**Short Title:** Critical appraisal of *Rasayana Guna* of *Avaleha* ingredients

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# Critical Appraisal of *Avaleha* Formulation in *Brihat-Trayi* w.s.r. to its Ingredients' *Rasayana Guna* (Antioxidant Property)

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# **Abstract**

Humans, due to their tremendous intellectual abilities are on way at par from and this is the most developed and sophisticated living creature on earth. They are step ahead, in true sense, desires not only to live, but to live a long & disease-free life as far as possible. The ancient revered Acharyas achieved the aims before thousands of years ago, in the means of *Rasayana* which not only helped to attain longer but healthier life & also prevent diseases. Out of all *Rasayana* formulations, most of them are *Avalehas*. In *Ayurveda* there is a special branch of pharmaceutics called as Bhaishajya Kalpana dealing with formulations of mainly herbal medicines, which are basically two types i.e., primary and secondary formulations. *Avaleha* is the most popular secondary *Kalpana* (dosage form) which has been employed in various disorders and these products are gaining its importance due to its easy administration, palatability, longer shelf life and considering as *Ayurveda*'s nutraceutical. It is a semisolid preparation made from herbal drugs, prepared in decoction, expressed juices of different herbs other liquid etc. by adding sweetening agents like jaggery, sugar & added honey. Here an attempt is made to collect, analyze & discuss all different *Avaleha* formulations and its ingredients for *Rasayana Guna* (Antioxidant property) which is mentioned in *Brihat-trayi*.

Keywords: Avaleha, Rasayana, Anti-oxidant, Longevity

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## INTRODUCTION

Humans, the super most of all the species is always remaining in the search of one prime goal: the perfect health. The present condition of human health around the globe is far from satisfaction. As an answer to solve the problems of healthful longevity, and resistant against diseases the *Rasayana* is there. It prolongs the longevity, develops the positive health & also prevents diseases.

Out of all *Rasayana* formulations, mostly are *Avalehas*. *Avaleha* is a semisolid preparation of herbal drugs prepared in decoction or extracts of different herbs by adding sweetening agents like jaggery, sugar or sugar candy. *Avaleha Kalpana* is considered as an *Upakalpana* of *Kwatha Kalpana*. Different varieties of *Avaleha* are mentioned in various Ayurvedic classics and they are the most accepted variety of Ayurvedic dosage forms due to its easy administration, palatability and long shelf-life considering as *Ayurveda*'s nutraceutical.

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Rasayana drugs act by preventing the old age and diseases in the healthy person. E.g., Haritaki<sup>1</sup>, Guggulu<sup>2</sup>, Shilajitu<sup>3</sup>. On scientific basis, Rasayana Karma can be analogous with Anti-oxidant, Anti-ageing, Adaptogenic, Nootropic and cognitive, Immunomodulatory activities. The anti-oxidant agent decreases the cell destruction activity of free radical and promotes cell longevity<sup>45</sup>. Considering this, a meticulous screening was done through Brihattrayi to analyse all different Avaleha formulations, ingredients for their Rasayana Guna (Antioxidant property).

# MATERIALS AND METHOD

A review of *Brihat-trayi* i.e., Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Samgraha and Ashtanga Hridaya has been made. The collected data is presented here in tabular form. *Avalehas* mentioned in *Brihat-Trayi*:

The review revealed that mostly *Avaleha* formulations are indicated for *Rasayana*, *Dirghayu*, *Shwasa* and *Kasa Roga*. Total 41 *Avalehas* found from *Brihat-trayi* in which 24 *Avaleha* found in Charaka Samhita, while 9, 12 and 11 *Avalehas* found in Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Samgraha and Ashtanga Hridaya respectively (Table no. 1).

