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## ***Herbowart* a promising remedy for chronic warts in livestock**

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### **Abstract**

Warts in cattle and other livestock is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) and most people also experience this infection at some point in their life. In *Ayurveda*, warts can be compared with *Charmakeela*. The diagnosis is based on clinical examination and is usually straightforward by visual inspection. The treatment of warts has to be done with endurance and careful selection of procedures according to the type and site of the disease; otherwise, it may lead to cosmetic derangement or recurrence of the ailment. Indications for treatment include pain, interference with function, cosmetic embarrassment, and risk of malignancy. In the present study, 10 cattle and 4 buffaloes that were presented with warts of various sizes, shapes and distribution were selected. After a thorough examination, all these cattle and buffaloes were treated with a topical herbal product, *Herbowart*. The powder was mixed with butter/coconut oil and applied topically daily for 2-3 months, depending on the severity and distribution of lesions. Following treatment with *Herbowart*, the lesions (warts) started to shrink, fade, and gradually fall off. Smaller warts fall off within a month and whereas, medium to large-sized warts took 2 months to completely become dry and fall. None of the animals showed any untoward reactions during the treatment period and no abnormalities were recorded even if the animal licked the medicine accidentally. Hence, the *Herbowart*, can be considered as an effective herbal medicine to cure warts in livestock.

**Keywords:** Warts in cattle, *Herbowart*.

### **1. Introduction**

A wart is a cauliflower like growth that is small, raised structure which is seen at one or two places or in severe forms occupies majority portions of the body. Warts in cattle and other livestock is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) and most people also experience this infection at some point in their life. In humans, these warts may be seen on the backs of hands, on the fingers, knees, and feet, although rarely seen on genitals (Kwok *et al.*, 2012) [2]. Warts are generally painless but some of the affected cattle show pruritus. Although, small warts may disappear spontaneously but when they persist they are sometimes removed by freezing or burning. Unfortunately, these treatments often fail to have a lasting effect. The presence of warts may affect the general appearance of the cattle and indirectly influence the economics of the farmer. The treatment of warts has to be done with endurance and careful selection of procedure according to the type and site of the disease; otherwise, it may lead to cosmetic derangement or recurrence of the ailment. Though there are several procedures of removing or treating warts are available in contemporary science, in *Ayurveda* also, various treatment principles were explained like, administration of drugs internally, external application of drugs and parasurgical procedures like *Raktamokshana*, *Ksharakarma* and *Agnikarma* (Sharma, 2001) [4]. The present study documents the clinical efficacy of *Herbowart*, an ethno-veterinary herbal mixture from M/s Yourfarm, Animeta Agritech PVT Ltd., Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against warts in cattle.

### **2. Materials and Methods**

The present investigation on the efficacy of *Herbowart* against warts in livestock was carried out in clinically occurring farmer-owned cattle and buffaloes in certain districts of Telangana State. A total of 10 cattle and 4 buffaloes that were showing the clinical signs and raised cutaneous lesions were selected for the study. A thorough clinical examination revealed all

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these animals were suffering with cauliflower like individual growth to multiple lesions that club to form a big wart (fig.1). After confirming that all these animals are suffering with warts, they were treated with an Ethnoveterinary medicine *Herbowart*. The powder was mixed in an adlib quantity of butter or coconut oil and applied topically over the lesions. The mixture was prepared everyday afresh and applied liberally for 1-2 months depending on the severity of the lesions. Efficacy was assessed based on clinical improvement i.e., regression of lesions and falloff of the warts. However, reactions associated with the application of medicine and accidental licking were also studied.

