



Received on 12 September 2025; received in revised form, 28 September 2025; accepted, 29 September 2025; published 30 September 2025

DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY PARAMETERS AND DETERMINATION OF GLYCYRRHETINIC ACID AND PIPERINE CONTENT IN YASTIMADHUVATI

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Keywords:

Colorimetry, Glycyrrhetic acid, HPTLC, Piperine, Yastimadhuvati

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ABSTRACT: 'Yastimadhuvati' is a popular Ayurvedic formulation prescribed in cough, cold, respiratory diseases and chronic fever. The proposed study is aimed at developing physico-chemical parameters and estimating the contents of glycyrrhetic acid and piperine in the formulation. Pills were prepared according to the Vaidyaka chikitsasar. The pills were subjected to pharmacognostical and phytochemical screening and evaluated for the standards visually, weight variation, friability and hardness tests. Further glycyrrhetic acid was quantified by colorimetric method. Also a simultaneous HPTLC method was developed for quantification of glycyrrhetic acid and piperine. The pills showed microscopical features like sclereids, crystal fibres, vittae, epidermis with subepidermis and oil glands. The acid insoluble ash was found to be 0.5 ± 0.61 , Water soluble extractive value was higher than the alcohol soluble extractive value. The pills contained higher amounts of phenolics. The content of glycyrrhetic acid was found to be almost same (0.4% w/w) when estimated by colorimetric and HPTLC methods. Piperine content was found to be 3.5%w/w using the same HPTLC method. The quality parameters developed for the Yastimadhuvati would serve as useful tool for gauging the quality and also the simultaneous HPTLC method developed for the estimation of glycyrrhetic acid and piperine is simple and reproducible.

INTRODUCTION: Medicines prepared in the form of pills or tablets are known as 'Vati' or 'Gutika' which contains one or more drugs obtained from plants, animals or mineral origin. Yastimadhuvati, a well known Ayurvedic formulation, is commonly used in cough and respiratory diseases¹. The major ingredients of the vati (pills) include glycyrrhiza, black pepper, cardamom, beheda, fennel, black catechu, clove and peppermint.

A standard formulation was prepared in laboratory as mentioned in Vaidyakachikitsasar and evaluated for quality parameters and content of glycyrrhetic acid by both colorimetric² and HPTLC methods and piperine content by HPTLC method.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Plant Materials and Preparation of Formulation: Crude drugs for formulation were collected from local market of Ahmedabad and were identified by morphological characters. The raw materials were powdered separately to 60 mesh size and Yastimadhuvati was prepared according to the formulation of Vaidyakachikitsasar **Table 1**. Pills of 5mm were prepared mixing the powdered material using distilled water and dried at room temperature till they attained constant weight.

	<p>QUICK RESPONSE CODE</p>
	<p>DOI: 10.13040/IJPSR.0975-8232.IJP.12(9).762-65</p>
<p>Article can be accessed online on: www.ijournal.com</p>	
<p>DOI link: https://doi.org/10.13040/IJPSR.0975-8232.IJP.12(9).762-65</p>	

TABLE 1: YASTIMADHUVATI FORMULATION

Sr. no.	Common Name	Latin Name	Part used	Quantity (Tola)
1	Baheda	<i>Terminalia belerica</i> Linn.	Fruit	4
2	Variyali	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Miller.	Fruit	4
3	Elaichi	<i>Elettaria cardamom</i> Maton.	Seed	4
4	Jethimadha	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.	Root or stolon	4
5	Jethimadha no shiro	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.	Aqueous extract	16
6	Kali mirch	<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linn.	Fruit	4
7	Laving	<i>Eugenia caryophyllus</i> Thunb.	Flower bud	4
8	Katha	<i>Acacia catechu</i> Wild.	Heart wood	4
9	Pippermint	Various species of <i>Mentha</i>	-	1

Evaluation of Parameters of Yastimadhuvati:

Yastimadhuvati was subjected to evaluation for weight variation, friability, hardness and disintegration tests³.

Pharmacognostical and Phytochemical Analysis:

The pills were powdered and studied for the microscopical characters, ash values, extractive values⁴ and presence of various secondary metabolites⁵⁻⁸. The content of volatile oil⁴, alkaloids⁹, flavanoids¹⁰, phenolics¹⁰ and tannins¹¹ were also estimated.

