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<u>Review Article</u>

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CRITICAL REVIEW ON THERAPEUTIC AND TOXICOLOGICAL ASPECT OF UPVISHA: JAYAPALA (CROTON TIGLIUM)

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is the one of the ancient science known to human being which still providing the knowledge about various diseases and their cure. Agadtantra is one of the incredible branch among *Astangas* mentioned in Ayurveda which is used for diagnosis of poison and their management. Plants are the prime source of medicine in Ayurveda. Several compounds have been isolated from medicinal plants and introduced for the service of mankind; however most of these medicines have been withdrawn due to their toxicity or side effects. These poisonous/toxic plants are categorized as *vişa* (poison) and *upavişa* (toxic but not lethal for human health) in Ayurvedic texts and

also listed in the schedule-E of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. Jayapala (*Croton tiglium*) is one among the upavishas and a well-known plant in Indian System of Medicine. This review article includes overall information about the plant *Croton tiglium*, its botanical description, toxicological aspect, treatment in both Ayurveda and Modern toxicology, its purification processes along with formulations currently used to treat various disorders.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda, upavishas, Jayapala.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is known as the science health and healing which includes the knowledge of eight branches (*Astangas*), Agadtantra is one of the branch among these *Astangas* which is used for diagnosis of various types of poisonings and their management. According to *Agadatantra Visha* is classified into three- *sthavara, jangama* and *kritrima. Sthavara visha* is further classified into *maha visha* and *upavisha* based on its toxicity. In Ayurveda *uapavishsha* are those group of drugs whose toxicity is less in nature and which are not so lethal but produce

certain toxic symptoms on consumption or administration which can be controlled by therapeutic measure. Jayapala/Jepala (*Croton tiglium* Linn.) is one among the elevan *upavisha* which belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae. The croton plant is a native of India and is grown all through the East Indies. The seeds are poisonous and contain crotin, a toxalbumin. Jamalgota also called Purging Croton, is most powerful laxative, which has stimulant action on bowel movement. It has potent effects, which results in cramps during defecation and loose stools if taken internally. Safety monitoring of medicines in common use should be an integral part of clinical practice.

Jayapala (*Croton tiglium*) is one among the upavishas, still there are many Ayurvedic formulations like *Icchabhedi Rasa, Jwarari Rasa, Jalodari Rasa* etc. that contains *Jayapala* as one of main ingredients. Though the whole plant is considered as poisonous, Seeds is considered as highly toxic part, so it should be used carefully after proper *Shodhana* process. Improper *Shodhana* procedure or improper use of such drugs can also lead to the manifestation of poisonous signs & symptoms. Safety is the most important consideration before administration of such products. The knowledge and administration of proper antidote can be life-saving in circumstances of its toxicity & it may help to decrease the morbidity & health care costs. The widespread availability of an affordable antidote for such drugs would revolutionize the management of toxicity.

In the current scenario, the tendency of going back to natural medicine with a view that it is relatively safer than that of synthetic ones has raised its world demand. Ayurveda claims that the use of poison like *Jayapala* in therapeutics is safe as they are processed with *Shodhana* procedure.

JAYAPALA/JEPALA

Synonyms-^[1]

Sr. N.	Synonym	Meaning
1	Jayapala	That wins over diseases
2	Rechaka	Purgative nature
3	<i>Beeja recha</i> ka	seeds causes purgation
4	Dantibeeja	seeds resemble that of danti
5	Maladravi	that which causes liquid defecation
6	Nikumba	globose fruit
7	Beeja rechaka	seed causes purgation
8	Kumbibeeja	pot shaped seed
9	Chitramoola	root resembles that of chitraka
10	Sheegra	fast acting drug
11	Tindideephala	

Vernacular Names

English – Croton	Hindi - Jamalgota	Gujarati - Nepalo, Jamala gota
Malayalam - Neervalam	Tamil - nervalam	Kannada - Nepal, Japala
Telungu – Nepalamu		

Botanical Name: Croton tiglium Linn.

