

**Verification of botanical source of *Arimeda*: a textual based study**

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**Abstract**

*Arimedadi Taila* is one of the Ayurvedic medicines used for a wide range of oral and dental diseases and named after the main ingredient *Arimeda*. The original formula of this oil is mentioned in *Chakradatta* and has later been included in Sri Lankan texts too. In Sinhala translation of *Chakradatta*, *Arimeda* is translated as *Guranda* which is different and not even used as a substitute for *Arimeda*. The aim of this study was to verify the botanical source of *Arimeda* in Sri Lankan flora and investigate the textual references for its pharmaceutical utility in indigenous medicine. The primary data were collected from Ayurvedic classics and *Nighantus* and secondary data were gathered from Ayurveda Pharmacopeia of India and other literary research published by various scholars. The data were analyzed comparatively based on check lists and were critically reviewed on the basis of scholarly opinions. A field survey was carried out to find out the sources of *Arimeda* in market and raw material used to prepare *Arimedadi Taila* in Sri Lanka. As officially declared in Ayurveda Pharmacopeia of India, the botanical name of *Arimeda* is *Acacia leucophloea*. The botanical name of *Gurenda* is *Celtis timorensis* which is botanically different, bearing no morphological or pharmacological similarities with *Arimeda*. *Acacia leucophloea* is naturally grown in dry zone of Sri Lanka and locally known as *Katu Andara* which has been included in the National Red List of 2012 published by IUCN. The Sinhala translation of *Ashtangahradya* has mentioned *Gurenda* for the synonym *Vitkadira* which gives a partly similar meaning with *Gurenda*. At present only four companies manufacture *Arimedadi Taila* in Sri Lanka and only one company uses *Acacia leucophloea* as *Arimeda* for the product and others use *Gurenda* for the oil. The raw material used as *Arimeda* should be further verified through pharmacognostic methods on the market samples and standardize *Arimedadi Taila*.

**Keywords:** *Arimeda*, *Gurenda*, *Katu Andara*

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