



## Review Article

### PYREXIA: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND USE OF HERBAL DRUGS

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#### ABSTRACT

Fever is defined as an increase in body temperature ( $>99^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) due to derangement of heat mechanism in brain which is known as temperature set point. Fever can be caused by virus, bacteria, microorganism which produce pyrogen. In fever blood pressure, pulse rate, cardiac output, respiration is increase. Anti-pyretic words derived from two word Anti- against & Pyretic- Pertaining to fever. Fever can be treated by traditional drugs. A variety of ethnomedical plants are available in India which are used as antipyretic such as bhringraj, tulsi, liquorice, shatavri, black papper, menthol, kantkari, chirata, barberry etc. In this review we explain how these plants are effective to cure fever has been study in various labs. We also explain which solvents are used to obtain the main constituents which is used as a antipyretic.

**Keywords:** Pyrexia, Antipyretic drugs, Pyrogen, TNF-  $\alpha$

#### INTRODUCTION

Pyrexia or fever is caused as a secondary impact of infection, tissue damage, inflammation, graft rejection, malignancy or other diseased states.<sup>1</sup> Normally the infected or damaged tissue initiates the enhanced formation of proinflammatory mediators (cytokines, such as interleukin  $1\beta$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and TNF-  $\alpha$ ), which increase the synthesis of prostaglandin  $\text{E}_2$  ( $\text{PGE}_2$ ) near hypothalamic area and thereby trigger the hypothalamus to elevate the body temperature.<sup>2</sup> Fever, also known as a febrile response or pyrexia, is an elevated temperature defined by an early morning temperature greater than  $37.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  or an evening temperature over  $37.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ . It is one of the oldest and most well-understood hallmarks of disease.<sup>3</sup> Normal body temperature is regulated by centers in the hypothalamus that ensures balance between heat loss and heat gain. Fever occurs where there is a disturbance of this hypothalamic “thermostat”.<sup>4</sup> fevers are often a presenting symptom of a self-limiting viral infection, they are also associated with serious bacterial infections, such as meningitis and pneumonia, and other non-infective illnesses. Therefore, the underlying illness causing the fever needs to be determined.<sup>5</sup> The initial management of fever includes treatment of the cause and the administration of antipyretic (fever-lowering) drugs.

Antipyretic treatments are effective in lowering temperature, but can have important side effects.<sup>6</sup>

#### PATHOGENESIS OF FEVER

Pyrogen refers to any substance which causes fever, and is divided into two classes - The first type of pyrogens are those derived from outside the patient, termed “exogenous pyrogens”. These mostly encompass microbial products, toxins, or the pathogenic microorganism itself. The second class of pyrogens are ‘endogenous’, meaning they are produced ‘within’ the patient. They tend to be cytokines (small proteins which regulate immune, inflammatory, and haematopoietic processes), and are named pyrogenic cytokines if they evoke the febrile response.<sup>7</sup> Pyrogenic cytokines, such as interleukin-1  $\beta$  (IL-1 $\beta$ ), tumor necrosis factor (TNF), and interleukin-6 (IL-6), are those that act directly on the hypothalamus (Figure 1) to effect a fever response.<sup>8</sup> The circumventricular organ system (CVOS) has many receptors for endogenous cytokines, especially IL-1 and TNF, and has a key role in inducing prostaglandin synthesis. They are derived from arachidonic acid via the cyclooxygenase dependent pathway, and have diverse physiological functions, such as regulation of blood flow and modulation of synaptic transmissions.<sup>9</sup> In the febrile response, the main prostaglandin produced is prostaglandin  $\text{E}_2$  ( $\text{PGE}_2$ ).<sup>10</sup>

