



NILI – AN INDIGO PLANT HIGHLY ENRICHED WITH AYURVEDIC PROPERTIES

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ABSTRACT

Ayurvedic literature elucidates the plant *NILI* (*Indigofera tinctoria* Linn.) belonging to family Fabaceae (Papilionaceae) in different Classical texts for its vast utilization in various ailments. As the name suggest, layman only knows the usage of *Nili* as a hair colouring dye, but its usage is not limited till colouring agent. So, in this current article, an attempt has been made to assemble all the critical details related to therapeutic uses of *Nili* from three *samhitas*, seven *nighantus* and other published texts. It is observed that roots, leaves, fruits, seeds, *panchanga* of *Nili* are used as an ingredient in 44 formulations and they are fruitful in more than 15 diseased conditions. The chief indications include *Keshavikara* (Hair related disorders), *Khalitya* (Alopecia), *Palitya* (Graying of Hairs), *Tvagvikara* (Skin Disorders), *Kustha* (Disease of Skin), *Dadru* (Taeniasis), *Vrana* (Ulcer), *Visarpa* (Erysipelas), *Amavata* (Rheumatism), *Sandhivata* (Osteoarthritis), *Netraroga* (Disease of Eye), *Ashmari* (Calculus), *Mutrakrcchra* (Dysuria), *Kasa* (Cough), *Swasa* (Asthma), *Visamajvara* (Intermittent Fever), *Krimiroga* (Worm infestation) etc. Various parts of *Nili* are used in approximate 11 dosage forms such as *Churna* (Powder), *Vati* (Pills), *Svarasa* (Juice), *Lepa* (Paste), *Varti* (Suppository), *Avaleha* (Semi-solid preparations), *Taila* (Oil), *Rasa* (Mineral preparation), *Ghrita* (Fat soluble preparations), *Guggulu* (Medium sized round pills made from exudates of *Commiphora mukul* (Stocks) Hook.) and *Modaka* (Big sized Pills) mainly. Hence, this critical review will help the researchers to gain detailed knowledge about the plant *Nili* at one place itself.

Key words: *Nili*; *Indigofera tinctoria* Linn; *Keshavikara*; Natural Hair Colouring Dye; *Tailam*; Leaves

INTRODUCTION: The Ayurvedic Medicinal Science of India is enriched with the boundless perception of drugs obtained from all the three origins viz. plant, mineral and animal, where maximal drugs are of plant origin. *Nili*, one of the

classical drugs of herbal origin, botanically identified as *Indigofera tinctoria* Linn., has been used by the Ayurvedic physicians, for the management of different disease conditions¹.

Nili (*Indigofera tinctoria* Linn.²) is a much branched shrub with slightly angular-silvery pubescent branches, imparipinnate leaves and consisting small red flowers. Plants occurs in tropics and occasionally grows on ridges, near ponds and ditches, along the roads or railway tracks and other places. The plant is a legume, so it is rotated into fields to improve the soil and is also widely grown as a soil-improving groundcover³.

Texts of *Ayurveda*, comprehensively enumerated the varieties, synonyms, part used, pharmacological properties, actions and indications of *Nili* in the respective texts, as per their individual perspectives. Its utility, in varieties of formulations is recorded in *Samhitas* (treatise) as well as in *Samgraha granthas* (Compendia of *Ayurveda*).

On review it is observed that no single hand information is available regarding the uses and indications of *Nili* as delineated in classical texts of *Ayurveda*. Hence, in this article, an attempt has been made to present the same.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Various available *Samhitas* (Classical texts), *Nighantus* (Lexicons), *Samgraha granthas* (Compendia) and some other

texts related to *prayoga* (Uses) were referred; the synonyms, properties, actions and various formulations with their *adhikara* (Prime indication) were systemized, appropriately examined and put out in an intrinsic manner.