Table 1: Avaleha formulations found in Brihat-trayi6,7,8,9

Sr.No.	Name of Avaleha	Name of Ingredients	Uses	References
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> Brahma	Haritaki, Amalaki,	Rasayana,	Cha. Chi. 1, 1/41-47
	Rasayana	Pancha Panchamula	Dirghaayu	A.S. Utt. 49/21
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Brahma	Amalaki, Sthira,	Rasayana,	Cha. Chi. 1, 1/58-61
	Rasayana	Punarnava, Suvarna, Rajata, Tamra Pravala	Dirghaayu	
3.	Chyavanaprash	Amalaki, Dashamula,	Rasayana,	Cha. Chi. 1, 1/62-74
	a	Draksha, Jivanti, Abhaya, Amrita	Dirghaayu, Kasa- shwasahara	A.S. Utt. 49/29
4.	Amalaka	Amalaki, Bibhitaka,	Dirghaayu,	Cha. Chi. 1, 1/75
	Rasayana	Haritaki, Palasha	Punaryuvatatpr apti	A.S. Utt. 49/23-24
5.	Amalaka Avaleha	Amalaki, Pippali	100-Year Ayu, Rasayana	Cha. Chi. 1, 2/7
6.	Vidanga	Vidanga, Pippali,	Rasayana	Cha. Chi. 1, 2/9
	Avavleha	Sitopala	,	A.S. Utt. 49/37
7.	Aparaamlaka Avaleha	1000 Amalaki, Pippali, Vidanga	Rasayana	Cha. Chi. 1, 2/10
8.	Nagabala Rasayana	Nagabala Mula	Rasayana	Cha. Chi. 1, 2/11
9.	Lohadi	Triphala, Gomutra,	Rasayana,	Cha. Chi. 1, 3/15-23
	Rasayana	Kshara, Lavana, Kinshukakshara	Dirghaayu	A.S. Utt. 49/31
10.	Indrokt	Balya, Jivaniya,	Sarva Roga	Cha. Chi. 1, 4/13-26
	rasayana	Brimhaniya,	Prashamana	
		Vayasthapna Gana Aushadhi		

11.	Danti Haritaki	Haritaki, Danti, Chitraka Mula	Gulma, Arsha, Pandu, Hridroga	Cha. Chi. 5/154- 160 A.S. Chi. 16/40
12.	Kamsa Haritaki	100 Haritaki, Dashamula	Shotha, Shwasa, Jwara, Arochaka, Meha, Gulma	Cha. Chi. 12/50-52 A.H. Chi. 17/14-16
13.	Darvadileha	Daruharidra, Triphala, Vyosha, Vidanga	Kamala, Pandu	Cha. Chi. 16/97
14.	Dhatryavaleha	Dhatri, Munnaka, Tugakshiri, Yashtimadhu	Kamala, Pandu, Kasa, Halimaka	Cha. Chi. 16/100- 101
15.	Duralabha Leha	Duralabha, Shati, Draksha, Sringavera	Kasa, Shwasa, Hikka	Cha. Chi. 18/50
16.	Durhsparshadi Leha	Durhsparsha, Pippali, Musta, Karkataki	Kasa, Shwasa, Hikka	Cha. Chi. 18/51
17.	Vidangadi Avaleha	Vidanga, Saindhava, Kushtha, Vyosha	Kasa,Shwasa, Hikka	Cha. Chi. 18/52
18.	Chitrakadi Avaleha	Chitraka, Pippalimula, Vyosha, Hingu	Kasa, Hridroga. Shwasa, Gulma	Cha. Chi. 18/53-56
19.	Agastya Haritaki	100 Haritaki, Dashmula, Bala, Shankhapushpi, Shati	Rasayana, Vali- Palitanashaka, Ayushyavardhn a, Kasa, Shwasa	Cha. Chi. 18/57-62 Su. Utt. 52/43-47 A.H. chi. 3/127-132 A.S. Chi. 5/82-87
20.	Pippalyadi Leha	Pippali, Yashtimadhu, Shitopala, Mridvika	Shwasa, Hridroga	Cha. Chi. 18/135- 137
21.	Haritaki Leha	Haritaki, Guda, Pippali	Shwasa, Kasa	Cha. Chi. 15/168- 169
22.	Drakshadi Leha	Draksha, Padmaka, Vartaka, Pippali	Shwasa	Cha. Chi. 18/172- 173
23.	Padmakadi Avaleha	Padmaka, Triphala, Shunthi, Vyosha	Kasa	Cha. Chi. 18/174- 175 A. S.Chi. 5/132-133
24.	Jivantyadi Avaleha	Jivanti, Madhuka, Patha, Sariva, Pushkara	Kasa	Cha. Chi. 18/176- 179
25.	Ayorajovyoshad hyavaleha	Ayoraja, Vyosha, Vidanga, Triphala	Pandu	Su.Utt. 11/19
26.	Vidangadhyaval eha	Vidanga, Musta, Triphala, Ajamoda	Pandu, Shotha	Su. Utt. 44/31-32
27.	Kalyanka Guda	Amalaki, Pippali, Jiraka, Trikatu, Ajamoda, Saindhava	Swasa, Kasa, Swarbheda	Su. Utt. 52/39-42
28.	Khadiradhyaval eha	Khadira, Asana, Nimba, Rajvriksha	Kushtha	Su. Chi. 10/9
29.	Shalasaradhya Avaleha	Salasaradi Gana Aushadha	Kushtha	Su. Chi. 10/9

