	Nighantus
1	Kana	1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14.
2	Upakulya	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11, 12, 14.
3	Shoundi	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 10, 12, 13, 14.
4	Krushna	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11,12, 13, 14.
5	Kali	1, 10, 12.
6	Ushana	1,5,7,9, 10, 11, 12.
7	Kanavala	1.
8	Pippali	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, 12,13, 14.
9	Bashpi	1.
10	Magadhi	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11, 12, 13.
11	Vaidehi	2,3,4,6,7,8,9, 10, 11, 12.
12	Chapala	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 10, 11, 12, 13.
13	Kola	2,3,5,6,7,9,10, 11, 12, 13.
14	Tikshnatandula	2,3,4,5,7,8,9, 10, 12, 13.
15	Shyamavha	4.
16	Shyama	5,9, 10, 12.
17	Magadhya	6.
18	Tiktatandula	6,9.
19	Magadha	8, 11.
20	Vishva	8, 11.
21	Krukara	9.
22	Katubeeja	9.
23	Korangi	9.
24	Dantaphala	9.
25	Magadhobhava	9.
26	Smrutyavha	9.
27	Bahubeeja	10, 12.
28	Kshudratandula	10.
29	UshnaPhala	11.
30	Karni	12.
31	Krushnaphala	12.
32	Vrushya	12.
33	Katukandarasa	12.
34	Krutmangala	12.
35	Kolanaamika	13.
36	Katvaranaphala	13.
37	Magadhika	14.

**Important Synonyms with their interpretation<sup>16</sup>-**

Kana : It has fruit of many Kana's or fruits are small berries.

Upakulya : That which grows near water or alongside water Stream.

Shoundi: That which is used with condiments in drinking liquors.

Krushna, Kali, Shyamavha, Shyama: Fruits are Black in colour.

Ushana: That which gives burning sensation or pain to the tongue.



Pippali: One can maintain total health by its intake.  
 Maghadhi, Magadhya, Magadha, Magadhodbhava,  
 Magadhika: That which is largely grown Magadha  
 region.  
 Vaidehi: Grown in Videhadesha.  
 Chapala: That which consoles.  
 Kola: Its fruit weighs about one kola pramana.  
 Tikshnatandula : Seeds bears TikshnaGuna.  
 Tiktatandula: Seeds havetikta rasa.  
 Vishva: Used widely.  
 Katubeeja: The fruit have pungent taste.  
 Katuvalli: It is predominant of pungent taste.:  
 Bahubeeja:Have lots of seeds  
 Kshudratandula: Seeds are small sized.  
 Ushnaphala: Fruit having iguna  
 Krushnaphala: it has black coloured fruits.  
 Vrishya: it is used as aphrodisiac  
 Katukandarasa:Stem has Katu rasa.

**Classification:**

Nighantus have grouped drugs in different sections based some common property. Morphological characters ,Pharmacological actions, part used as a medicine are the different criteria for the classification after organizing the plants in a bunch ,it was named after one of the important plant of that group.Abhidhanmanjarihas mentioned pippaliin Madanadigana while abhidhanratnamala puts down it in Katuskandh. Ashang Nighantu grouped this plant in Pippalyadigana,othervargas having pippali as its part are Oshaddivarga, LavanaadiVarga, Shatapushpaadivarga,Haritakyaadivarga,Shunthyaa divarga,Pippalyaadivarga, Chandanaadivarga, Shatapushpaadivarga and Pippalyadigana.

**Table 2.Classifiacation ofPippaliin differentnighantus**

Nighantu	Varga/Gana
Abhidhanmanjari	Madanadiganavarga
Abhidhanratnamala	Katushandh
AshtangNighantu	Pippalyadigana
KaiyadevNighantu	Oshaddivarga
Dravyagunasangraha	LavanaadiVarga
DhanvantariNighantu	Shatapushpaadivarga
BhavprakaashNighantu	Haritakyaadivarga
MadanpaalNighantu	Shunthyaadivarga
Raj Nighantu	Pippalyaadivarga
SaraswatiNighantu	Chandanaadivarga
Shodhal Nighantu	Shatapushpaadivarga
SoushrutNighantu	Pippalyadigana

**Rasapanchaka of Pippali:**

Action of a drug is seen due to its Rasa or Viryaor VipakaorPrabhava.Pippaliis one of the sevendrugs which are said to be effective one year after collection. In some textsrasapanchaka of fresh(ardra) and one year old(Purana) pippaliare described separately.As per thenighantus, rasa of

ardrapippaliismadhuraandoldpippaliiskatu.Veeryaof fresh fruit issheetabut there are different opinions aboutveeryaof old fruit i.e. anushna,ushna and atyushna. Allnighantushave same opinion about madhuravipakaof the drug. The details ofrasapanchakaofpippaliare listed in Table 3.

