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## A review on Kishneez (*Coriander sativum* Linn.): A potential herb

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### Abstract

Plants have been one of the inaugural sources of medicines since the beginning of human civilization. Now days there are an increasing demand for plant based medicines which pave way for the prevention of chronic diseases. One such plant with great potential is Coriander. Coriander is annual herb belonging to the family Apiceae is valued for its culinary and medicinal uses. Kishneez is the dried ripe fruit of *Coriander sativum*, the whole plant and especially unripe fruit is characterized by a strong disagreeable aroma when rubbed. It is cultivated throughout India. Coriander is mentioned in the Eberus papyrus and in the writings of Cato and Pliny. In Unani system of medicines it is indicated in *Sahr, Suda, Dawar, Zoaf-e-Qalab, Zoaf-e-Meda, Nafakh-e-Shikam, Zofa-e- Dimagh, Khafqan, Zaghtuddam Qawi, Tabkheer, Humuzat-e-Medi*, etc. The fruit (seed and pericarp) are the most widely used components of the coriander plant with the most important constituent being the essential oil and the fatty oil. Due to presence of many of bioactives, different pharmacological activities have been attributed to different parts of this herb. The aim of this review is to support the health benefits of Kishneez and to draw further awareness to the herbal plant.

**Keywords:** Kishneez, plants, dried ripe, medicinal uses, unani

### Introduction

*Kishneez* is the dried ripe fruit of *Coriander sativum* Linn, of family Umbelliferae [4, 16]. It is indigenous to Italy but is widely cultivated in Netherland, Central and Eastern Europe, Mediterranean, (Morocco, Malta, Egypt), China, India and Bangladesh [4, 16, 17]. The whole plant and especially unripe fruit is characterized by a strong disagreeable odour, hence the name coriander (from the greek K'opis, a bug) giving characteristics aroma when rubbed [18]. It is cultivated throughout India for its seeds and leaves [6, 15], like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar etc. [18, 19]. Coriander is mentioned in Eberus papyrus (111 BC) and in the writings of Cato and Pliny. It is well known in England before the Norman Conquest [16].

Coriander is generally grown as rain fed crops and of 92-105 days duration. The time of sowing varies in different localities, it may be grown-up in India from May to September or from October to January as second crop. Black soil, red or black loam and silt are best suited. Before sowing the fruits are rubbed till the two mericarps are separated and sown either broadcast or in rows [6, 21]. Seeds are thrashed and dried when ripe [17].

It has been used for a number of therapeutic purposes since ancient times and is mostly indicated in *Sahr, Suda, Dawar, Zoaf-e-Qalab, Zoaf-e-Meda, Nafakh-e-Shikam, Zofa-e-Dimagh* [7, 20], *Khafqan, Zaghtuddam Qawi, Tabkheer, Humuzat-e-Medi* [2] due to its *Munnawim, Mubarriid, Musakkin, Mohallil, Muqawwi, Muffreh, Habis wa Qabiz* actions [5, 7, 12].

**Botanical name:** *Coriander sativum* Linn [4, 7, 18, 23].

**Family:** Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) [4, 7, 18, 21, 23].

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**Table 1:** Vernacular Names <sup>[5, 6, 11]</sup>.

English	Coraiander, collender, coriander fruits
Italian	Coriandolo
Greek	Koriannon, Korion
Chinese	Yuan sui, Hu-sui
Turkish	Kisnis
Russian	Koriandr, Koljandra
Arab	Kuzbara, Kuzbura
Persian	Geshnes (Kishneez)
Spanish	Coriander, Collender, Coriander fruits
Hindi	Dhaniya, Dhania, Kottmir
Urdu	Kishneez, Dhania
Sanskrit	Dhanika, Dhania, Vitunnaka, Kustumbari
Kashmiri	Dhaniawal, Dhanawal
Oddiya	Dhania
Punjabi	Dhania
Marathi	Dhaue
Tamil	Kottamalli, Viral dhania
Telagu	Dhaniyalu
Kannad	Havija, Kothambaribija, Kothambri
Gujrati	Dhana, Kenphir, Dhanis

**Description**

Coriander is annual herb <sup>[4, 15]</sup> upto 90 cm tall or (20 to 140 cm) depending on Agro climatic condition <sup>[15, 23]</sup>.

