

## Formulation, Evaluation and Market Comparison of Herbal Anti-Dandruff Shampoo

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### ABSTRACT

Shampoo is one of the most common forms of hair cleansers that have been used for cleansing the scalp. The purpose of using shampoo is to remove dirt that is built up on the hair without taking out much of the sebum. In the present scenario, synthetic shampoo has adverse side effects like dryness of hair and keratin loss on the scalp. So the incorporation of herbal botanicals to formulate herbal shampoo could prove to be a forthcoming alternative. It seems improbable that herbal shampoo, although better in performance and safer than synthetic ones, will be popular with consumers. The study aimed to formulate a herb-infused shampoo by using natural ingredients like (*Sapindus mukorossi*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Trigonella foenum-graecum*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Cocos nucifera*) base, and preservatives and to evaluate and compare its physicochemical properties with the marketed herbal shampoos. In the current paper we have formulated, characterized and performed a market comparison of our herbal cream-based shampoo and the results showed favorable organoleptic characteristics, cleansing action, dispersity and foaming ability.

### KEYWORDS:

Herbal shampoo, *Sapindus mukorossi*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Trigonella foenum-graecum*, *Hibiscus*, coconut oil

### I. INTRODUCTION

Aliquid or cream of soap, powder or detergent to wash the hair is called shampoo. Shampoo is a hair care product, typically in the form of a viscous liquid that is used for cleansing hair. Nowadays many synthetic, herbal, medicated, and non-medicated shampoos are available in the market but the popularity of herbal shampoos among consumers is on the rise because of their belief that these products being of natural origin are comparatively safe and free from side effects. Herb-infused formulations are considered as an alternative to synthetic but formulating cosmetics using completely natural raw material is a difficult task [1]. There are large numbers of medicinal plants that are reported to have beneficial effects on hair and are commonly used in the formulation of shampoo. These plant products may be used in their powdered form, crude form, purified extracts, or derivative form. It is extremely difficult to prepare a herbal shampoo using a single natural material that would be milder and safer than the synthetic ones, and at the same time would compete favorably with its foaming, detergency, and solid content. We, therefore, considered formulating a herb-infused shampoo using traditionally and commonly used plant materials for hair washing in India [2].

	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
1	Nourishes and strengthens hair	Excessive use can make hair brittle
2	Cleanses the scalp and hair	Can cause buildup
3	Stimulates hair growth	Product uniformity and quality control.
4	Reduces hair fall	Varying inconsistency
5	Gives shine to hair	Seasonal variation of plant constituents
6	No animal testing	

Table 1: Advantages and Disadvantages of Shampoo [2,3]

**TYPES OF SHAMPOO**

**A) Based on Appearance**

- Powder shampoo
- Liquid shampoo
- Gel shampoo
- Cream shampoo

**B) Based on function**

- Conditioning shampoo
- Clarifying shampoo
- Baby shampoo
- Therapeutic shampoo

**C) Based on origin**

- Herbal
- Synthetic
- Egg

**II. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY**

Herb-infused shampoo can be formulated using a variety of natural ingredients such as herbs, essential oils, carrier oils, and natural cleansers. Some common herbs used in herb-infused shampoos include rosemary, reetha, hibiscus, lavender, and sage. These herbs are known to nourish hair, soothe the scalp, and promote hair growth. Carrier oils like coconut oil, olive oil, and jojoba oil can also be used to hydrate and moisturize hair, while natural cleansers like castile soap or aloe vera gel can help cleanse the hair without stripping it of its natural oils. An amalgamation of all these agents in a single formulation can help in cleansing hair as well as managing manifestations of hair loss and dandruff like conditions. The ingredients which are used in this formulation are Reetha, Hibiscus, Methi, Neem, Coriander, and coconut oil.

