

ACTIVATION OF MERCURY BY A TRADITIONAL AYURVEDIC
PREPARATION AS DETECTED BY IMMUNOMODULATION
OF COMPLEMENT ACTIVITY

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Ramabana Rasa is a popularly prescribed ayurvedic drug for coughs, colds, and fever of adults and children. It contains pepper, cloves, nutmeg, aconite, sulphur and mercury (15%). Rambana Rasa is a "Rasa" medicine as it contains a substantial amount of mercury. Preparation of the drug was carried according to the drug cooperation recipe. The detoxification procedure of the raw materials was studied and no significant chemical changes were detected except in the case of aconite where alkaloids were removed.

In vitro immunomodulation of the alternative and classical pathways of complement activity by the drug, gave interesting results. Organic raw materials alone showed 100% inhibition of lysis in the classical and alternative pathways, whereas the drug showed 74% inhibition of lysis. HgS and sulphur had no effect on the lysis. Therefore, it is apparent from these studies that the drug, even though no complexation of mercury was detected by chromatographic and spectroscopic methods, is activated in such a way that it has a significant effect on the inhibition of lysis.

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