### 3. Results and Discussion

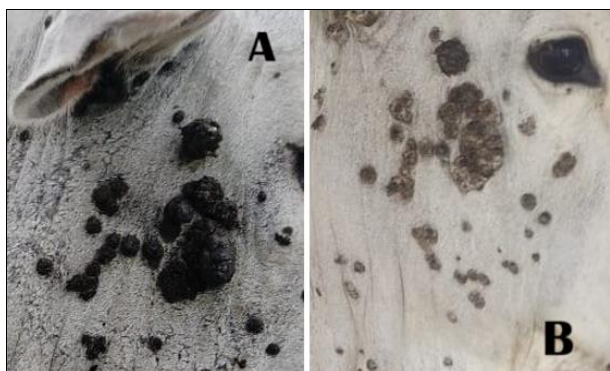
A single wart was noticed in 2 cattle and 3 buffaloes whereas, multiple warts at various portions of the body were seen in 8 cattle and 1 buffalo. But in 3 cows the lesions were severe with warts measuring around 10 cm. Improvement with the regression of lesions started from day 10 in almost all the cattle, irrespective of severity. However, the lesions faded out gradually in a sequence i.e., the lesions became dry, wrinkled, discolored to brown, fall off from the periphery and gradually disappeared within a month in mild lesions (fig. 2). Whereas, the severe form warts that were large showed improvement in 2-3 months (fig. 3) None of the animals show recurrence and no untoward manifestations were recorded in the animals that were treated with herbwart. Further, no reactions or unusual manifestations were seen in those animals that have licked the lesions with medicines accidentally.



**Fig. 1:** Cow affected with warts of different size and severity



**Fig. 2:** Mild forms of warts are faded out (arrow) and fall off



**Fig. 3:** Note the discoloration, dryness and gradual fall off (B) of warts in severe warts on day 0 (A) and 45 (B)

In practice, the treatment of warts both in humans and animals needs an individualized approach that requires multiple therapeutic modalities to achieve complete regression of signs with no relapse. However, the treatment and management of warts also depend on the location and size of the lesion, age of the patient, and the patient's immunological status, treatment availability and cost. Moreover, the successful management practice involves the clients/animal owners desire for therapy and ability to adhere to the treatment regimen. According to contemporary science, the management of warts involves mainly in destroying the warts by different methods such as, using various chemicals or cauterising or cryosurgery, keratolytic ointments, plasters and solutions, curettage, electrodesiccation, and destructive acids (Khopar, 2009) [1]. Similarly, In *Ayurveda*, it was described that the attainment of total management by using the internal drugs, external applications and *Kshrakarma* and *Agnikarma* (Sharma, 2001) [4]. In *Ayurveda*, warts can be compared with *Charmakeela* and the diagnosis is based on clinical or visual examination of the lesions. These indigenous treatment methods are non invasive procedures which do not cause the scar formation, no recurrence and found to be more beneficial in the treatment of warts.

Kuppaimeni (*Mallotus philippinensis*), is one of the key ingredients of the ethnoveterinary medicine used in the present study is widely used remedy in sidhs medicine. Kuppaimeni is known by various names such as wild mallow, Indian mallows, and Chinese honeysuckle, is a shrub native to Southeast Asia. The leaves, bark, and roots of the plant are used in Siddha medicine for their medicinal properties. The plant and its various parts are used for treating various skin infections including scabies. Anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, and antiparasitic properties are some of the key properties associated with this plant (Sekhar *et al.*, 2011) [3]. Further, It is also known as a potent immunomodulator. Warts being a viral infection and caused by Papilloma virus, immunomodulators should form the key ingredient in its therapeutic agents. In general, the Kuppaimeni is being used as powder or a paste made of it. The paste is made from the leaves that are boiled and ground into a paste. The paste is then applied directly to the affected area. For the powder, the leaves are dried and then ground into a powder. The powder is then mixed with a little water and applied to the affected area. But for better absorption the powder can be mixed with oils. In addition, the ingredient kuppaimeni is also used in Siddha medicine to treat other skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, and wounds. The other ingredient, Tulsi or holy basil has excellent anti-bacterial and anti-viral nature that kills the virus causing wart and speeds up healing process and complete regression (Sekhar *et al.*, 2011) [3].

*Herbowart* is recommended for use against warts in cattle. In the present study, cattle suffering with mild to moderate chronic warts showed a marked improvement that were not responding to routine conventional management procedures.

### 4. Conclusion

In the present study, 14 cattle and buffaloes that were suffering from chronic warts of varied intensity, severity and duration were managed with an ethnoveterinary medicine, *Herbowart*. All the animals showed marked improvement and regression of lesions over a while without any side effects. However, further studies involving a larger sample are warranted.

### 5. Conflict of Interest

Not available

## 6. Financial Support

Not available

## 7. References

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