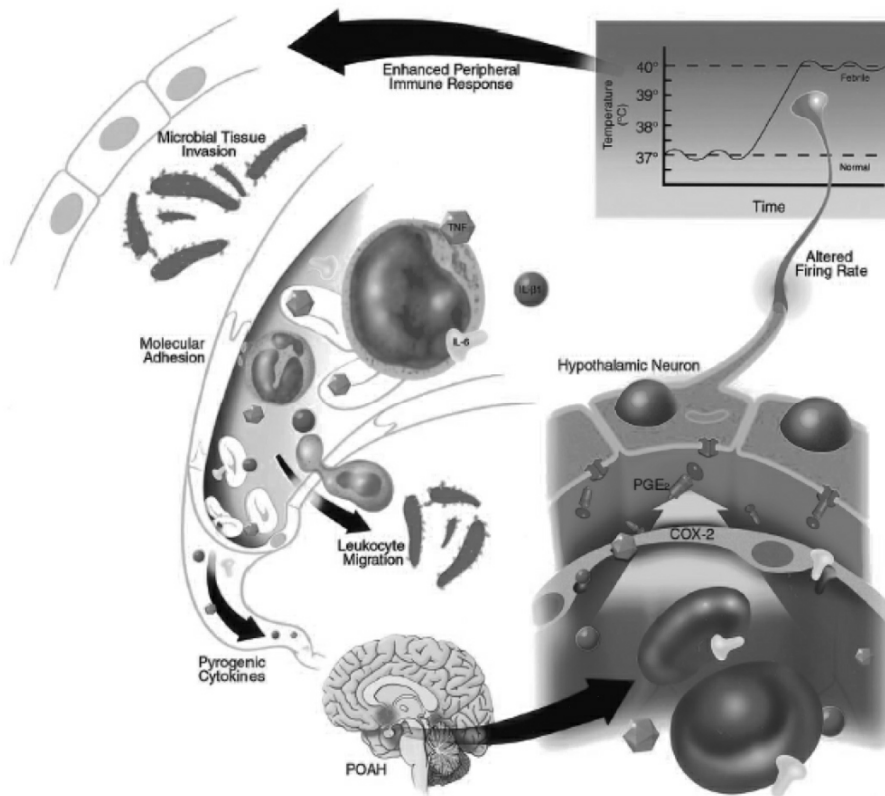


Figure 1: Fever generation after infection.<sup>1</sup>

**PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF FEVER**

Fever is a coordinated neuroendocrine, autonomic and behavioural response that is adaptive, and an essential part of the acute-phase response to immune stimulus or tissue injury.<sup>11</sup> It should be emphasized that fever is not an illness but is, in fact, a physiologic mechanism that has beneficial effects in fighting infection. Fever retards the growth and reproduction of bacteria and viruses, enhances neutrophil production and T-lymphocyte proliferation, and aids in the body's acute phase reaction.<sup>12</sup>

The Thermoregulatory (Figure 2) center is located in the anterior portion of the hypothalamus. That balance heat production with heat loss. Integral to the process are the heat sensitive receptors located in the preoptic area of the anterior hypothalamus.<sup>13</sup> When fever occurs, many physiological stresses take place. Some of these include increased oxygen consumption as a response to increased cell metabolism, increased heart rate, increased cardiac output, increased leukocyte count, and an increased level of C-reactive protein. Oxygen consumption increases by 13% for every 1°C increase in body temperature, provided no shivering occurs.<sup>14</sup>