**Table 3.Rasapanchaka of Pippalias described in variousnighantus.**

Nighantu	Aardra/ Shushka	Rasa	Virya	Vipaka	Guna	Action on Doshas
Kaiyadev Nighantu	Aardra	Madhura	Sheeta	-	Guru,Snigdha	Kaphaprada
	Shushka	Katu	Anushna	Madhura	Laghu,Snigdha, Sara	Kaphavaathara
Dravyaguna sangraha	Aardra	Madhura	Sheeta	-	Guru.	Kaphaprakopa
	Shushka	-	Ushna	Madhura	Snigdha.	Vaatshleshma Naashini
Dhanvantari Nighantu	-	Katu	Sheeta	Madhura	Snigdha	Tridoshajit
Bhavpraka	Aardra	Madhura	Sheeta	-	Guru,Snigdha	Kaphaprada,



sh Nighantu	Shushka	Katu	Anushna	Madhura	Laghu, Snigdha.	Pittaprashamani Vaaqtashleshmahari Pittaprakopini
Madanpaal Nighantu	-	Katu	Atyushna	Madhura	Snigdha, Laghu	Kaphavaatahara
Raj Nighantu	-	Katu, Tikta	Ushna	-	Snigdha	Kaphavaatahari
Rajvallabh Nighantu	Shushka	Madhura, Katu	Ushna	-	Snigdha, Sara	Vaatshleshma vinaashini.

**Actions:**

Different actions of Pippali are enlisted in Table 4. while based on these actions clinical conditions where Pippali is advised to use are listed

in Table 5. Pippali can be used in 17 clinical conditions like shwasa, Kasa, Gulma, udara, Arsha, Pliha, Jwara, Trushna, krumi, Kushtha, Shula, Ajirna, aruchi, Pandu, hrudroga.

**Table 4.** Actions of Pippalias described in various nighantus.

Actions	Nighantus
Ruchya	4.
Vrushya	4,7,9.
Rasayani	4,5.
Dipani	4,7,8,9,15.
Pachani	4.
Hrudya	4.
Anulomani	4.
Aamnashini	5.
Rechani	7,8,.
Medavinashini	7.
Vrushya	4,7,8,15.
Medhya	7.

**Indications:**

**Table 5.** Indications of Pippalias described in various nighantus.

Indications	Nighantus
Shwaasa	4,7, 8,9,10.
Kaasa	4, 7, 8,9,10.
Gulma	4, 7, 8.
Arsha	4, 7, 8.
Meha	4, 7, 8.
Pliha	4, 7, 8.
Jwara	4,5, 7, 8,9.
Trushna	5.
Udara	5, 7, 8.
Krumi	5, 7.
Kushtha	7, 8.
Shula	7, 8
Ajirna	7.
Aruchi	7.
Pandu	7.
Hrudroga	7.
Kshaya	9.

**III. CONCLUSION:**

Pippali is one of the key drug used in Ayurveda. The paryayas gleaned from various Nighantu give an idea about the morphological

characters of plant like its climber nature (Katuvali), black coloured fruits (Krushna, Kali, shyama, shyamavha), consistency of the fruit (Kana). habitat of the plant grows near



waterstream(Upkulya) and Magadha ,Videha region (Magadhi, magadhya, Magadha, magadhodbhava, Vaidehi). Pharmacologival properties like katurasa, ushnaveerya and tikshnaguna are described in synonyms like Ushana, katukandarasa, Tiktatandula, katubeeja, Tikshnatandula.This review affirms that pippaliis useful in 17 clinical conditions like Shwas,Kaasa, Jwara, shula,udaradue to some important medicinal properties of the plant like dipana,vrushya, medhya, rasayana, hrudya, anulomana, etc. Thus,this article may prove a basic database about Pippali for further research about action and indiacations of Pippali.

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