Ingredients	Biological Source	Phytoconstituents	Uses	References
Lavender oil	Lavandula angustifolia	Including linalool, linalyl acetate, lavandulol, lavandulyl acetate, terpinen-4-ol, and camphor.	Potentially soothes and nourishes the skin	[3,4]
Coconut oil	Cocos nucifera	Medium-chain fatty acids such as lauric acid, caprylic acid, and capric acid. It also contains antioxidants, vitamins E and K, and minerals such as iron.	Strengthens Hair follicles	[4,5]
Hibiscus	Hibiscus rosea	Bioactive compounds such as flavonoids, anthocyanins, organic acids, and polysaccharides. The flowers of hibiscus are rich in vitamin C and minerals such as calcium, magnesium, and iron.	It is known for its ability to promote healthy hair and skin. Hibiscus oil can be used to improve blood circulation and promote hair growth. Hibiscus leaves and flowers can also be used in hair masks to nourish and strengthen hair, reduce hair fall, and prevent dandruff	[5,6]
Coriander	Coriandrum sativum	Bioactive compounds such as fatty acids, essential oils, flavonoids, and phenolic acids. These seeds and leaves of coriander are rich in vitamins and minerals such as vitamin C, vitamin K, calcium, potassium, and magnesium.	Coriander contains essential oils and fatty acids that help to nourish the hair and scalp, making it a valuable ingredient in hair care products.	[6]
Methi	Trigonella foen	Several bioactive compound	Methi seeds contain proteins and	[7]

	um-graecum	ssuchassaponins,flavonoids ,alkaloids,andsteroids. The seeds are a rich source of protein, dietary fiber, and minerals such as iron, calcium, phosphorus,andpotassium. Methiseedsalsocontaintrigo nelline,4-hydroxyisoleucine,diosgenin, and galactomannan	nicotinic acid, which help to stimulate hair growth and prevent hairloss.Theseedsalsocontainlecith in,whichhydratesandstrengthenshair,makingitlessprone tobreakage.Methiisalsorichinantioxidants,whichhelpto protecthairfromdamage caused by free radicals.Methiisalsoknownforitsanti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial properties.	
Neem	Azadirachta indica	Biologically active compounds such as nimbin, nimbinin, nimbolide, nimandial, nimbolinin, nimocinolide, gedunin, salannin, azadirachtin, and quercetin. The leaves contain flavonoids like quercetin, kaempferol, and myricetin. The bark contains tannins, flavonoids, and triterpenoids. The seeds contain a fixed oil, which is rich in oleic, stearic, and linoleic acids.	Neem hasanti-fungal,anti-bacterial,andanti-viralproperties	[8]
Reetha	Sapindus trifoliatus	fruit of Reetha contains saponin (10-11.5%), sugar (10%), and mucilage. The saponin in Reetha is a mixture of 6 sapindosides (A, B, C, D & Mukorozi saponin E1, Y1) such as Dioscin, Protodiscin, Diosgenin, Gitogenin, Chlorogenin & Rusogeni. The seeds of Reetha contain fatty acid B-sitosterol, starch, sugars (10%), mucilage, and protein. The pericarp of Reetha contains 2 new triterpenoid saponin emerginatoside-B&C	Reethaexhibits anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and insecticidal activities. It is also used in cosmetic products, suchasahairtonic,duetoitsabilityto cleanseandnourishhairnaturally. Reethacontainsnatural saponins,whichactasanaturalsurfactantandhelptocleansethescalpandhairwithoutstripping away natural oil	[9,13]

Table 2: List of phytochemicals and their utilization in shampoo

**EXPERIMENTAL WORK**

**Step1:Preparationofherbalextract**

- a. 20grams ofthedriedherbalpowder was accurately weighed
- b. It was then placed in a beaker. Water was
- c. Mixture was heated toassisttheextractionprocessbyallowingittostandonawaterbathfor boiling until it becomes one-

added to herbal mixture in a ratio of 20:80 (herb to water).

- fourth of its original volume.
- d. After cooling, the mixture was filtered with filter paper to separate the liquid extract from the herbal residue.

**Step 2: Preparation of Base**

- a. Water, oleic acid, and SLS was blended to form a paste and heated to 60°C.
- b. Slowly triethanolamine was added with continuous stirring.

- c. Preservative after cooling to 35°C was added.