Estimation of Glycyrrhetic Acid by Colorimetric Method²: The content of glycyrrhetic acid in the pills was estimated by the method of Srivastava *et al.* The powdered vati after suspending in dioxane was subjected to hydrolysis using H₂SO₄. The hydrosylate was neutralized and shaken with CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ extract after drying was treated with H₂SO₄ followed by alcoholic solution of vanillin. The mixture was kept in boiling water bath for five minutes and optical density was measured at 545 nm (Schimadzu UV 1700, Japan).

Estimation of Glycyrrhetic Acid and Piperine by HPTLC: A simultaneous HPTLC method was developed to quantify glycyrrhetic acid and piperine in yastimadhuvati. Reagents like 1,4-dioxane, toluene, ethylacetate, methanol and ammonia used were of chromatography grade. Reference standard of glycyrrhetic acid and piperine were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, India. The HPTLC was done on precoated TLC plates of silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck) as stationary phase and 1,4-Dioxane: toluene: ethyl acetate: methanol: ammonia (1.5:2:1: 1:0.3) as mobile phase using Camag Linomat V equipped with Camag TLC Scanner and Win CATS integration software (version 1.4.3.6336).

Calibration curves of reference standards were prepared using stock solution (1mg/ml) of piperine and glycyrrhetic acid in methanol. A fixed volume of standard solution (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 µl) was spotted. Calibration curves of peak area vs. concentration of standard were plotted. The test solution was prepared extracting 10 g of yastimadhuvati powder with 50ml distilled water exhaustively. It was hydrolyzed with 10 ml 2N H₂SO₄, neutralized and extracted with 50 ml of chloroform twice. The residue after removing CHCl₃ was weighed and 5mg/ml solution was prepared and; 10 and 20µl of this was spotted. The plates were visualized and scanned at 254 nm. Derivatization was done using anisaldehyde sulphuric acid for glycyrrhetic acid and dragendorff's reagent for piperine.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION: Yastimadhuvati was round shaped and dark brown to black coloured with aromatic odour and astringent taste. Powdered yastimadhuvati can be characterized by presence of crystal fibres, vittae, epidermis with subepidermis, group of stone cells, sclereides and oil glands **Fig. 1**.

Total ash, water-soluble ash and acid insoluble ash values were found to be 7.8 ± 0.76 , 3.80 ± 0.27 and $0.5 \pm 0.61\%$ w/w, respectively indicating very less extent of earthy matter in the formulation. Water soluble extractive was found to be appreciably higher than alcohol soluble extractive values.

The value of loss on drying and volatile oil content were $26.41 \pm 0.40\%$ w/w and $10.6 \pm 0.11\%$ v/w respectively revealing significance for aromatic drugs used in formulation **Table 2**. Yastimadhuvati complied with IP limits for weight variation test, friability test, hardness and disintegration tests **Table 3**.

Phytochemical screening revealed the presence of saponins, alkaloids, flavanoids, sterol and triterpenoids, phenolics, tannins, and carbohydrates. Among the phytoconstituents estimated, total phenolic content was the highest **Table 4.**