**Leaves** are oval, slightly lobed, lower leaves are broader while the upper ones are narrow <sup>[15, 23]</sup>.

**Stems** are erect, thin, symbodial, monochasial, and branched with several side branches at the basal node <sup>[23]</sup>.

**Flowers** are small, white often pinkish – purple tingled in terminal compound umbel and blooming in the month of February to March <sup>[15, 23]</sup>.

**Root** spindle shape <sup>[23]</sup>.

**Fruits** are globular or ovate, mericarps usually united by their margin forming a cremocarp about 2-4 mm in diameter, uniformly brownish-yellow or brown, glabrous, sometime crowned by remains of sepals and styles, primary ridges 10, wavy and slightly inconspicuous secondary ridges 8, straight. The fruit have an aromatic odour and a spicy taste <sup>[4, 5, 16]</sup>. The fruit (seed and pericarp) are the most widely used components of the coriander plant with the most important constituent being the essential oil and the fatty oil (Fatty oil is around 25% of the seed, essential oil is less than 1%) <sup>[23]</sup>.

**Parts Used**

*Berg-e-kishneez, Tukhme kishneez khushk* <sup>[2, 4]</sup>

**Table 2:** *Afaal* (Action) of *Kishneez*

<i>Munawwim</i> (Hypnotic) <sup>[12]</sup>
<i>Musakkin</i> <sup>[14]</sup> (Sedative), <i>Musakkin Alam wa Harart</i> <sup>[1, 2, 5]</sup>
<i>Mubarrid</i> (Refrigerant) <sup>[4, 10]</sup>
<i>Mohallil-e-Waram</i> (Resolvent) <sup>[2, 3]</sup>
<i>Mane/Dafe Tabkheer</i> <sup>[10, 18]</sup>
<i>Muffreh Qalb</i> (Exhilarant) <sup>[5, 18]</sup>
<i>Muffreh Dimagh</i> <sup>[5, 18]</sup>
<i>Muqawwi Qalb</i> (Tonic to Heart) <sup>[11, 20]</sup>
<i>Muqawwi Meda</i> (Tonic to Stomach) <sup>[11]</sup>
<i>Mudirr-e-Baul</i> (Diuretic) <sup>[4]</sup>
<i>Kasir-e-Riyah</i> (Carminative) <sup>[7, 20]</sup>
<i>Mushtahi</i> (Appetizer) <sup>[11, 20]</sup>
<i>Qabiz</i> (Astringent) <sup>[5, 20]</sup>
<i>Dafe Khafqan wa Waswas</i> <sup>[11]</sup>
<i>Habis</i> (Styptic) <sup>[7, 10]</sup>

**Table 3:** *Istemaal* (Uses) of *Kishneez*

<i>Sahr</i> (Insomnia) <sup>[18]</sup>
<i>Suda</i> (Headache) <sup>[1, 2, 11]</sup>
<i>Dawar</i> (Vertigo) <sup>[1, 2, 5]</sup>
<i>Zoaf-e-Qalb</i> (Weakness of Heart) <sup>[1, 2, 4, 5]</sup>
<i>Zoaf-e-Meda</i> (Weakness of Stomach) <sup>[1, 2, 4, 5]</sup>
<i>Zoaf-e-Dimagh</i> (Brain Weakness) <sup>[1, 2, 5]</sup>
<i>Nafakh-e-Shikam</i> (Flatulence) <sup>[1, 2, 4, 7, 20]</sup>
<i>Humuzat-e-Medi</i> (Hyperacidity) <sup>[2]</sup>
<i>Ishaal</i> (Diarrhoea) <sup>[1, 2, 4, 20]</sup>
<i>Tabkheer</i> <sup>[1]</sup>
<i>Kasrat-e-Shawat</i> (Increase Libido) <sup>[20]</sup>
<i>Khafqan</i> (Palpitation) <sup>[4, 11]</sup>
<i>Shiddat-e-Atash</i> (Thirst) <sup>[10]</sup>
<i>Qula</i> (Stomatitis) <sup>[10]</sup>
<i>Dard-e-Halaq</i> (Pain in Throat) <sup>[10]</sup>
<i>Sual-e-Atfaal</i> (Cough) <sup>[10]</sup>
<i>Dama</i> (Asthma) <sup>[10]</sup>