RESULT:

In various *Ayurvedic* lexicon, numerous *paryaya* (Synonyms) of the plant is stated. On the basis of enlisted synonyms, it is observed that the plant *Nili* comprises of 52 synonyms describing its morphological and pharmacological characters, in various texts. (Table-1)

Under the Colour subtype *Nili*, *Nilini*, *Nilika*, *Nila*, *Kala*, *Kalika*, *Ranjani*, *Tuttha*, *Tuccha*, *Rangini*, *Krushna*, *Shyama*, *Shyamalika*, *Tuni*, *Mocha*, *Chartika*, *Bharavahi*, *Mela*, *Asita*, *Vyanjanakeshi*, *Ragni* and *Droni* are included. Under the Petiole subtype *Vruntika* is included. Under the Leave subtype *Madhu parnika*, *Nila patra* and *Ranga patri* are included. Under the Flowers subtype *Gandha puspa phala*, *Gandha pushpa*, *Nila pushpa* and *Nichapushpa* are included. Under the Fruit subtype *Shriphali*, *Gandha puspa phala*, *Mahaphala*, *Bhadra*, *Sharada* and *Sharadphala* are included.

Table 1: Synonyms attributed to *Nili* in different *Nighantus* (lexicons) and their anticipated interpretations⁴⁻¹⁴:

	Synonyms	Anticipated Interpretations
Colour	<i>Nili</i> , <i>Nilini</i> , <i>Nilika</i> , <i>Nila</i>	It consist of blue colouring principle.
	<i>Kala</i> , <i>Kalika</i>	Having dark colour.
	<i>Ranjani</i>	Plant is used for dyeing purpose.
	<i>Tuttha</i> , <i>Tuccha</i>	It produces blue colour like blue vitriol.
	<i>Rangini</i>	The herb is having ability of imparting colour.

	<i>Krushna, Shyama, Shyamalika</i>	Having dark colour / From this plant bluish black colour or dye is obtained.
	<i>Tuni, Mocha, Chartika, Bharavahi</i>	It is known as Indigo plant.
	<i>Mela</i>	It is a substance used as an ink.
	<i>Asita</i>	Plant possesses dark colouring substance.
	<i>Vyanjanakeshi</i>	It is used as hair dyeing agent.
	<i>Ragni</i>	Plant is used to obtain natural deep coloured indigo.
	<i>Droni</i>	This plant is used to obtain blue coloured dye.
Petiole	<i>Vruntika</i>	The petiole of <i>Nili</i> is round at the base.
Leaves	<i>Madhu parnika</i>	Its leaves are sweet in taste according to some <i>Acharya</i> .
	<i>Nila patra</i>	Its leaves are used to extract blue coloured dye.
	<i>Ranga patri</i>	Its leaves are used to obtain colour.
Flowers	<i>Gandha puspa phala, Gandha pushpa</i>	A specific odour is obtained from its flowers and fruits.
	<i>Nila pushpa</i>	Having bluish lavender flowers.
	<i>Nichapushpa</i>	Flowers are tiny and faces downward direction.
Fruits	<i>Shriphali</i>	The fruits are beautiful in appearance.
	<i>Gandha puspa phala</i>	A specific odour is obtained from its flowers and fruits (legumes).
	<i>Mahaphala, Bhadra</i>	Fruits (Legumes) of this plant are considerably big in size.
	<i>Sharada,</i>	Fruiting of the plant occurs in <i>Sharad</i> (Autumn) season.

	<i>Sharadphala</i>	
As per Origin	<i>Gramina, Gramya</i>	It is cultivated in villages to obtain dye from it.
Use wise	<i>Klitaka, Klitakika, Klitika, Klitani</i>	This is used as commercial product.
Morphology	<i>Dola</i>	The plant swings with the wind.
	<i>Varati</i>	This plant attracts wasp.
Pharmacological actions	<i>Visodhini, Shodhani</i>	The plant bears purgative action.
Cosmetic Uses	<i>Nilakesha, Kalakeshi</i>	This plant is used to nurture hairs with bluish black colour.
Properties	<i>Ruksha</i>	Plant possesses <i>ruksha guna</i> .
Spiritual Belief	<i>Shiva</i>	It is believed to be an auspicious plant.
	<i>Vyanjanika</i>	-
	<i>Sarati</i>	-

Classification:

Classical texts of *Ayurveda* mention *Nili* under different categories by keeping the drug under *Vargas* (groups of drugs) like *Virechana* (Purgatives) and *Adhobhagahara* (Remove *doshas* from lower parts of body)¹⁵.