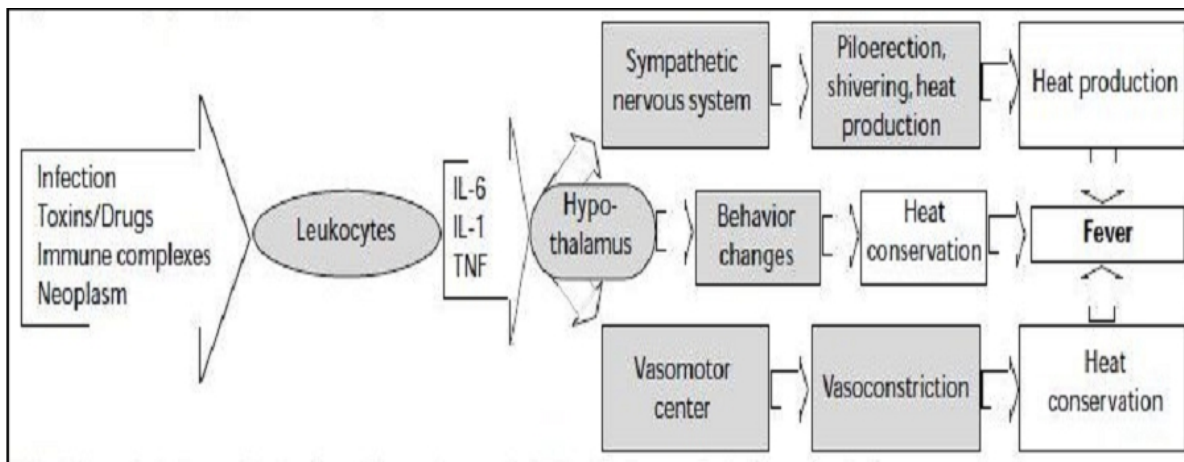


Figure 2: Pathophysiology of fever<sup>15</sup>

## HERBAL DRUGS

| Common name                  | Botanical Name                    | Part used                              | Family                   | Extract Used                                  | Ref      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|----------|
| Shatavari                    | <i>Asparagus racemosus</i>        | Fleshy roots                           | Liliaceae                | Alcohol                                       | 16,17,18 |
| Liquorice                    | <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>         | Root                                   | Leguminosae              | Methanol & petroleum ether                    | 19       |
| Ashwagandha                  | <i>Withania somnifera</i> ,       | Roots and leaves                       | Solanaceae               | Methanol, aqueous                             | 19       |
| Ginger Adrak                 | <i>Zingiberofficinale</i>         | Fleshy Leaves of Bulb                  | Zingiberaceae            | 100% ethanol & Methanol                       | 20,21    |
| Nirgundi                     | <i>Vitex negundo</i>              | Shrub                                  | Verbenaceae              | Methanol & petroleum ether                    | 22,23,24 |
| Chandan                      | <i>Chenopodium album</i>          | Fruit                                  | Chinopodiaceae           | Ethanol                                       | 25       |
| Chandan                      | <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>   | Leaf                                   | Chinopodiaceae           | Methanol                                      | 25       |
| Guduchi                      | <i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>       | Stem, root, leaves                     | Menispermaceae           | 95% ethanol                                   | 26,27,28 |
| Tulsi                        | <i>Osmium sanctum</i>             | Leaves                                 | Labiatae                 | Methanol                                      | 29       |
| Coat buttons                 | <i>Tridax procumbens (L.)</i>     | Whole plant                            | Compositae               | Ethanol & ethyl acetate                       | 30,31    |
| Black paper                  | <i>Piper nigrum L.</i>            | Dried fruit                            | Piperaceae               | Alcohol                                       | 32,33    |
| Jangliantar                  | <i>Dodonaea viscosa Linn.</i>     | Seeds                                  | Sapindaceae              | Ethanol                                       | 34       |
| Menthol                      | <i>Mentha longifolia L.</i>       | Leaves                                 | Lamiaceae                | Aqueous                                       | 35       |
| Mistletoes                   | <i>Loranthusregularissteud.ex</i> | Whole plant                            | Loranthaceae             | Methanol                                      | 36       |
| God's tree                   | <i>Alstonia boonei De</i>         | Stem bark                              | Apocynaceae              | Methanol                                      | 37,38    |
| Parwal                       | <i>Trichosanthes dioica</i>       | Leaves                                 | Cucurbitaceae            | Methanol                                      | 39,40    |
| Amla,                        | <i>Emblica officinalis Gaertn</i> | Fruits                                 | Euphorbiaceae            | Ethanol, aqueous                              | 41,42    |
| Common fig                   | <i>Ficus carica L.</i>            | Leavesfruit                            | Moraceae                 | 90% ethanol                                   | 43       |
| Peppal                       | <i>Ficus religiosa</i>            | Stem bark                              | Moraceae                 | Water, chloroform & ether                     | 44       |
| Brahmi                       | <i>Bacopa monniera</i>            | Leaves                                 | Scrophulariaceae         | Water, hexan, methanol & Petroleum Ether      | 45,46,47 |