**Miqdar (Dose):** 5-7 gram <sup>[4, 10, 20]</sup>.

**Mizaj (Temperament)**

According to Buqrat its temperament is Cold and dry (2<sup>nd</sup> degree).

Cold and dry (2<sup>nd</sup> degree) or Cold (2<sup>nd</sup> degree) and Dry (3<sup>rd</sup> degree) <sup>[10]</sup>.

Cold and Dry (2<sup>nd</sup> degree) or *Murakkabul quwah* <sup>[2]</sup>.

Cold and Dry (2<sup>nd</sup> degree) <sup>[1, 11]</sup>.

Hot (1 degree) <sup>[24]</sup>.

**Muzarrat (Toxicity)**

*Zahan ko khrab karta hai* <sup>[11]</sup>.

*Mojib-e-Nisyaan* <sup>[11, 12]</sup>.

*Mohllil-e-Mani* <sup>[9, 10, 11]</sup>.

*Sudad* <sup>[10, 11]</sup>.

**Table 4:** *Musleh* (Correctives) and *Badal* (Substitutes) of *Kishneez*

<b>Musleh (Correctives)</b>	<b>Badal (Substitutes)</b>
<i>Biryana karna</i> <sup>[10, 11]</sup>	<i>Tukhm-e-Kahu, Tukhm-e-Khashkhash</i> <sup>[4, 10, 12]</sup>
<i>Shahad (Honey)</i> <sup>[10, 11]</sup>	
<i>Sikanjabeen Safarjali</i> <sup>[11]</sup>	
<i>Baiza-e-MurgNeem barisht</i> <sup>[10]</sup>	
<i>Maghz-e-Badam, Tukhm-e-Kahu</i> <sup>[7]</sup>	
	<i>Barg-e-Sudab</i> <sup>[7]</sup>

**Murakkabat (Compound Formulation)**

*Ireefal Kishneez* <sup>[11, 12]</sup>.

*Ireefal Zamani* <sup>[20]</sup>.

*Ireefal Sanai* <sup>[20]</sup>.

*Khameera Gauzaban* <sup>[5, 20]</sup>.

*Jawarish Shahi* <sup>[5, 20]</sup>.

*Qurs Ziabetes Sada* <sup>[5, 20]</sup>.

*Arq-e-Musaffi Khoon* <sup>[5, 20]</sup>.

*Tiryaq-e-Nazla* <sup>[1, 2]</sup>.

*Sufoof-e-Tabkheer* <sup>[2]</sup>.

*Sufoof-e Hazim* [2].

*Dawa-ul-Misk Motadil Sada* [5, 20].

*Khameera Gauzaban Ambari Jawahar Wala* [5, 20].