Pharmacological properties of Nili:

Nili has been attributed with *tikta rasa*, *katu vipaka* and *ushna virya*; and also possesses *laghu* and *ruksha gunas* according to *Bhavprakash Nighantu*, *Kaideva Nighantu* and *Madanapala Nighantu*. *Raj Nighantu* has also considered *katu rasa* (Pungent taste) along with the above properties¹⁶. It pacifies *kapha-vata doshas* (Table-2). *Madanapala Nighantu* has considered *Nili* as *tridosahara* (It pacifies *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha dosha*)¹⁷ and *API* has considered *Nili* possessing *Sara guna*¹⁸.

It is being used to mitigate various disease conditions like *Keshavikara* (Hair related disorders), *Khalitya* (Alopecia), *Palitya*

(Graying of Hairs), *Tvagvikara* (Skin Disorders), *Kustha* (Disease of Skin), *Dadru* (Taeniasis), *Kilasa* (Vitiligo), *Visha-kukkuradamstra* (Poisonous effect due to Dog's bite), *Mandalivisha* (Poisonous effect due to Snake's bite), *Vrana* (Ulcer), *Visarpa* (Erysipelas), *Amavata* (Rheumatism), *Sandhivata* (Osteoarthritis), *Netraroga* (Disease of Eye), *Ashmari* (Calculus), *Mutrakrcchra* (Dysuria), *Kasa* (Cough), *Swasa* (Asthma), *Phupphusa sotha* (Inflammation in Lungs), *Visamajvara* (Intermittent Fever), *Raktavikara* (Disorders of Blood), *Vatarakta* (Gout), *Udavarta* (Condition in which there is upward movement of *Vayu*), *Jalodara* (Ascites), *Vibandha* (Constipation), *Gulma* (Abdominal lump), *Krimiroga* (Worm infestation), *Yakrtplihodara* (Disease of Liver and Spleen), *Mastiska dourbalya* (Weakness of Brain), *Mada* (Intoxication), *Murccha* (Syncope), *Bhrama* (Vertigo), *Dantikrimi*

(Dental caries) and *Pakvasayagatavisha* (Stomach poisoning)¹⁹.

Table 2: Pharmacological properties attributed to Nili by different Nighantus²⁰⁻²³:

Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Dosha Karma	Karma	Rogaghnata
<i>Tikta, Katu</i>	<i>Laghu Ruksha Sara</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Kapha vata samaka</i> <i>Tridosahara (Madanapala Nighantu)</i>	<i>Keshya, Kesharanjaka, Keshavardhaka, Kusthaghna, Vranaropana, Vishaghna, Krimighna, Lekhana, Vedanasthapana, Yakrduttejaka, Sulaprashamana, Hridya, Raktaprasadana, Sothahara, Mutrajanana, Kaphaghna, Visamajvara pratibandhaka, Moha bhramahara, Vataghna, Rechana</i>	<i>Keshavikara, Khalitya, Palitya, Tvagvikara, Kustha, Dadru, Kilasa, Visha-kukkuradamstra, mandakivisha, Vrana, Visarpa, Amavata, Sandhivata, Netraroga, Ashmari, Mutrakrcchra, Kasa, Swasa, Phuphphusa sotha, Visamajvara, Raktavikara, Vatarakta, Udavarta, Jalodara, Vibandha, Gulma, Krimiroga, Yakrtplihodara, Mastiska Dourbalya, Mada, Murccha, Bhrama, Dantikrimi, Pakvasayagatavisha</i>

Types of Nili in Ayurvedic Text²⁴⁻²⁶:

In *Madanapala Nighantu*, two types of *Nili* has been quoted, a) *Nilika (Indigofera tinctoria)* b) *Vilayati Nili (Indigofera suffruticosa)*.