| Kachnal                      | <i>Bauhinia racemosa Linn.</i>    | Stem bark                              | caesalpiniaceae          | Methanol                                      | 48,49    |
| Sarivan,                     | <i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>       | Root,whole plant                       | Papilionaceae(Fabaceae)  | Petroleum ether                               | 50       |
| Haldi                        | <i>Curcuma longa Linn.</i>        | Rhizomes                               | Zingiberceae             | Methanol                                      | 51,52    |
| Tropical Fanleaf             | <i>Fioria vitifolia Linn.,</i>    | Whole plant                            | Malvaceae                | Methanol                                      | 53       |
| Putranjiva                   | <i>Putranjiva roxburghii</i>      | Leaves                                 | Putranjivaceae           | Ether   | 54       |
| Swallow root, maredu gaddalu | <i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i>       | Root                                   | Periplocaceae            | Methanol                                      | 55       |
| Neem                         | <i>Azadirachta indica</i>         | Leaves                                 | Meliaceae                | Methanol                                      | 56,57    |
| Mundi                        | <i>Sphaeranthus indicus Linn.</i> | Whole plant, seeds, flowers and roots. | Asteraceae               | Petroleum ether, benzene, chloroform, ethanol | 58,59    |
| Kiryat                       | <i>Andrographis paniculata</i>    | Leaves and stems                       | Acantheceae              | Ethanol                                       | 60       |
| Toothbrush tree, chota pilu  | <i>Salvadora persica L</i>        | Wood sticks                            | Salvadoraceae            | Aqueous                                       | 61       |
| White Thorn                  | <i>Acacia suma</i>                | Stem bark                              | Fabaceae                 | Petroleum ether                               | 62       |
| Tinda parvel                 | <i>Coccinia grandis</i>           | Fruit                                  | Cucurbitaceae            | Methanol                                      | 63       |
| Bamboo                       | <i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>        | Leaf, root, shoot and seed             | Graminae                 | 50% ethanol                                   | 64       |
| Daru haldhi and chitra       | <i>Berberis aristata DC.</i>      | Root                                   | Berberidaceae            | Alcohol & aqueous                             | 65,66    |
| Golden shower                | <i>Cassia fistula Linn</i>        | Seed                                   | Caesalpinoideae          | Methanol                                      | 67       |
| Three-seeded mercury         | <i>Acalypha indica L</i>          | Leaves, Root bark                      | Euphorbiaceae            | Methanol                                      | 68       |
| Kokilaksha                   | <i>Astercanthus longifolia</i>    | Leaves                                 | acanthaceae              | Petroleum ether, benzene, chloroform, ethanol | 69       |
| Lepouo                       | <i>Mollugo pentaphylla Linn.</i>  | Whole plant                            | Aizoaceae                | Methanol                                      | 70,71    |
| Toothache plant              | <i>Spilanthes acmella</i>         | Leaves & flower                        | Compositae or Asteraceae | Water   | 72,73    |
| Mangrove plant               | <i>Pongamiapinnata(L.)Pierre</i>  | Leaf                                   | Fabaceae                 | 70% ethanol                                   | 74       |
| Candlenut                    | <i>Aleurites moluccana</i>        | Leaf                                   | Euphorbiaceae            | Methanol                                      | 75       |
| Bitter leaf                  | <i>Vernonia cinerea</i>           | Stem bark &leaves                      | Asteraceae               | Methanol                                      | 76       |
| Imli                         | <i>Tamarindus indicia L.</i>      | Pulp                                   | Caesalpiniaceae          | Aqueous                                       | 77,78    |

