

# ***Cynadon dactylon* – A WONDER DRUG FOR CANINE PYODERMA**

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*Cynadon dactylon* is known as Bermuda grass in English, Karuka in Malayalam and Durwa in Sanskrit (Gurudeva, 2001). It is the common lawn grass and seen in wastelands throughout the year (Srivastava, 1989) and is found throughout India (Chopra *et al.*, 1956). Three varieties of Durwa are niladurwa, svetadurwa and gandhadurwa. But *Cynadon dactylon* locally called karuka or karukappullu is the accepted source of the drug. It is a perennial herb, stem slender, creeping, rooting at all nodes, branches erect, leaves narrowly linear, flat, up to 8 x 0.3 cm (Sivarajan and Balachandran, 1994).

In Ashtanga Hridaya, the various medicinal properties of karuka is mentioned. The plant is acrid, sweet, cooling, useful in biliousness, thirst, vomiting, burning sensation, epilepsy, fatigue, scabies, skin diseases, dysentery, fever, erysipelas and epistaxis. The juice is an astringent and used as an application to fresh cuts and wounds. (Kirtikar and Basu, 1994). Karuka is also used in the treatment of catarrhal ophthalmia, dropsy, roots decoction for complaints of uro-genital tracts and paste for external application in ulcers and cuts to check bleeding (Singh and Khan, 1990). *Cynadon dactylon* contains antiviral phenolic phytotoxins and leaves gave flavone glycosides (Singh and Ali, 1998) and the plant have antiseptic property (Chopra *et al.*, 1958).

From time immemorial *Cynadon dactylon* is used for treating all kinds of skin diseases as ulcers, itching, rashes and wounds in human beings by Ayurvedic physicians. A study was conducted by the author in the Department of Clinical Medicine, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences to know the efficacy of *Cynadon dactylon* in the treatment of canine pyoderma. For the clinical trial, paste of leaves of freshly collected *Cynadon dactylon* was used for treating six confirmed cases of pyoderma in different breeds of dogs. The paste was applied thrice daily externally and all the cases showed good clinical improvement. Based on the severity of clinical signs, it took a variable period of one to three weeks for the complete disappearance of lesions. From the study it

is revealed that *Cynadon dactylon* is a cheap and effective indigenous medicine that can be used in the treatment of all kinds of pyoderma in field conditions. Therapeutic uses of *Cynadon dactylon* is well appreciated in Ayurveda for the treatment of variety of skin ailments. However, in Veterinary Medicine more research is needed to find the efficacy of *Cynadon dactylon* in the treatment of other skin diseases in both large and small animals. □

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one methodology for identification and validation of ante-helminthic plants used in EVM.

- 1) Wide ranging survey to identify all relevant medicines and practices, and the pupil involved.
- 2) Selection of the best bet ante-helminthic plant being used against the most economically important disease
- 3) Study the selected plant
- 4) Preparation of test medicines in the ways used by livestock owners
- 5) Testing the activity against indicator helminth
- 6) Validation on Farm

On the same line we can also validate various EVM and, traditional techniques. Even though there may be certain intricacies in proper validation. Moreover successful field trials are not only the criterion to release the medicine / practice for large scale adoption. Which should be coupled with feasibility analysis eg Technological, Economical and Social feasibility.

- 1) The plant / material should be locally available, it should be easy to identify and process.
- 2) Seasonal availability may sometimes reduce its applicability.
- 3) The cost of the ingredients should be taken into account.
- 4) The rural society has its strong norms and beliefs, hence should be given due respect and importance.

Last but not the least, any unwanted bias towards any system of medicine should be buried for the larger interest of the farming community. Thus a holistic approach from a sound platform of knowledge is the need of the hour for better service delivery in the Animal Husbandry Sector. □

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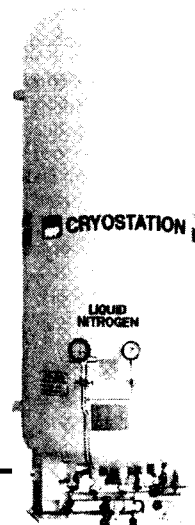
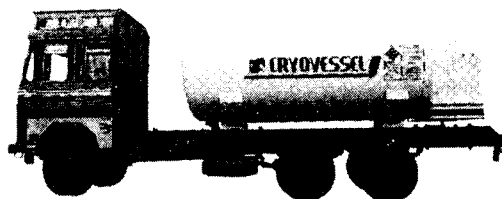
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