Scientific Classification Kingdom: Plantae Clade: Angiosperms Clade: Eudicots Clade: Rosids Order: Malpighians Family: Euphorbiaceae Subfamily: Crotonoideae Tribe: Crotoneae Genus: Croton

Classical Categorization

Ayurvedic *Sthavara Visha* – Vegetative (*Phala Visha*) Modern Science Irritant – Organic Vegetative Poison

Classical References

- The words *danti* and *drawanti* are synonymous of Jayapala found in brihatrayee^[2]
- Jayapala is mentioned among the drugs where root is used as the medicine.^[3]
- Purgative quality of Jayapala is explained in the event of subsidence of vitiated doshas.^[4]
- Nighantu adarsha mentions it under Aamlakyadi varga and Dhanwantari nighantu under Eranda kula. Bhavaprakasa nighantu as well states about Dantibeeja^[5]
- The References in Bruhatrayi are as follows:

Charaka samhite	a	Susruta	samhitha	Astanga hridayam		
Sthana Chapter		Sthana	Chapter	Sthana	Chapter	
Sutrasthana	1, 2	Sutrasthana	11 20 42 44 45	Sutrasthana	15	
Vimana sthana	7, 8	suirasinana	11, 39, 42, 44, 45	Suirasinana	15	
Chikitsa sthana	7, 13, 27, 33	chikitsa sthana	2, 18, 31	chikitsa sthana	19	
Kalpa sthana	1,11, 12	Uttarsthana	42, 52	kalpa sthana	2	
Sidhi sthana	11			uthara sthana	30	

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As per different ancient texts, Jaypala included in different varga given as bellow:^[6]

Ayurvedic texts	Varga
Sharngadhara samhita, Rasendra chudamani, Rasa sara sangraha Ayurveda prakasha, Rasa Tarangini	Upavisha
Bhavaprakasha nighantu, Dhanwantara nighantu	Guduchyadi varga
Kaiyyadeva nighantu	Oushadi varga
Raj nighantu	Pippalyadi varga

MORPHOLOGY^[7,8]

- It is a small evergreen tree having a height of 15 20 feet, the young shoots sprinkled with stellate hairs, bark smooth, ash-colored. bark and young shoots sprinkled with stellate hairs.
- Leaves are oblong to ovate- lanceolate, obtuse or rounded at the two glanded base, acuminate membraneous, yellowish green in colour and minutly toothed.
- Flowers are small, unisexual, males on slender pedicels, females larger on short thick pedicels.
- Fruits are ovoid or oblong, 3 gonous capsules, seeds are smooth, testa is black, enclosing reddish brown oily endosperm.^[7,8]
- Flowering during January-May and fruiting in March-July

PHARMACOGNOSTICAL CHARACTERSTICS

Macroscopic: Seed are albuminous, ovate, oblong, slightly quadrangular, convex on dorsal and somewhat flattened on ventral surface, about 12mm in length and resemble castor seed in shape, dull cinnamon brown, often mottled with black due to abrasion in testa, caruncle easily detached and usually absent, hilum on ventral side less distinct than that of castor seed, its raphe runs along ventral surface of seed terminating in a dark chalaza at opposite extremity, kernel is yellowish and oily, consisting of a large endosperm, enclosing papery cotyledons and a small radicle, it has no marked odour Kernel gives at first oily taste followed by an unpleasant acridity.^[9,10]

Microscopic- Seed shows a hard testa, consisting of an epidermal layer, covered externally with a thick cuticle and composed of oval and tangentially elongated cells, filled with brownish content; epidermis followed by a layer of radially elongated cells, slightly bent at middle, upper half portion filled with reddish-brown and lower half filled with yellow contents; inner most zone consists of tangentially elongated, thin-walled cells; endosperm consists of polygonal parenchymatous cells filled with oil globules, a few cells having rosette

crystals of calcium oxalate; central region of endosperm shows a dicotyledonous embryo consisting of thin-walled parenchymatous cells.^[11]

MEDICINAL PARTS: Seeds, Leaves, Roots, External bark of croton roots, Seed oil (Croton oil, also called Crotonis oleum).