|   |   |   |                  |   |             |
|---|---|---|------------------|---|-------------|
| Himalayanyew                                | <i>Taxus wallichiana</i> zucc.              | Leaves                                      | Taxaceae         | Methanol  | 79          |
| Cassava                                     | <i>Manihot esculenta</i> crantzis           | Leaves                                      | phorbiaceae      | Ethanol   | 80          |
| Mithipatti & bana<br>dhania, godha<br>tulsi | <i>Scoparia dulcis</i> linn.                | Aerial part, leaf,<br>root & whole<br>plant | Scrophulariaceae | Ethanol   | 81          |
| Thuja                                       | <i>Platyclusus orientalis</i>               | Leaves                                      | Cupressaceae     | Petroleum ether                                   | 82          |
| Feiyangcao                                  | <i>Euphorbia hirta</i>                      | Leaves                                      | Euphorbiaceae    | Aqueous   | 83          |
| Crown flower                                | <i>Calotropis gigantea</i>                  | Roots                                       | Asclepiadaceae   | Methanol  | 84          |
| Rosary pea                                  | <i>Abrus precatorius</i> linn               | Seeds                                       | Fabaceae         | Ethanol   | 85          |
| Anatto tree                                 | <i>Tecomaria capensis</i>                   | Leaves                                      | Bignoniaceae     | Methanol  | 86          |
| Kantkari                                    | <i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i>                 | Whole plant                                 | Solanaceae       | Aqueous   | 87          |
| Chirata                                     | <i>Sweretia chirata</i>                     | Leaves                                      | Gentianaceae     | Aqueous   | 87,8<br>8   |
| Barberry                                    | <i>Berberis lycium</i> Royle                | Roots                                       | Berberidaceae    | Ethanol   | 89,90       |
|   | <i>Grewia crenata</i>                       | Leaves                                      | Malvaceae        | 50% v/v methanol                                  | 91          |
| Witch weed                                  | <i>Striga hermontheca</i> (Del.) Benth.     | Leaves                                      | Scrophulariaceae | 50% v/v Methanol                                  | 91          |
| Bush buck                                   | <i>Gongronema latifolium</i> Benth<br>Hook, | Leaves                                      | Asclepiadaceae   | 50% v/v methanol                                  | 91          |
| Kamal, lotus                                | <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn.             | Rhizomes                                    | Nymphaeaceae     | Ethanol   | 92,9<br>3   |
| Karambha                                    | <i>Capparis zeylanica</i> Linn.             | Whole plant                                 | Capparaceae      | Methanol  | 94          |
| Mahamundi                                   | <i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i> Linn.           | Whole plant                                 | Compositae       | Petroleum Ether, Benzen,<br>Chloroform & ethanol. | 95          |
| Lov-vine                                    | <i>Cassytha filiformis</i>                  | Leaves                                      | Lauraceae        | Ethanol   | 96          |
| Morning mallow                              | <i>Sida acuta</i>                           | Leaf  | Malvaceae        | Petroleum ether, acetone<br>& ethanol             | 97          |
| Phakphet                                    | <i>Spilanthes paniculata</i>                | Leaves                                      | Asteraceae       | Ethanol, n-hexane, ethyl<br>acetate               | 98          |
| Akarkara                                    | <i>Spilanthes acmella</i> Murr              | Whole plant                                 | Compositae       | Aqueous   | 99          |
| Pergularia                                  | <i>Pergularia daemia</i>                    | Stem & leaves                               | Asclepiada cea   | Petroleum ether                                   | 100         |
| Bone setter                                 | <i>Cissus quadrangularis</i>                | Whole plant                                 | Vitaceae         | Ethanol   | 101         |
| Bitter gourd                                | <i>Momordica charantia</i> Linn.            | Fruit                                       | Cucurbitaceae    | Ethanol   | 102         |
| Kpohoun                                     | <i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb.        | Leaf  | Caesalpiniaaceae | Methanol  | 103         |
| Black<br>nightshade                         | <i>Solanum nigrum</i>                       | Leaves                                      | Solansaceae      | Chloroform  | 105,<br>104 |
| Shisham                                     | <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>                     | Leaves                                      | Fabaceae         | 90% ethanol                                       | 106         |
| Keukand                                     | <i>Costus speciosus</i> Koen                | Aerial PART                                 | Costaceae        | Methanol  | 40          |
| Parwal                                      | <i>Trichosanthes dioica</i> Roxb.           | Fruits                                      | Cucurbitaceae    | Methanol  | 42          |
| Fig   | <i>Ficus carica</i> Linn.                   | Leaves                                      | Moraceae.        | 90% ethanol                                       | 107         |
| Byakur, guta<br>begun,                      | <i>Solanum indicum</i> linn.                | Fruits                                      | Solanaceae       | Petroleum ether, methanol                         | 108         |
| Vizhudh                                     | <i>Cadaba trifoliata</i> (Roxb.)            | Leaves                                      | Capparaceae      | Absolute alcohol                                  | 109         |
| Amargandha                                  | <i>Curcuma amada</i>                        | Rhizome                                     | Zingiberaceae    | Ethanol   | 110         |
| Amarabela                                   | <i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.                | Entire plat                                 | Cuscutaceae      | 95 % v/v ethanol                                  | 111         |
| Adavi benda                                 | <i>Fioria vitifolia</i> Linn                | Whole plant                                 | Malvaceae        | Methanol  | 112         |
| Carpet weed                                 | <i>Mollugo pentaphylla</i> Linn.            | Aerial part                                 | Aizoaceae        | Petroleum ether & ethanol                         | 113         |
| Palas                                       | <i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam)               | Leaves stem<br>bark, flowers and<br>root    | Fabaceae         | Petroleum ether & ethanol                         | 114         |
| Sa-kan                                      | <i>Piper interruptum</i> Opiz.              | Stem  | Piperaceae       | 95% ethanol                                       | 44          |
| Di-pli                                      | <i>Piper chaba</i> Linn.                    | Fruit                                       | Piperaceae       | 95% ethanol                                       | 44          |
| Anaikurumhotti                              | <i>Sida rhomboidea</i>                      | Roots                                       | Malvaceae        | Alcohol   | 115         |
| Kurunthotti                                 | <i>Sida alnifolia</i>                       | Roots                                       | Malvaceae        | Alcohol   | 115         |

## CONCLUSION

Although herbal medicine has great importance than the allopathic drug but it's become necessary to approved them. Evaluation of Indian traditional medicine is possible through the proper exploitation of wide biodiversity and great ancient treatise with light of modern tools & technique. In this review articles many herbal medicine are discuss which extracts show antipyretic properties in animal models.

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