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**Sembu (Copper) Chatthu Mooligaigal –
A Literature Review**

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Abstract

In Siddha system of medicine, even though metals and minerals are purified by specific purification process called suddhi and made into non toxic medicines after undergoing many flawless, specialized preparation techniques, a medicine containing metals and minerals is remaining as a frightening agent in the view of common people. To overcome this, herbs which have the efficacy of copper (Sembu) metal have been searched for.

Keywords: Sembu, Copper, Mooligaigal, Herbs, Siddha.

Introduction

Siddha System of Medicine is an invincible system of medicine created by Siddhars. Besides herbs, metals and animal products are also in use in the preparation of Siddha formulations.

“Vaerpaaru thazhaipaaru minjinakkaal
Mella mella parpa chendooram paarae”

In the above verse, Siddhars have advised to use herbal medicines initially to cure diseases and to prescribe

Parpam and *Chendooram* made from metals and minerals if the disease poses a challenge even after the administration of herbs. Siddhars are the only enlightened scientists, who threw light on the existence of minerals in plants, even in those olden days and explained their effective usage in the place of minerals, metals to treat various ailments.

Method

Literature review.

SEMBU (COPPER) CHATTHU MOOLIGAIGAL SEMBU

- Copper
- Latin Name: Cuprum
- Symbol: Cu
- Other Names:
 - Thaamiram, Thaambiram, Avuthumbaram, Raasi, Udhumbaram, Ravi, Ravippiyiam, Eruvai, Seerunam, Seeruni, Surppam, Sulpam, Parithi, Vadu, Vidam.
- Panchabootham: Thee
- Suvai: Kaarppu (Pungent), Kaippu (Bitter)
- Thanmai: Veppam (Hot)
- Pirivu: Kaarppu (Pungent)



USES

Sembu (Copper) has a curative effect in a broad spectrum of diseases such as,

- 96 Vagai Kann Noigal (All the 96 types of Eye Diseases)
- Gunmam (Acid Peptic Disease)
- Sayam (Tuberculosis)
- Sanni
- Rattha Pittham (Purpura)
- Soothaga Noi (Menstrual Disorders)
- Thathu Nattam (as in Oligospermia)
- Punn and Kiranthi (Ulcers)
- Prevents death

SEMBU Chatthu Mooligaigal

Kovvai

- ❖ Kovai
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Coccinia grandis
- ❖ Family:
Cucurbitaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Ivy gourd
Scarlet gourd



Sivappu Kodi

- ❖ Senkodivaeli
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Plumbago indica
Plumbago rosea
- ❖ Family:
Plumbaginaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Rose coloured Leadwort
Indian Leadwort
- ❖ Other Names:
Sivappu Chitthiramoolam
Senkodimooli



Sirukeerai

- ❖ Botanical Name:
Amaranthus tricolor
- ❖ Family:
Amaranthaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Tropical Amaranth
- ❖ Other Names:
Silli
Siriya Keeraitthandu



Sevvali

- ❖ Manjitti
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Rubia cordifolia
- ❖ Family:
Rubiaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Indian Madder
Common Madder
- ❖ Other Names:
Manjoogam
Paandi



Kaiyaan

- ❖ Karisalaankanni
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Eclipta prostrata
- ❖ Family:
Asteraceae
- ❖ English Name:
Trailing Eclipta
False Daisy
- ❖ Other Names:
Karisalai, Karippaan,
Bringaraajam, Thegaraajam, Kaikesi, Kaiyaanthakarai, Kaiveesi Ilai.



Senthirai

- ❖ Sentharaa
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Fumaria parviflora
Fumaria indica
- ❖ Family:
Papaveraceae
- ❖ English Name:
Indian Fumitory
Fine leaf Fumitory



Mookki

- ❖ Mookkirattai
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Boerhavia diffusa
- ❖ Family:
Nyctaginaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Spreading Hogweed
Red Spiderling
- ❖ Other Names:
Putpakam
Rattha Putpikaa



Moothorilai

- ❖ Ammaiyaar Koondhal
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Cuscuta reflexa
- ❖ Family:
Convolvulaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Sita's thread
Giant dodder
- ❖ Other Names:
Avvaiyaar Koondhal, Sarann, Kuthiraivaali, Muthiyaar Koondhal, Muruvili Miriyaar Koondhal.



Thekku

- ❖ Botanical Name:
Tectona grandis
- ❖ Family:
Lamiaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Teak
- ❖ Other Names:
Saagam
Saathi



Avuri

- ❖ Neeli
- ❖ Botanical Name:
Indigofera tinctoria
- ❖ Family:
Fabaceae
- ❖ English Name:
Indian Indigo Plant
True Indigo
- ❖ Other Names:
Aviri



Conclusion

Sembu(copper) are wonderful medicines for curing varied serious ailments. Herbs that are described as sembu chathu mooligaigal by siddhars, can be administered in the place of Sembu (copper) respectively to cure those serious ailments.

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