**Table 5:** Ethanobotanical Description

Sedative [15, 26]
Aromatic [13, 23]
Carminative [18, 19, 22]
Digestive [15]
Diuretic [18, 22]
Stimulant [15, 18, 21]
Tonic [6, 22]
Aphrodisiac [6, 22]
Astringent [15]
Diaphoretic [18]
Dyspeptic [23]
Antibilious [4, 19, 22]
Refrigerant [19, 22]
Stomachic [21, 22]
Antispasmodic [6]

**Table 6:** Ethanobotanical Uses

Insomnia [18, 26]
Headache [18, 19, 26]
Dysentery [18, 19, 23]
Chronic conjunctivitis [18]
Foul breath [6, 22]
Dyspepsia [6, 23]
Burning sensation of the body [18]
Cephalgia [6, 22]
Chronic ulcers [6]
Carbuncles [6]
Indigestion [17, 23]
Nausea [19]
Flavouring agent [19]
Loss of appetite [18]
Convulsions [18]
Anxiety [23, 26]
Urinary system [23]
Respiratory system [23]
Anorexia, Flatulence, Pain, Vomiting [26]

#### Major Active Constituents of *Coriander sativum* [4, 16, 19].

Essential oil 0.8-2.6%  
Fatty oil 19-20% (mixture of glycerides of palmitic, oleic, linoleic, and petroselinic acid)

#### Prominent constituents of the essential oil

Linalool 15-25%

#### Minor active constituents of the essential oil

Monoterpenes hydrocarbons (*Viz.*  $\alpha$ - pinene, limpinene,  $\gamma$ -terpinene, p-cymene, citronellol, camphor, geraniol, and geraniol acetate, heterocyclic component like pyrazine, pyridine, thiazol, isocoumarins, coriandrin, dihydrocoriandrin, coriandrone A-E, flavonoids, phtlides, neochidilide, digustilide phenolic acid and sterols [16, 18, 19].

#### Pharmacological Activities

**Sedative Hypnotic Activity:** *Coriandrum sativum* L. has been suggested for relief of insomnia in Iranian traditional medicine. To establish sedative & hypnotic activity aqueous and hydroalcoholic extract & essential oil administered to rat. The outcome of the experiment shows that aqueous extract prolonged pentobarbital-induced sleeping time at 200, 400

and 150 mg/kg. Hydro-alcoholic extract at doses of 400 and 150 mg/kg improved pentobarbital-induced sleeping time compared to saline-treated group. The essential oil increased pentobarbital-induced sleeping time only at 150 mg/kg. The extracts and essential oil of coriander seeds have sedative-hypnotic activity [34].

**Anti-Anxiety Activity:** *Coriandrum sativum* L. has been recommended for relief of anxiety and insomnia in Iranian folk medicine. The anxiolytic effect of aqueous extract (10, 25, 6, 100 mg/kg, i.p.) was examined in male albino mice using elevated plus-maze as an animal model of anxiety. The effects of the extract on spontaneous activity and neuromuscular coordination were assessed using Animex Activity Meter and rota rod, respectively. In the elevated plus-maze, aqueous extract at 100 mg/kg showed an anxiolytic effect by increasing the time spent on open arms and the percentage of open arm entries, compared to control group. Aqueous extract at 6, 100 and 15 mg/kg significantly reduced spontaneous activity and neuromuscular coordination, compared to control group. These results proposed that the aqueous extract of *Coriandrum sativum* seed has anxiolytic effect and may have potential sedative and muscle relaxant effects [35].

**Hepatoprotective Activity:** Ethanolic extract was found to be rich in alkaloids, phenolic compounds and flavonoids, isoquercetin and quercetin. *C. sativum* signifies hepatoprotection against carbon tetrachloride (CCl<sub>4</sub>), by falling the liver weight, activities of SGOT, SGPT, and ALP, and direct bilirubin of CCl<sub>4</sub> intoxicated animals. Administration of *C. sativum* extract at 300 mg/kg dose resulted in loss of fatty deposit, ballooning degeneration and necrosis, indicating antihepatotoxic activity [36].

#### Conclusion

There are many herbal plants in the world and Kishneez is one of them considered to be having good medicinal value. The pharmacological action of Kishneez mentioned in Unani literature suggests that this drug has huge potential in modern pharmacotherapy. This review discusses and compiles the information about its morphology, temperaments, substitute, toxicity, chemical constituents, pharmacological action, uses and pharmacological studies which may be useful for future studies.

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