

## Medicinal uses of *Kalukamberiya* (*Solanum nigrum* Linn) in Sri Lankan traditional medicine

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### Abstract

*Solanum nigrum* (Family – Solanaceae) is a plant which grows in India and Sri Lanka. It is called *Kakamachi* in Sanskrit and it has a lot of synonyms *kakamasha*, *kakashva*, *kushtagni*, *kushtanashani*, *rasavana*, *vayasi*. etc. It is used in Sri Lankan traditional medical practice for various types of diseases. It is rich in herbal properties such as solanin, riboflavin, vitamin C, carotene etc. Raw fruit of *S. nigrum* contains Glyco alkaloids which is toxic. According to ayurvedic texts, *S. nigrum* is *tridishanashaka* and is *tikta* in *rasa*, *katuka* in *vipaka* and has *vishagna prabhava*. It also has *laghu*, *snigdha*, *rasayana*, *deepana*, *rechana*, *mala bhedana*, *pitta nissaraka*, *jwaragna*, *kaphagna*, *ama-vata hara*, *vedana nashaka*, *shothahara* and *vishagna* properties. It is used in treating *shukra kshaya*, heart diseases, *shoyha* , *vata rakta*, *ama vata*, *mutra krichcha*, *hikka*, *shvasa*, *kushta* and *mee visha*. It is advised as important that *S. nigrum* should not be taken with *guda* or oil of fried meat/fish. It is said that leaves of *S. nigrum* is a delicious when it is cooked with coconut as a curry. Therefore, it can be concluded that *S. nigrum* is a therapeutically potential plant in Ayurveda and traditional system of medicine.

**Key words:** *Solanum nigrum*, *kalukamberiya*, *ama vata hara*, *vedana nashaka*, *shothahra*, *vishagna*

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