	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Doshaghnata	Rogaghnata
Raj nighantu	Katu	ushna	ushna	Katu	Kapha vata hara	Krimihara, jataramaya
Dhanvantari nighantu	Katu	usna	Usna	Katu	Kapha vata hara	Krimihara, jataramaya nasana
Kaidev nighantu	Madhura	Laghu, snigdha	Seta	Madhura	Pitha kapha hara	Gara, sopha hara, kasahara, daham hanti
Bhavprakash		Guru, snigdha			Pitha kapha hara	
Ashtang nighantu						Anaha, udaram hanti, sanyasa, sirogada, dhanusthambha, jwarahara, amavatahara

RASA PANCHAKAS^[12,13,14,15]

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES^[16]

The seeds and oil of jayapala with acrid, bitter taste has thermogenic, emollient, drastic purgative, digestive carminative, anthelminthic, antiinflamatory, vermifuge, detergent, diaphoretic, expectorant, vesicant irritant and rubifacient. They are also useful in abdominal disorders, convulsions, ophthalmia, cough, catarrh. It has various activities like molluscidal activity, **t**umor- enhancing activity, larvicidal activity, gastrointestinal activity, anticonvulsant activity, antimicrobial activity, antidermatophytic activity and antioxidant activity.^[22]

THERAPEUTIC INDICATION

- As it is most powerful laxative, which have stimulative action on bowel movement causing severe cramps during defecation and loose tools, thus use in persistent and obstinence constipation.
- Hair Loss (rarely)
- External Application of Croton roots Paste use in Haemorrhoids, Skin tags, Abscess

THERAPEUTIC DOSAGE

- 1/8th to 1/4th *gunja*.(*Rasatarangini*)
- Purified Jamalgota 5 mg to 25 mg [6-12 mg powder (API Vol. IV.)]
- Croton root powder 100 mg to 1000 mg
- External bark of croton roots 500 mg to 1000 mg
- Croton oil 1 drop mixed with honey or butter

TOXIC PART

Seed and oil extracted from the seed is extremly toxic. Seed oil is commented to have tumour promoting phorbol diesters.^[17]

FATAL DOSE

Seed

1 seed -toxic symptoms 4 seed -death

Oil

3 drops- toxic symptoms for children 20-30 drops- for adults.^[18]

FATAL PERIOD

Death -4 to 6 hrs or may be delayed for 3 days or even more.^[19]

PHYTOCHEMISTRY (CHEMICAL COMPOSITION)^[21]

- Active principles of *Croton tiglium* are crotin (toxalbumin), crotonoside (glycoside) and oil.
- Croton seed kernels contain approximately 50 to 60% croton oil.
- Croton seed oil contains powerful vesicating resin and 17 fatty acids.
- Seed and oil extracted from the seed is extremely toxic. Seed oil is commented to have tumour promoting phorbol diesters.

MAIN COMPONENTS^[21]

- Linoleic acid
- Oleic acid
- Elcosenoic acid

MECHANISM of action^[22]

The toxalbumin present in the seeds is a toxic protien that disable ribosomes and thereby inhibit protien synthesis. It is antigenic in nature, it agglutinates red cells and causes hemolysis and cell destruction.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS^[23,24,25]

On ingestion: There is hot burning pain from mouth to stomach, salivation, Nausea, vomitting, purging, and bloody stools with griping pain followed by tachycardia, vertigo, great prostration, circulatory and respiratory collapse and death.

Applied to skin: croton oil produces burning sensation, redness and vesication; the vesicles may later suppurate and cause scaring.

Dosage of SeedFatal dose of seed is 4 seeds. A single seed is said to have produced severe symptoms of poisons. Fatal period of Jayapala seed is four to six hours or may be delayed for three to six days. Toxic effect of *Jayapala*seed is burning pain from mouth to stomach, salivation, vomiting, purging with severe griping pain and bloody stool followed by tachycardia, vertigo, great prostration, circulatory, respiratory collapse and death.

According to Ayurveda^[26]

Vanti, Bhranti, Atisara, Sula, Atopa, Daurbalya, Atisweda, etc.

TREATMENT

According to modern science^[27]

- Stomach wash
- Administration of demulscent drinks, like milk, or egg white
- Morphine with atropine to allay pain and reduce intestinal secretions.
- Glucose and saline re given IV to compact collapse and dehydration.
- Borax is an antidote of croton seed poisoning

According to Ayurveda

- According to Anupanamanjari and Rasajalanidhi Dhanyaka (coriander seeds), pestled with curd and sugar removes troubles due to croton seeds.
- In Kodasseri marga, a traditional malayalam textbook it has been explained that ingestion of Jayapala seeds result in acute diarrhoea and vomitting and for that 16g (4 kazhanju)

lavanga and 8g (2 kazhanju) sundi and musta is made to kahayam and when cooled is given with honey, which is considerd as the best medicine for jayapala poisoning.