30.	Nyagrodha Avaleha	Nyagrodha	Kushtha	Su. Chi. 10/9	
31.	Aragvadha Avaleha	Aragvadha	Kushtha	Su. Chi. 10/9	
32.	Shalasaradi Avaleha	Shalasaradi Gana Aushadha, Amalaki, Lodhra, Priyangu	Sarva Prameha Nashaka	Su. Chi. 13/10	
33.	Vijaya Avaleha	Haritaki, Guda, Pippali	Shwasa, Kasa	A. H. Chi.3/167	
34.	Kasanashska Avaleha	Draksha, Pippali, Sitopala	Kasa	A.H. Chi.3/30	
35.	Kantakari Avaleha	Kantakari, Vyosha, Rasna, Guduchi, Chitraka	Gulma, Hridroga, Shwasa, Kasa	A.H. Chi. 3/63-66 A.S. Chi. 4/84-87	
36.	Kushmandaka Rasayana	Kushmanda, Pippali, Shunthi, Maricha, Jiraka	Kasa, Hikka, Shwasa, Hridya, Medha-smriti- bala Prada	A.H. Chi. 3/115- 117 A.S. Chi. 5/64-68	
37.	Vashishtha Haritaki Rasayana	Dashamula, Haritaki, Bala, Haridra, Pippali, Patha	Rasayana, without any regimen healthy person can use it	A.H. Chi. 3/133- 140 A.S. Chi. 5/88-96	
38.	Eladi Sarpi Guda	Ela, Ajamoda, Triphala, Vyosha, Chitraka	Rasayana, Ayushyavardha ka, Gulma, without any regimen healthy person can use it	A. H. Chi. 5/28-32	
39.	Kutajadi Avaleha	Kutaja, Manjishtha, Priyangu, Mocharasa	Rakta Atisara, Raktapitta, Raktaarsha	A.H. Chi. 8/104- 107 A.S. Chi. 7/53-56	
40.	Chitrakavaleha	Chitrakamula, Trikatu, Haritaki, Nagarmotha	Arsha, Kushtha, Gulma, Udararoga	A.H. Chi. 8/153- 154	
41.	Sitadi Avaleha	Shita, Taila, Vidanga, Amalaka	Sarvakushtha	A.H.Chi.19/79	

Table no. 2 shows, list of drugs with their pharmacological activity i.e., Anti-oxidant activity, which are maximum times used in *Avaleha* formulation and all of them possess anti-oxidant activity (*Rasayana Guna*).

Table 2: Avaleha ingredients' Rasayana property (Anti-oxidant activity)

Sr. No.	Drug having Rasayana property	Botanical Source	Part Used	Research Study done on Anti-Oxidant Activity of mentioned drug in <i>Avalehas</i>	
1	Pippali	Piper longum Linn.	Extract of fruit	Total phenolic content, Radical scavenging by DPPH, ABTS <sup>10</sup> .	

2	Haritaki	Terminalia chebula Ritz.	Extract	Reducing power, total Antioxidant capacity, DPH radical concentration, nitric oxide radical concentration and hydrogen peroxide scavenging activity <sup>11</sup> .	
3	Amalaki	Emblica officinalis Gaertn.	Extract of Fruit	Anti-oxidant activity by DPPH radical, hydroxyl radical, Superoxide anion radical, Reducing power, inhibition capability of Fe.	
			Seed	Free radical scavenging activity by DPPH and reducing power method <sup>12</sup> .	
4	Bibhitaka	Terminalia bellirica Gaertn.	Extract of fruit	Radical scavenging by DPPH <sup>13</sup> .	
5	Daruharidra	Berberis aristata	Extract of plant	Superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (C AT), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), activ ities and the level of lipid peroxidation decreased oxidative stress. <sup>14</sup>	
6	Varahi	Dioscorea bulbifera Linn	Extract of bulb		
7	Vidari	Pueraria tuberosa	Tuber	ABTS assay, lipid peroxidation, superoxide, hydroxyl radical scavenging activity <sup>16</sup> .	
8	Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Five different Extracts of leaves	Total reducing sugar, lipid peroxidation, DPPH & superoxide radical scavenging method <sup>17</sup> .	
9	Kshiravidari	Ipomoea digitata Linn.	Extract of root	Nitric oxide, Total anti-oxidant activity <sup>18</sup> .	
10	Shatavari	Asparagus racemosus Willd	Root extract	Free radical by DPPH method <sup>19</sup>	

