



## Medicinal value of Vinayaka Patri

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**Abstract:**

*Plants have been used for thousands of years to flavour and conserve food, to treat health disorders and to prevent diseases including epidemics. The knowledge of their healing properties has been transmitted over the centuries within and among human communities. As a part of this, they have habituated the people to use some of the plant leaves in religious rituals. Currently, 21 plants which possess purifying environment, anti microbial and anti bacterial properties have been used in the religious ritual (Vinayaka Chavithi) are reviewed. In this paper an attempt is made to present the medicinal values of the leaves used in the vinayaka puja and purification of water bodies due to rainy season contamination by immersing these puja leaves at the end of nine days festival*

**Key words:** Medicinal plants, antibacterial, antimicrobial, environment cleaning, Patri

Introduction: Vinayaka Chaturdhi is most popular festival in India which falls in the rainy season, i.e., August/September. A large number of leaves of varied kinds are offered to the GANESH. Ganapathi symbolizes the innate relationships between men, animals, and trees. The leaves which are used are called as patri. This is known as EKAVISANTHI PATRI PUJA in which 21 spells are recited each with one kind of leaf. Thus 21 kinds of leaves are used. All these leaves possess aromatic and medicinal values. A peep into the ancient literature on religion and medicine would reveal importance of these leaves. The month GANESH USTAV celebrations BHADRAPAD is basically month for collection of various plants of medicinal use. People in India used to collect these medicinal plants and offer them to

Ganesh and then make their medicinal use throughout the year. People offer various leaves till 9 days to Ganesh. On 10<sup>th</sup> day they immerse these leaves in water bodies like lakes, canals which is called Nimajjanam. Actually September is the rainy season which brings impurities into the water bodies. The volatile alkaloids present in these medicinal plants dissolve in these water bodies and purify them. Environmental cleaning is also one of the purpose hidden in this ritual.

The importance and significance of the leaves used in performing the pooja. 21 types of leaves are offered to Lord Ganesh during the festival, and each leaf has an ayurvedic significance.



Table: Vinayaka Patri

| S. No | Sanskrit Name         | Vernacular Name  | Botanical Name         | Family         |
|-------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 1     | Machipatram           | Machipatri       | Artimicia vulgaris     | Asteraceae     |
| 2.    | Bruhatipatram         | Kamanchi         | Solanum nigrum         | Solanaceae     |
| 3.    | Bilva Patram          | Maredu           | Aegle marmelose        | Rutaceae       |
| 4.    | Durva Yugmam          | Garika           | Cynodon dactylon       | Poaceae        |
| 5.    | Dattura Patram        | Ummetha          | Datura metel           | Solanaceae     |
| 6.    | Badari Patram         | Regu             | Ziziphus jujube        | Rhamnaceae     |
| 7.    | Aapamarga patram      | Uttareni         | Achyranthus aspera     | Amaranthaceae  |
| 8.    | Tulasi Patram         | Tulasi           | Ocimum sanctum         | Lamiaceae      |
| 9.    | Chuta Patram          | Mamidi           | Mangifera indica       | Anacardiaceae  |
| 10    | Karaveera patram      | Ganneru          | Nerium oleander        | Apocynaceae    |
| 11.   | Vishnu Krantha Patram | Vishnu Krantham  | Evolvulus alisinoides  | Convolvulaceae |
| 12.   | Dadimi Patram         | Danimma          | Punica granatum        | Punicaceae     |
| 13.   | Devadaru Patram       | Devadaru         | Cedris deodar          | Pinaceae       |
| 14.   | Maruvaka patram       | Maruvam          | Oreganum majorana      | Lamiaceae      |
| 15.   | Sindhuvara Patra      | Vavili           | Vitex trifolia         | Verbenaceae    |
| 16.   | Jatipatram            | Jaji             | Jasminum grandiflorum  | Oleaceae       |
| 17.   | Gandali Patram        | Ponnagan ti Kura | Alternanthera sessalis | Amaranthaceae  |
| 18.   | Sami patram           | Jammi            | Prosopis spicigera     | Mimosae        |
| 19.   | Aswatha Patram        | Raavi            | Ficus religiosa        | Moraceae       |
| 20    | Arjuna Patram         | Maddi            | Terminalia arjuna      | Combretaceae   |
| 21    | Arca Patram           | Jilledu          | Calotropis procera     | Asclepiadaceae |

1. **Machipatram:** It is used to treat respiratory diseases like Asthma and Bronchitis. It is used to treat certain skin diseases, Measles and Anaemia. Recent Investigations proved that certain chemicals present in Artimicia can prevent cancer.
2. **Bruhatipatram:** Roots are used to treat Kapha, Vaata ailments. Leaves are used to treat Asthma Bronchitis