**Step 3: Preparation of herb-infused shampoo**

- a. Gradually herbal extracts were added to the shampoo base while stirring continuously to ensure even distribution.
- b. It's important to add the extracts slowly and mix thoroughly to prevent separation [10-12].



Fig. 1 -Herbal extract






Fig. 2-Base and Herb-infused Shampoo

**Formulation Table:**

Ingredients	F1gm	F2gm	F3gm
Reetha	5.33	7.33	8.33
Neem	3.1	3.66	6.66
Coriander	3.27	5.34	6.34
Hibiscus	4	6	5.34
Coconut oil	5	3	3
Fenugreek	4.33	4.67	5.33
Base	25	20	15

Table 3 Trial and error batches of formulation

F1 Batch	The phase was separated, and texture and odor were also poor, so the formulation was unstable.	
F2 Batch	The formulation had clumps so may lead to microbial contamination.	
F3 Batch	The formulation was stable and had a good creamy texture.	

**OPTIMIZED FORMULATION TABLE**

Sr. No	Ingredients	Q	Quantity taken (50g)	Medicinal uses
1	Reetha	8.33		Foaming agent
2	Neem	6.66		Anti-bacterial agent
3	Coriander	6.34		Nourishment
4	Fenugreek	5.33		Anti-dandruff agent
5	Hibiscus	5.34		Promote hair growth
6	Coconut oil	3		Conditioning agent
7	Base	15		Vehicle
8	Lavender oil	3-4 drops		Soothing effect & Fragrance

Table 4 Optimized formulation table

**Evaluation and Characterization**  
**Physical appearance/visual assessment:**

The formulations prepared were evaluated in terms of their clarity, color, odor, & texture [13].

**Determination of pH (Potential of Hydrogen):**  
 pH is one of the ways to minimize damage to the hair. Mild acidity prevents swelling and promotes tightening of the scales, thereby inducing shine. The pH of 10% v/v shampoo solution in distilled water was measured by using a Digital pH meter [14].

**Determination of percentage solid content:**  
 A clean dry China dish was weighed, and 4 grams of shampoo was added to it. The weight of the dish and shampoo was noted. The exact weight of the shampoo was calculated. Place the China dish with herbal shampoo on a hot plate until the liquid portion has evaporated. The weight of shampoo (solids) after drying was calculated [15,16].

**Percentage of solid content [17]:-**

$$\frac{\text{Net weight of shampoo}}{\text{Total weight of shampoo}} \times 100$$

**Foaming ability and foam stability:**

Foaming ability was determined by using the cylinder shake method. 50 mL of the 1% formulated shampoo solution was placed into a 250 mL graduated cylinder; it was covered with one hand and shaken 10 times. The total volume of the foam contents after 1 minute of shaking. The foam volume was calculated only. Immediately after shaking the volume of foam at 5-minute intervals was recorded [18].

**Dirt dispersion:**

Two drops of shampoo were added to a large test tube containing 10 ml of distilled water. One drop of ink was added to the test tube, was

stopped, and shaken ten times. The amount of ink in the foam was estimated as none, light, moderate or heavy [19].

**Washability:**

The formulation was applied on the skin and then the ease and extent of washing with water was checked manually [20].

**Wetting time test:**

A canvas paper was cut into 1-inch diameter discs having an average weight of 0.44 g. The smooth surface of the disc was placed on the surface of 1% v/v shampoo solution and the stopwatch started. The time required for the disc to begin to sink was noted down as the wetting time [21].

**Cleansing Action:**

Cleaning action was tested on solid human hair in grease. Take 5 grams of solid human hair in grease, place the hair in a flask containing 200 ml of water, and add 1 gm of formulated shampoo. Shake the flask 50 times per minute for 4 minutes. This process helps remove dirt and impurities from the hair. After shaking, wash the hair once again with sufficient water. Remove the hair from the flask. Filter out any remaining shampoo solution. Dry the hair and weigh it [22,23].

**DP = (1 - T/C) 100**

In which, DP is the percentage of detergent power, C is the weight of sebum in the control sample and T is the weight of sebum in the test sample.