Table 3: Repetition of drugs in Avaleha Kalpana

Sr. No.	Name of the drug	<b>Botanical source</b>	Part used	No. of times repeated in <i>Avaleha</i> formulations
1	Pippali	Piper longum Linn.	Fruit	20 times
2	Haritaki	Terminalia chebula Ritz	Fruit	17 times
3	Amalaki	Embalica officinalis Gaertn	Fruit	16 times
4	Bibhitaki	Terminalia bellirica Gaertn	Fruit	8 times
5	Daruharidra	Berberis aristata	Stem bark	6 times
6	Varahi	Dioscorea bulbifera Linn	Bulb	6 times
7	Vidari	Pueraria tuberosa	Tuber	6 times
8	Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem	5 times
9	Kshiravidari	Ipomoea digitate Linn.	Root	4 times

10	Shatavari	Asparagus	racemosus	Root	4 times
		Willd			

#### DISCUSSION

Health is a state of a complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

Ayurveda describes various rejuvenating therapies with the help of special class of medicinal preparations called *Rasayana*, those are believed to rebuild the body, mind, prevent degeneration and postpone aging or rather reverse the aging process.

In Ayurveda, there is a special branch of pharmaceutics called as Bhaishajya Kalpana dealing with formulation of medicines. In this branch there are basically two types of formulations i.e., Primary formulations and Secondary formulations. *Avaleha* is the most popular secondary *Kalpana* (dosage form) which has been employed in various disorders and these products are gaining its importance due to its easy administration, palatability, longer shelf life and considering as *Ayurveda's* nutraceutical. It is defined as "A semisolid preparation which is prepared by reboiling of decoction etc., till it solidifies and attains signs of proper cooking. Out of all *Rasayana* formulations, mostly are *Avalehas*.

During the screening throughout in *Brihat-trayi*, the *Avalehas* can be classified into two categories:

- 1) As a Rasayana,
- 2) As a therapeutic indication.

Out of them mostly *Avaleha* are indicated as a *Rasayana*. This shows that *Avaleha* has property of *Rasayana Karma* (for longevity) because of its ingredient's *Rasayana* properties, E.g., *Chyavanaprashavaleha*. The main ingredient of *Chyavanaprasha Avaleha*<sup>20</sup> is *Amalaki*, which has properties like *Rasayana*, *Vayasthapana* as well as antioxidant properties. The chief ingredients of *Avalehas* in *Brihat-Trayi* are *Amalaki*<sup>21</sup>, *Haritaki*<sup>22</sup>, *Pippali*<sup>23</sup>, *Shatavari*<sup>24</sup>, etc. which have properties like *Rasayana*, *Vayasthapana* (for longevity), etc.

Table no. 2 shows, correlation with Ayurvedic pharmacology i.e. *Rasayana Guna* with antioxidant properties. The part of activity of *Rasayana Guna* may be interpreted with antioxidant activity or free radical scavenging activity. Antioxidants are reducing agents, and limit oxidative damage to biological structures by passivating them from free radicals. Free radicals accumulate in the cell as the age progresses. They are highly unstable and reactive in nature and cause oxidative chain reaction<sup>25</sup>. As per Ayurvedic mode of action for *Rasayana Dravyas*, ingredients of *Rasayana Avaleha* are working on proper formation and functioning of all seven *Dhatus*. This can be assumed after observing their action and indication regarding various disease conditions of individual *Dhatu*. Among them 10 drugs are mostly repeated, and they are already reported for their antioxidant activity. (Table 2). Table no. 3 shows, the number of times drug repeated in *Avaleha Kaplana* having a *Rasayana* property. The maximum repeated drug used in *Avaleha* formulation is *Pippali* i.e., 20 times. Then after *Haritaki*, *Amalaki*, *Bibhitaka*, *Daruharidra*, *Varahi*, *Vidari*, *Guduchi*, *Kshiravidari* and *Shatavari* being repeated for 17, 16, 8, 6, 6, 6, 5, 4, 4 times respectively.

## **CONCLUSION**

Total 41 Avalehas are enumerated from four important Samhita having Rasayana Guna. A critical analysis on data regarding Avaleha formulations clearly indicates that maximum number of drugs are attributed with Rasayana Guna. Among them, repeated ten major drugs viz., Amalaki, Haritaki, Pippali etc. exhibit antioxidant activity, which is preferred as one of the pharmacological expressions of Rasayana Guna. Degenerative changes in different organs due to oxidative stress may be controlled by Rasayana drugs which are mentioned in Avaleha formulation with proven antioxidant activities. So that Avaleha might play major role in Ayurveda for longevity of human being.

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