- and heart diseases. Leaves and fruits possess antibacterial characters. They are used to treat Exima and other skin infections.
3. **Bilva Patram:** Roots are used to control fevers, vomiting and inflammation. Leaves are used to treat eye diseases, ear diseases, cataract and diabetes. Fruits are good for heart and brain. Oil extracted from seeds act against bacteria.
  4. **Durva Yugam :** All parts of the plant are medicinally valuable. Used to treat vomiting, diarrhoea and skin diseases. It is used as astringent. Haemostatic, diuretic and as tonic. Mixture of cynodon , salt and turmeric applied on wounds gives quick relief. Silica which is present in the leaves reacts with NaCl (Salt) and gives a substance Sodium Silicate. Sodium Silicate is used to treat wounds in Allopathy
  5. **Dattura Patram:** It is used to treat Asthma, cough, fevers, skin diseases and ulcers. Leaf extract is used to treat epilepsy. Root extract is used to treat dog bite and insanity. Leaf paste cures Mumps.
  6. **Badari Patram:** Roots are used to treat fevers and Ulcers. Bark is used to treat diarrhoea. Leaves are used to treat Asthma and Typhoid. Seeds are used to treat insomnia
  7. **Aapamarga patram:** All parts of the plant are medicinally valuable. It is used to treat cough, Asthma and Bronchitis. It is used to treat flatulence, colic and dropsy. It is used to treat leprosy and other skin diseases
  8. **Tulasi patram:** All parts of the plant are medicinally valuable. It is used to treat leucoderma. It cures gastric disorders in children. It is used to treat Asthma, Bronchitis, and Hiccups. It is used to treat Exima and other skin infections.
  9. **Chuta patram:** LEAVES ARE USED TO TREAT Haemmarage, wounds, and diarrhoea. Leaves are used to treat Kapha and Pitta doshas. Bark is used to treat Uterine haemamrges.
  10. **Karaveera patram:** Roots and leaves possess medicinal value. Roots are used to treat cardiac Asthma.
  11. **Vishnukranta patram:** It is used to treat Asthma and bronchitis. It is used to treat Epilepsy. Leaves are used to treat Anaemia and diarrhoea. It is used for general debility.
  12. **Dadimi patram:** Roots Bark, Flowers, Fruits and seeds possess medicinal value. Flowers give strength to gums. Fruits are used to treat anaemia and bronchitis. Seeds are used as cardiac tonic.
  13. **Devadaru patram:** Leaves are used to treat Inflammation. Bark is used to treat insomnia, epilepsy and hiccups. Bark is also used to treat leucoderma and other skin diseases.
  14. **Maruvaka patram:** Leaf extract mixed with turmeric cures Exima. Scented Oil extracted from leaves is used to treat toothache and paralysis.
  15. **Sindhuvara patram:** Roots. Leaves, flowers and fruits possess medicinal value. Roots and leaves are used to treat cough, bronchitis, leprosy and other skin infections. Leaves used against Kapha and Vaata Doshas. Leaf extract possesses anti cancerous nature. Leaves are used to treat hair fall, leucoderma and tuberculosis



16. **Jaji patram:** Roots are used to treat Exima and other skin diseases. Leaves are used to treat toothache, ulcers and tumours. It gives relief to cough.
17. **Gandali patram:** It is used to treat Kapha, Vata doshams. It is used to treat acidity and diarrhoea. It is used to treat leprosy and other skin diseases
18. **Sami patram:** Paste prepared from leaves is used to treat Exima. Leaf extract is used to treat insect bite. Fruit paste is used to treat tumours.
19. **Aswatha patram:** Bark, leaves, young branches and latex were used as medicine. Bark extract shows action against bacteria like staphylococcus aurias and Escherichia coli. Leaves and Young branches are used to treat wounds and other skin infections. Dried fruits mixed with water cures Asthma.
20. **Arjuna patram:** Bark possesses medicinal value. It is used to treat fractures. I is used to treat ulcers, anaemia, diabetes and fatigue. It cures Asthma and Bronchitis. It is also used to treat liver cirrhosis and Hypertension.
21. **Arca patram:** Dried plant parts are used as Tonic. Root Powder cures indigestion. Leaves are used to treat inflammations and paralysis. Flowers are used to treat Asthma and cataract.

Conclusion: The offerings have been mentioned in our religious books. As the scientific knowledge on such offerings were known to very few people and was not in the written form, it has only been assumed as tradition by the people and to day generation. Thus, the knowledge of the prophylactic and therapeutic properties of these leaves was known to the people who penned the procedures for performing the pooja. The younger generation is expected to be trained to identify the plants and the methods of collecting them and know their medicinal values

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