In *Shaligram Nighantu*, two types of *Nili* has been quoted, a) *Nilika (Indigofera*

cordifolia) b) *Mahanili (Indigofera tinctoria)*.

In *Raja Nighantu*, two types of *Nili* has been quoted, a) *Nili* b) *Mahanili*.

FORMULATIONS OF NILI²⁷:

Bharat Bhaishajya Ratnakar was scrutinized for the formulations containing

Nili as an ingredient and mentioned in Table-3.

It is observed that *Nili* has been used as an ingredients among 44 formulations consisting of 22 internal formulations and 17 external formulations and 5 formulations used internally as well as externally. Among the external application the formulations are indicated for *Palitya* (Greying of Hairs), *Kshudra roga* (Skin disease), *Visarpa* (Erysipelas), *Upade* (Hair disorder), *Kustha* (Disease of Skin), *Sweta Kustha* (Type of Skin disorder), *Udavarta roga* (Condition in which there is upward movement of Vayu), *Ama vata* (Rheumatism) and *Nadi vrana* (Fistula).

Formulations indicated for internal administration for the following disorders are *Shula* (Abdominal Pain), *Gandamala* (Garland of Swelling around the Neck), *Sarpa visha* (Snake poison), *Gulma*

(Abdominal lump), *Danta krumi* (Dental caries), *Grahani* (Malabsorption syndrome), *Mukha roga* (Diseases of mouth), *Udara roga* (Abdominal disorder), *Visha vikara* (Disorders due to poison), *Sannipat jwara* (High grade fever due to vitiation of all the *Dosha*), *Bradhavrudhya* (Hernia) and *kshayakasa* (Cough due to Pthisis).

The 44 formulations mentioned by *Bharatbhaishajyaratnakar* shows *Nili* is mainly used to cure *Kustha* (Disease of Skin) (8 formulations), *Udara roga* (Abdominal disorder) (5 formulations), *Gulma* (Abdominal lump) (4 formulations) and *Kshudra roga* (Skin disease) (4 formulations). Among the formulations, *Nili's* leaves (19 times), roots (12 times) and whole plant (9 times) are taken as part used.

Table 3: Bharat Bhaishajya Ratnakar (BBR) of Ayurveda reports about 44 formulations having Nili as an ingredient.

Sr.No	Formulations	I/E	Dosage Form	Adhikara	Part Used	References
01.	<i>Kesharanjaka</i>	E	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Kshudra Roga</i> (Skin disease)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. I
02.	<i>Jyotispunjo Rasa</i>	I, E	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Kustha</i> (Disease of Skin)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. II
03.	<i>Trivrutadi Modaka</i>	I	<i>Modaka</i>	<i>Shula</i> (Abdominal Pain)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. II
04.	<i>Triphaladi Guggulu</i>	I	<i>Guggulu</i>	<i>Gandamala</i> (Garland of Swelling around the Neck)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. II
05.	<i>Bhrungaraja Tailam</i>	E	<i>Tailam</i>	<i>Kshudra Roga</i> (Skin	Leaves	BBR – Vol. III

				disease)		
06.	<i>Nilinimoolakalka</i>	I	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Sarpavisha</i> (Snake poison)	Leaves <i>Swarasa</i>	BBR – Vol. III
07.	<i>Nilinyadi Churnam</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Gulma</i> (Abdominal lump)	Leaves <i>Swarasa</i>	BBR – Vol. III
08.	<i>Nilyadiprayoga</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Danta</i> <i>Krumi</i> (Dental caries)	Roots	BBR – Vol. III
09.	<i>Nilinyadi Ghrutam</i>	I	<i>Ghruta</i>	<i>Gulma</i> (Abdominal lump)	Roots	BBR – Vol. III
10.	<i>Nili Tailam</i>	E	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Palitya</i> (Greying of Hairs)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. III
11.	<i>Nilyadi Tailam</i>	E	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Visarpa</i> (Erysipelas)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. III
12.	<i>Nili Lepa</i>	E	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Kshudra</i> <i>roga</i> (Skin disease)	Roots	BBR – Vol. III
13.	<i>Nilyadiyoga</i>	E	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Upade</i> (Hair disorder)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. III
14.	<i>Mahakalyanako Guda</i>	I	<i>Avaleha</i>	<i>Grahani</i> (Malabsorpt ion syndrome)	Roots	BBR – Vol. IV
15.	<i>Mahanilghritam(1)</i>	E	<i>Ghruta</i>	<i>Kustha</i> (Disease of Skin)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. IV
16.	<i>Mahanilghritam (2)</i>	I , E	<i>Ghruta</i>	<i>Kustha</i> (Disease of Skin)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. IV
17.	<i>Mahanilghritam (3)</i>	E	<i>Ghruta</i>	<i>Kustha</i> (Disease of Skin)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. IV
18.	<i>Malatyadhyam ghruta</i>	I	<i>Ghruta</i>	<i>Mukha</i> <i>Roga</i> (Diseases of	Roots	BBR – Vol. IV