PM FINDINGS^[28]

- Deaths caused by ingestion of castor plant seeds are rare, because of its indigestible capsule.
- Mucosa of the GIT is congested, softened and inflamed with occasional erosions and submucous hemorrhages.
- Fragments of seeds may be found in the stomach and intestines.
- Dilation of heart, hemorrhages in the pleura, edema and congestion of the liver, kidneys, spleen and lungs may be seen.

MEDICO LEGAL IMPORTANCE^[29]

- Accidental poisoning results from swallowing croton oil by mistake.
- Suicide and homicide is rare.
- Root and oil are taken internally as an abortifacient.
- Oil is used as arrow poison.

SHODHANA^[30,31]

The poisonous plants reported in ancient scriptures of Ayurveda are still being used widely in a number of diseases after processing with proper shodhana. This concept of shodhana was mentioned for the first time in Charaka Samhita in the context of Danti Dravanti Kalpadhyaya. To reduce the 'Vikasi' property of *Danti* root, Charaka mentioned it as 'Samaskara'.

Acharya Vagbhata also mentioned shodhana of drugs of plant origin in detail, in the context of Bhallataka Rasayana for 'Bhallataka' (*Semicarpus anacardium*). It is reported that aconite (Vatsanabha) purified by cow urine is converted to cardiac stimulant, whereas raw aconite is cardiac depressant. It is clearly mentioned in 'Bhava Prakasha' that the bad/toxic effects attributed to 'Ashodhita Vishas' (unpurified poisonous substances) are minimized when these are used after being subjected to shodhana . Hence 'Vishas' should be essentially subjected for shodhana before being used in therapeutics. Shodhana is done to reduce the toxicity of the seeds.

According to Rasa Tarangini the seed are taken and cut onto two along the ridge. Then the seeds are boiled in cows milk for 1 yama (3 hours) and dried under sunlight by keeping the seeds in earthern plate. The earthern plate absorbs the oil content from the seeds thus reducing its toxicity.

- According to Astanga sangraha swedana with gomaya swarasa and goksheera and then mild fry reduces toxicity of oil.
- ▶ Kriyakoumudi has elaboratly described many sodhana procedures for jayapala.^[30]
- Boil Jayapala seeds in Tandulodaka of brown rice with buffalo dung, remove its outer cover and bud, then it becomes purified.
- Boil in dung milk and Kumari swarasa, Wash it with sudha jala and dried, boil in ghrta for sometime, then remove the oil content and do bhavana for 3 days in jambeera swarasa.

PRAYOGAS IN VISHA CHIKITSA^[32,33]

- Neervala Tailam; indicated in cobra poisoning
- In prayoga samuchaya dviteeya paricheda Moorkha visha chikitsa (cobra poisoning): Swetha arka patra swarasa and Jayapala beeja is indicated for pana cures sarva visha.
- Jayapala, saanamoola and mandooka vasa is made bhavana in salt water and is made to pills for nasya cures poison
- Vishahara lepa for vruschika (r.t) paste of jayapala beeja on site of scropion sting relieves pain of the sting

Vishishta Yogas of Jayapala^[34]

Internal Formulations

S.N.	Name	Ingredients	Indication	Dose & Anupana
1	Ichabedi rasa (R.S.S)	Parada, Gandhaka, Tankana, Shunti, Maricha, Jayapala	Udararoga, Virechaka	250 mg Cold water
2	Jalodhari rasa(R.S.S)	Tamarabasma, Kajjali, Haridra, Pippali, Marica, Jayapala, Tamra, Snuhi ksheera	Virechana, Jalodhara	125mg Jala
3	Jwarahari rasa(R.S.S)	Parada, Gandhaka, Naga, Sila, Haratala, Tamra, Visha, Pippali, Shunti, Maricha, Jayapala, Dhattura, Arka, Ardraka, Rohita matsya pitta	Jwara	125mg Jala
4	Jwarakesari rasa(R.S.S)	Jayapala, Visha, Pippali, Marica, Shunti, Triphala, Parada, Gandhaka,	Jwara	125 mg Madhu

