

Review

DAROONAJ AQRABI - A review

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ABSTRACT

Doronicum Hookeri of family Asteraceae is an important medicinal drug distributed in Himalayas at Lachen and Tangu, Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet between 12,000 to 14,000 ft. Its roots are widely used as folk medicine and are commonly known as “Darunaj-aqrabi” in Unani and as “Leopard’s bane” in English. Roots are traditionally used as a constituent of, act as a stomachic and dissolves trapped gases. Antibacterial and antifungal activities of *D. hookeri* roots have been previously reported. The methanolic extract of root part possessed higher phenolic content and thus higher free radical scavenging and reducing activities. The methanolic extract of this plant showed scavenging and antioxidant activities in DPPH (2,2- diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) radical scavenging assay.

Keywords *Doronicum Hookeri*, cardiac, nervine tonics, exhilarant, Unani

INTRODUCTION

Daroonaj is a woody and rooty piece with length equal to a finger digit or smaller. Its inner side is white, while the outer side is hard, heavy and dusty (Ibne, year not mentioned). A robust herb, 0.3 - 0.6 meter high, Radical leaves 0, or soon withering; cauline 10 - 15 by 2.5 - 5 cm, often unequal-sided. Leaves all narrowed into short, 1\2-amplexicaul petioles, oblong or elliptic lanciolate, obtuse or acute, entire or irregularly toothed. Involucral bracts ovate - lanciolate, acuminate (Kirtikar and Basu, 2003).

Botanical name: *Doronicum Hookeri* (Anonymous, 2000; Chopra et al., 2002; Ibne, year not mentioned; Khare, 2007)

Family: Compositae; Asteraceae (Chopra et al., 2002; Khare, 2007; Prajapati and Kumar, 2003; Timothy, 1998)

Vernaculars (Anonymous, 2000; Chopra et al., 2002; Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Ibne, year not mentioned; Kabiruddin, 2007; Khare, 2007; Prajapati and Kumar, 2003)

English: Dorema, Leopard’s Bane

Arabic name: Aqeer

Persian name: Darunak, Daruna

Urdu name: Daroonaj Aqrabi

Hindi name: Toos Turang

Habitat: Syria, Lebanon, Africa. Sikkim, Himalayas at lichen and Tangu between 12,000 - 14,000 ft 4

Mizaj (temperament): Hot and dry in third degree (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, year not mentioned; Ibne, 1999; Kabiruddin, 2007)

Parts used: Root only

Af aal (Actions): (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Kabiruddin, 2007)

Muqavvie wa Muffareh Qalb
Muqavvie Meda wa Jigar,

Musakhkhin,

Muhallil,

Kasire riyah
Hafize Janin,

Therapeutic uses: (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Ibne, year not mentioned; Kabiruddin, 2007; Kirtikar and Basu, 2003)

- It strengthens the heart and proves to be useful in palpitation.
- It is used in the uteritis and palpitations caused by cold.
- It resolves the flatulence of stomach, intestine and uterus.
- It is a potent cardiac tonic.
- It is a nervine tonic and is very useful in paralysis and facial palsy. It is also useful in sciatica and other cold diseases.

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- It is useful in epilepsy and apoplexy.
- It is useful in chest pain when taken with honey.
- The root is bitter, pectoral, carminative, cardiotoxic, stomachic, alexiteric, applied to buboes, used in cough, chest troubles, inflammations and headache.
- The root is used to prevent giddiness on ascending heights.

Daily dosage: 4 - 6 grams (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Kabiruddin, 2007)

Muzarrat (Adverse effects): It produces headache (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Kabiruddin, 2007)

Musleh (Corrective): Badiyan, Roghane Badam (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Kabiruddin, 2007)

Badal (substitute): Zaranbad (Ghani and Advia, 2010; Hakeem, 2002; Ibne, 1999; Kabiruddin, 2007)

Ethnobotany:

Actions: cardiotoxic, diuretic, stimulant, Aromatic, tonic (Kumar et al., 2006; Timothy, 1998)

Uses: (Evans, 2002)

- It has been used extensively as an orthodox remedy for bruising and local trauma treatment.
- Root—used as a constituent of cardiac and nerve tonics. Used as exhilarant. Acts as a stomachic and dissolves trapped gases (Khare, 2007).
- Its action as a cardiac tonic and exhilarant is extraordinary. Used as an aromatic tonic.
- Some species are reported to prevent giddiness during high-altitude mountain ascents.
- The roots of the European species are used as a constituent of cardiac and nerve tonics (Pelt, 1979).
- The methanolic extract of root part possessed higher phenolic content and thus higher free radical scavenging and reducing activities (Rupam et al., 2012).

Important formulations: Dawaulmisk, Muffarreh Yaqooti, Majoon Hamal Ambari, Laboobe Kabir.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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