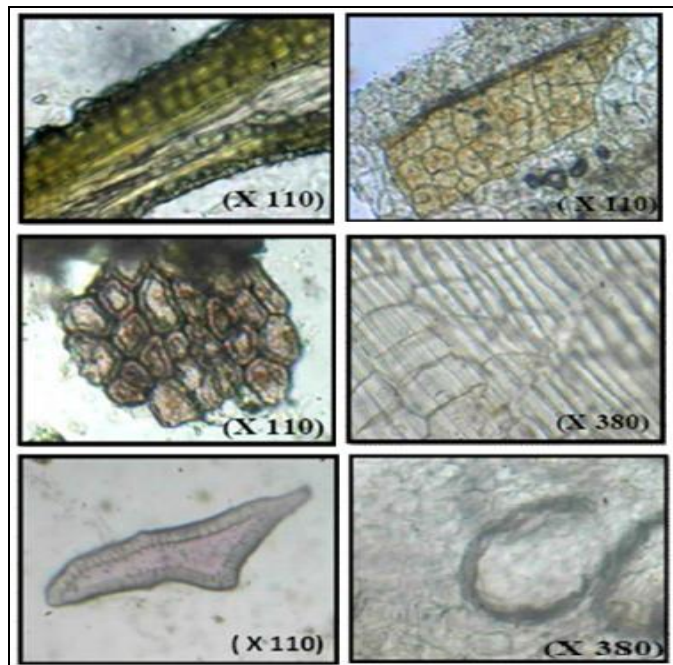


FIG. 1: MICROSCOPICAL CHARACTERS OF YASTIMADHUVATI

TABLE 2: PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF YASTIMADHUVATI

Quality parameter	Percentage
Water soluble extractive	35.3 ± 0.98 % w/w
Alcohol soluble extractive	8.6 ± 0.41 % w/w
Loss on drying	26.41 ± 0.40 % w/w
Volatile oil content	10.6 ± 0.11 % v/w

Standard deviation (±SD), Number of reading (n) = 3.

TABLE 3: STANDARD PARAMETERS OF YASTIMADHUVATI

Parameters	Value
Weight variation test	
No. of vati is showing deviation from average weight by more than 7.5%	15
No. of vat is showing average weight ± 7.5%	5
Disintegration test (min)	34.5
Friability (%)	0.1
Hardness test (kg/cm ²)	6.8

TABLE 4: PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF YASTIMADHUVATI

Phytoconstituents	%w/w
Alkaloids	0.542 ± 0.00
Phenolics	14.1 ± 0.26
Flavanoids	1.324 ± 0.42
Tannins	1.23 ± 0.02

Standard deviation (±SD), Number of reading (n) = 3.

Glycyrrhetic acid was estimated by colorimetric assay method 0.42±0.12% w/w in yastimadhuvati. Simultaneous HPTLC method for quantification of glycyrrhetic acid and piperine was found to be sensitive, reproducible and suitable for routine analysis. A simple sample preparation method was generated, which was economic for the purpose of quality control. Co-chromatography with reference standards glycyrrhetic acid and piperine revealed resolution of the same in yastimadhuvati, at R_f 0.31 and 0.82 **Fig. 2.**

The content of glycyrrhetic acid and piperine indicated 0.40±0.005% w/w and 3.5±0.01% w/w respectively. Also glycyrrhetic acid content was found to be almost similar when estimated by colorimetric method. The results of the present study would serve as a valuable gauge for evaluation of quality of yastimadhuvati.

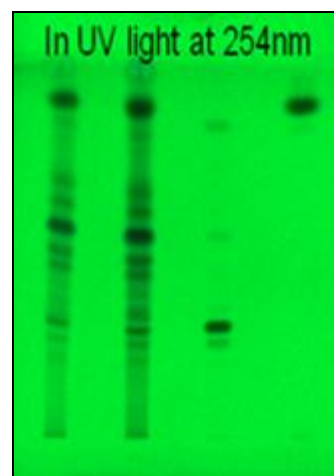


FIG. 2: TLC OF YASTIMADHUVATI

CONCLUSION: The present study successfully established quality control parameters for *Yastimadhuvati* and developed reliable methods for quantification of its key phytoconstituents, glycyrrhetic acid and piperine. Pharmacognostical, phytochemical, and physicochemical evaluations confirmed the presence of characteristic features and revealed significant phenolic content, thereby validating the formulation's traditional use. The content of glycyrrhetic acid determined by both colorimetric (0.42% w/w) and HPTLC (0.40% w/w) methods showed close agreement, while piperine was quantified as 3.5% w/w using HPTLC. The developed HPTLC method proved simple, sensitive, reproducible, and cost-effective, making

it suitable for routine quality assessment. These findings provide a scientific basis for standardization of *Yastimadhuvati*, ensuring its quality, safety, and efficacy. The study thus contributes to strengthening quality assurance practices in Ayurvedic formulations and may serve as a reference for future pharmacopoeial standards.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Nil

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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How to cite this article:

Chaudhary V, Shah M and Modi K: Development of quality parameters and determination of glycyrrhithinic acid and piperine content in *yastimadhuvati*. Int J Pharmacognosy 2025; 12(9): 762-65. doi link: [http://dx.doi.org/10.13040/IJPSR.0975-8232.IJP.12\(9\).762-65](http://dx.doi.org/10.13040/IJPSR.0975-8232.IJP.12(9).762-65).

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