		Bhrungaraja swarasa		
5	Jwaramurari rasa (R.R.S)	Visha, Pippali, Marica, Shunti, Nagara, Abhaya, Hingula, Tankana, Jayapala	Jwara	250 mg Adaraka swarasa, Madhu
6	Panchanan vati(B.R)	Parada, Gandhaka, Tuttha, Abaraka, Jayapala, Pippali, Aragvadha, Snuhi ksheera	Pandu	250mg Punarnavastaka kwatha
7	Virechana gutika(S. yog)	Trivrit, Trikatu, Jayapala.	Samyak Virechaka	250 mg Ardraka swarasa, Guda
8	Plihasardula rasa (B.R)	Parada, Gandhaka, Pippali, Shunti, Maricha, Tamra, Manasila, Tuttha, Hingu, Loha, Tankana, Tamra, Varata, Jayapala, Jayanti, Rohitaka, Yavaksara, Saidhava, Vida, Citraka,	Gulma, Jwara, Sotha, Vidradhi	250mg Madhu
9	Krimikasthanala rasa (B.R)	Kajjali, Vanga, Haratala, Manahsila, Vidanga, Danti, Jayapala	Krimi Roga	125mg Madhu
10	Sarvanga sundara rasa(R.S.S)	Visha, Pippali, Shunti, Maricha, Triphala, Jayapala, Parada, Gandhaka, Tankana	Jwara	125 to 250 mg Madhu
11	Draksasava (B.R)	Draksa, Kankola, Pippali, Citrakamula, Lavanga, Jayapala, Twak, Ela, Patra, Nagakesara, Candana, Dhataki, Jati	Arsas, Raktaja Vikara	12-24ml jala
12	Dadimavaleha (Y.R)	Dadima, Javanti, Marica, Shunti, Jayapala	Aruci, Amlapitta, Atisara, Netraroga	12gm Ushna jala
13	Yakritplihara lauham (B.R)	Parada, Gandhaka, Abhraka, Tamra, Silajatu	Jwara, Pandu, Sotha, Halimaka,	250mg Jala
14	Chintamani rasa (R.Chi)	Vatsanaba Jayapala	Jwara, Vataroga	125 mg Trikatu churna
15	Yakrtplihari loha(A.F.I)[10]	Parada, Gandaka, Lauha, Abraka, Tamara, Manasila, Haridra, Jayapala, Tankana, Silajatu, Danti, Nishotha, Shunti, Pippali, Bhrungaraja	Udararoga, Jwara, Pandu	250 mg Jala

16	Pratapa martanda rasa (R.S.S)	Visha, Hingula, Jayapala, Tankana	Jwara	60-125mg Ardraka swarasa Madhu
17	Rechani vati (B.B.R)	Haritaki, Jayapala, Snuhidugdha	Vibhandha	500mg Jala
18	Soolakuthara rasa (S. Yo)	Parada, Gandaka, Triphala, Jayapala Etc	Sarva Shoola	125 mg maricha churna
19	Raja virechana gutika (S. yo)	Triphala, Trikatu, Gandaka, Jayapala	Purgative	250mg Jala
20	Shotari rasa(B.R)	Hingula, Jayapala, Marica, Tankana, Pippali	Sotha	250mg Ghrita