				mouth)		
19.	<i>Mahaniltailam</i>	I , E	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Kshudra Roga</i> (Skin disease)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. IV
20.	<i>Majuphaladilepa</i>	E	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Keshya</i> (Beneficial for hair)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. IV
21.	<i>Mahabalvidhanabhra ka</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Rasayana</i> (Rejuvenating)	Roots	BBR – Vol. IV
22.	<i>Mahasuryaprabha rasa</i>	I	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Kustha</i> (Disease of Skin)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. IV
23.	<i>Vishaladi churnam</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Udara Roga</i> (Abdominal disorder)	Fruits	BBR – Vol. IV
24.	<i>Vindughritam</i> (1)	I	<i>Ghrita</i>	<i>Gulma</i> (Abdominal lump)	Seeds	BBR – Vol. IV
25.	<i>Vindughritam</i> (2)	I	<i>Ghrita</i>	<i>Udara Roga</i> (Abdominal disorder)	Seeds	BBR – Vol. IV
26.	<i>Vindughritam</i> (4)	I , E	<i>Ghrita</i>	<i>Udara Roga</i> (Abdominal disorder)	Seeds	BBR – Vol. IV
27.	<i>Vataritailam</i>	I , E	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Vata Roga</i> (Neurological disorder)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. IV
28.	<i>Vrajashekhar Rasa</i>	I	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Kustha</i> (Disease of Skin)	Leaves Swarasa	BBR – Vol. IV
29.	<i>Svitragajasinha Tailam</i>	E	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Sweta Kustha</i> (Type of Skin disorder)	Swarasa	BBR – Vol. V
30.	<i>Svitrahara Tailam</i>	E	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Sweta Kustha</i> (Type of Skin disorder)	Swarasa	BBR – Vol. V

31.	<i>Shirisharistha</i>	I	<i>Aristha</i>	<i>Vishavikara</i> (Disorders due to poison)	Roots	BBR – Vol. V
32.	<i>Shyamadi Varti</i>	E	<i>Varti</i>	<i>Udavarta Roga</i> (Condition in which there is upward movement of Vayu)	Roots	BBR – Vol. V
33.	<i>Suvarnasamakam Churna</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Udara Roga</i> (Abdominal disorder)	Roots	BBR – Vol. V
34.	<i>Svarjiksharadi Yoga</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Udara Roga</i> (Abdominal disorder)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. V
35.	<i>Sandhavadhyam Tailam</i> (4)	E	<i>Tailam</i>	<i>Bradhrudhya</i> (Hernia)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. V
36.	<i>Sandhavadhyam Tailam</i> (6)	E	<i>Tailam</i>	<i>Amavata</i> (Rheumatism)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. V
37.	<i>Sandhavadhyam Tailam</i>	E	<i>Tailam</i>	<i>Amavata</i> (Rheumatism)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. V
38.	<i>Svarjikadhyam Tailam</i> (2)	E	<i>Tailam</i>	<i>Nadi Vrana</i> (Fistula)	Roots	BBR – Vol. V
39.	<i>Svarjikadhyam Tailam</i> (3)	E	<i>Tailam</i>	<i>Nadi Vrana</i> (Fistula)	Roots	BBR – Vol. V
40.	<i>Sannipatbhairavo Rasa</i>	I	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Sannipat Jwara</i> (High grade fever due to vitiation of all the Dosha)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. V
41.	<i>Siddhayogeshwar</i>	I	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Pustikara</i> (Nutritive) , <i>Rasayana</i>	Leaves <i>Swarasa</i>	BBR – Vol. V