External Formulations

S.N.	Formulations	Part used	Bhavana dravya	Indications	Dosage forms
1	Jayapala beeja lepa (R.T)	seed	jala	visha	Lepa
2	Jayapalapatra vati (B.Bh.R)	Leaf	jala	visha	Lepa
3	Naracha rasa (B.R)	seed	-	Virechana	Lepa
4	Naracha rasa (R.Y.S)	seed	Snuhi ksheera	Udavarta, Anaha	Lepa
5	Dantyadi lepa (B.Bh.R)	seed	jala	pitika	Lepa
6	Chintamani rasa –Taila (R.Y.S)	seed	-	Vibandha	Lepa, Nasya
7	Anjanabhairava Rasa(R.Y.S)	seed	Nimbu swarasa	Jwara	Anjana
8	Ardhanarinateshwara rasa (R.Y.S)	seed	-	Jwara	Nasya
9	Ardhanarishwara rasa (R.Sambhava)	seed	Triphala swarasa- 5 times	Jwara	Nasya
10	Bindhu ghrita (Sh.S)	fruit	-	Udara roga	Lepa
11	Bhairava anjana (B.Bh.R)	seed	Nimbu swarasa – 8 day	Jwara	Anjana
12	Ashwakanchuki rasa (R.Y.S)	seed	-	Sarvaroga	Anjana, Lepa
13	Rasadi lepa (B.Bh.R)	seed	kanji	shoola	lepa
14	Sanjeevakarana rasa (R.Y.S)	seed	Vatsanabha kwatha- 3 days	Sannipata	Udharshana
15	Soochimukha rasa (R.Y.S)	seed	Sarpa pita	sannipata	Lepa
16	Taila (R.R.M)	Root	-	Kushta	Abhyanga
17	Trayushanadi vati (R.Y.S)	seed	-	Rasayana	Anjana
18	Vishamrita rasa (R.Y.S)	seed	Narikelodaka	Jwara	Anjana
19	Vishari varti (B.Bh.R)	Endosperm	Nimbu swarasa – 21 times	Visha	Lepa
20	Yonivarti yoga (B.R)	seed	-	yoniroga	varti

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RECENT ADVANCES

Antitumor Activity^[35, 36]

Phorbol esters present in *Croton tiglium* are well known potent tumor promoting agent. Isoguanosine has considerable activity against various cell lines both *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests especially against solid tumor and ascetic tumor.

Gastrointestinal activity^[37]

Croton tiglium oil increase or decrease gastrointestinal motility by affecting contractile frequency and amplitude of intestinal smooth muscle depending on the dose of oil.

Analgesic activity^[38]

Leaves of *Croton tiglium* contain crotonine and pyragine, which is derivative of crotonine which is main integer of analgesic property.

Antinociceptive effect^[39]

A study on mice, for antinociceptive effect of *Croton tiglium*, showed good antinociceptive effect of *Croton tiglium*. *Scientific Res. Publications*, 2004; 4(1); 1-5.

Anti-HIV activity^[40]

It was apparent that the methanol and water extracts of the seeds of *Croton tiglium* significantly inhibited the infectivity and HIV-1-induced cytopathic effect (CPE) on MT-4 cell. *Croton tiglium* seeds contain anti-HIV-1 phorbolesters, 12- Oacetlyphorbol -13- decanoate and 12-Odecadienoylphorbol-13-(2-methyl butyrate) that inhibit the cytopathic effect of HIV-1 on MT-4 cells; TPA (12-Otetradecanoyl phorbol-13-acetate) is even more active than the mentioned phorbol esters against HIV-1.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In ancient ayurvedic literature, there are various herbs which are indicated in different diseases, which are still use in current era and their demands are conyinuously increasing in global market also. So to sustain in global market, these herbal formulations must have to follow some standard guidelines for efficacy and safety.

The oral use of unpurified seeds of *Jayapala* and oil is likely unsafe. It produces nausea and violent vomiting. Impure *Jayapala beeja* produces vesicles with yellow exudation and urticaria of the ab-dominal skin. It can cause severe inflammation in intestines and lead to intense abdominal pain and cramps. Purified kernels may be useful for people with severe or

chronic constipation, but the regular or frequent use of *Shudhdha Jayapala* is also unsafe. Its regular use may cause intestinal sluggishness and reduce natural peristalsis. However, *Jayapala* is not indicated in most cases of constipation because of its dangerous effects. The safer laxatives are available in the market. Here, the physician may require potent stimulant laxative in some cases with severe constipation, you should confirm for other causes especially Bowel obstruction (Intestinal obstruction). In this case, you should never use any formulation containing *Jayapala* as an ingredient.

Upavisha like Jayapala is the one used with a medicinal combinations to prepare formulations. It is better to treat various diseases with a herbal drug like Jayapala as an ingredient by following proper procedures like Shodhana Some formulations in visha chikitsa are not widely used in Clinical practice and hence there is a scope of Research in this area.

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