				(Rejuvenating)		
42.	<i>Saindhvadi Vati</i>	I	<i>Vati</i>	<i>Bradhavrudhya</i> (Hernia)	<i>Panchanga</i>	BBR – Vol. V
43.	<i>Swayamagni Rasa</i>	I	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Kshayakasa</i> (Cough due to Pthisis)	Leaves	BBR – Vol. V
44.	<i>Ksharadwayadi Churnam</i>	I	<i>Churna</i>	<i>Gulma</i> (Abdominal lump)	Roots	BBR – Vol. V

Part used & Dose²⁸⁻³⁰:

Decoction (Whole plant) – 50 to 100 ml

Root extract – 125 to 250 mg

Seeds and Leave

DISCUSSION:

Detailed knowledge of *paryaya* (Synonyms) of the plant *Nili* is obtained from various *Ayurvedic* lexicon which are mentioned under different subtypes such as Colour, Petiole, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits, As per Origin, Use wise, Morphology, Pharmacological actions, Cosmetic Uses, Properties and Spiritual belief. *Nili* is enriched with *tikta* and *katu rasa*, *laghu*, *ruksha* and *sara guna*, *ushna virya* and *katu vipaka*. *Nili* cures various disease conditions such as *Keshavikara* (Hair related disorders), *Palitya* (Graying of Hairs), *Khalitya* (Alopecia), *Kustha* (Disease of Skin), *Udavarta* (Condition in which there is upward movement of *Vayu*), *Krimiroga* (Worm infestation), *Kasa* (Cough), *Swasa* (Asthma), *Dantikrimi* (Dental caries). Types of *Nili* has been quoted in various *Nighantu* (Lexicon) such as *Nili* and *Mahanili* in *Raja Nighantu*, *Nilika* and *Mahanili* in *Shaligram Nighantu*, *Nilika* and *Vilayati Nili* in *Madanapala Nighantu*. Different formulations containing *Nili* as an ingredient were obtained from *Bharat*

Bhaishajya Ratnakar. 44 formulations were obtained among which 22 were internal formulations, 17 were external formulations and 5 formulations could be administered internally as well as externally. Formulations were used to treat various ailments such as *Palitya* (Graying of Hairs), *Visarpa* (Erysipelas), *Ama vata* (Rheumatism), *Kustha* (Disease of Skin), *Mukha roga* (Diseases of mouth), *Sannipat jwara* (High grade fever due to vitiation of all the *Dosha*), *Shula* (Abdominal Pain), *Sarpa visha* (Snake poison), *Gulma* (Abdominal lump) and *Nadi vrana* (Fistula). Whole plant, root, seed and leaves are taken as part used. *Nili* is highly enriched with various therapeutic actions which helps in healing different ailments and is also used as a natural hair colouring pigment.

CONCLUSION:

Nili (*Indigofera tinctoria* Linn.) is a plant occurs in tropics. Plant can be easily obtained from the natural sources. *Nili* is assigned with pharmacological properties i.e. *tikta* (Bitter), *katu rasa* (Pungent Taste), *katu vipaka* (Pungent post digestive effect) and *laghu* (Lightness), *ruksha guna* (Dryness quality) useful to combat various diseases. *Bharatbhaishajyaratnakara* has mentioned 44 formulations containing *Nili*

as an ingredient. Nili has been used to cure many different disease conditions but mainly used to treat *Kustha*, *Udara roga*, *Gulma* and *Kshudra roga*. Among the formulations, 22 formulations are to be taken internally and 17 to be taken externally. This review enlightens an Indigo plant is not only used for obtaining colouring dye but holds the capacity to cure many ailments.

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