**Stability Studies**

Stability studies must be performed by keeping the formulation at 75 % RH and 45°C for 1 month.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

PARAMETER	FORMULATED SHAMPOO	MARKETED SHAMPOO
Color	Brown	Light yellow
Odor	Pleasant	Pleasant
Texture	Creamy	Creamy
pH	7.4	4.85
% Solid Content	28.45%	22.7%

Foaming Stability	0 min	15	0 min	12
	5 min	12	5 min	10
	10 min	8	10 min	6.5
	15 min	4	15 min	3.8
Dirt Dispersion	Moderate		Moderate	
Washability test	Good		Good	
Wetting time	154 sec		140 sec	
Cleansing Action	24%		32%	

Table 5: Physicochemical Evaluation of Formulated and Marketed Shampoo

## DISCUSSIONS

Formulation of herb-infused shampoo by using plant extracts of Reetha, Methi, Neem, Coriander, and Hibiscus was formulated and characterized. We tried to optimize the formulation by formulating three batches. The first batch (F1) failed due to phase separation because coconut oil has more density than aqueous extract. The second batch (F2) failed due to Hibiscus having a mucilaginous nature which mixed with water, potentially leading to clumps if not properly dispersed. The third batch (F3) had shown better results as compared to the other two batches. The various quality control parameters like physical appearance/visual inspection, pH, % Solid contents, Foam ability and Stability, and Dirt dispersion, were checked. All parameters gave favorable results for the herb-infused shampoo. The result obtained in the present study shows that the active ingredients of these drugs when incorporated in shampoo give more stable products with good aesthetic appeal.

### Physical appearance/visual inspection:

The formulated and marketed shampoos were evaluated for physical characteristics such as color, odor, and texture (Table 5). Our prepared shampoo was brown, creamy texture and had a good odor. No significant difference was observed in terms of odor, transparency, and foaming characteristics between commercial and formulated shampoo except for color.



Fig. 3 Physical comparison Formulated shampoo & Marketed Shampoo

### Determination of pH:

The pH balance of the product is important as it affects the skin and the surface on which there are used. The pH of formulated shampoo and marketed shampoo were and are represented in (Table 5). The ideal pH of shampoo falls between the range of (7 and 5). The pH of the shampoo also helps in minimizing irritation to the eyes, enhances the qualities of hair, and maintains the ecological balance of the scalp.

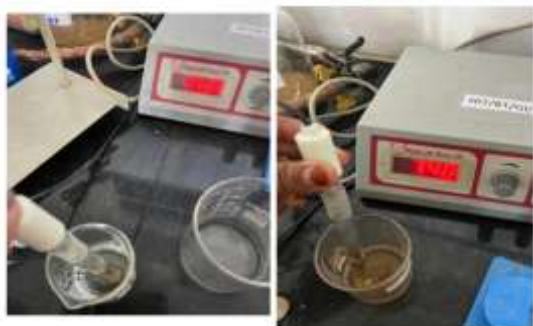


Fig. 4 Determination of pH a) formulated shampoo b) market shampoo

**Determination of Percentage solid contents:**

Good shampoos usually have 20%–30% solid content as it is easy to apply and rinse out from the hair. If it doesn't have enough solid it will be too watery and wash away quickly, similarly too many solids will be hard to work into the hair or too hard to wash out. So, the solid content of formulated shampoo and marketed shampoo was found to be within the range [23].

Formulated shampoo	Marketed shampoo
$\% \text{ of solid content} = \frac{\text{Net weight of shampoo}}{\text{Total weight of shampoo}} \times 100$	$\% \text{ of solid content} = \frac{\text{Net weight of shampoo}}{\text{Total weight of shampoo}} \times 100$
$= \frac{1.138}{4} \times 100$	$= \frac{0.908}{4} \times 100$
$= 0.2845 \times 100$	$= 0.227 \times 100$
$= 28.45\%$	$= 22.7\%$



Fig. 5 Determination of solid % content a) formulated shampoo b) market shampoo

**Foaming ability and foam stability:**

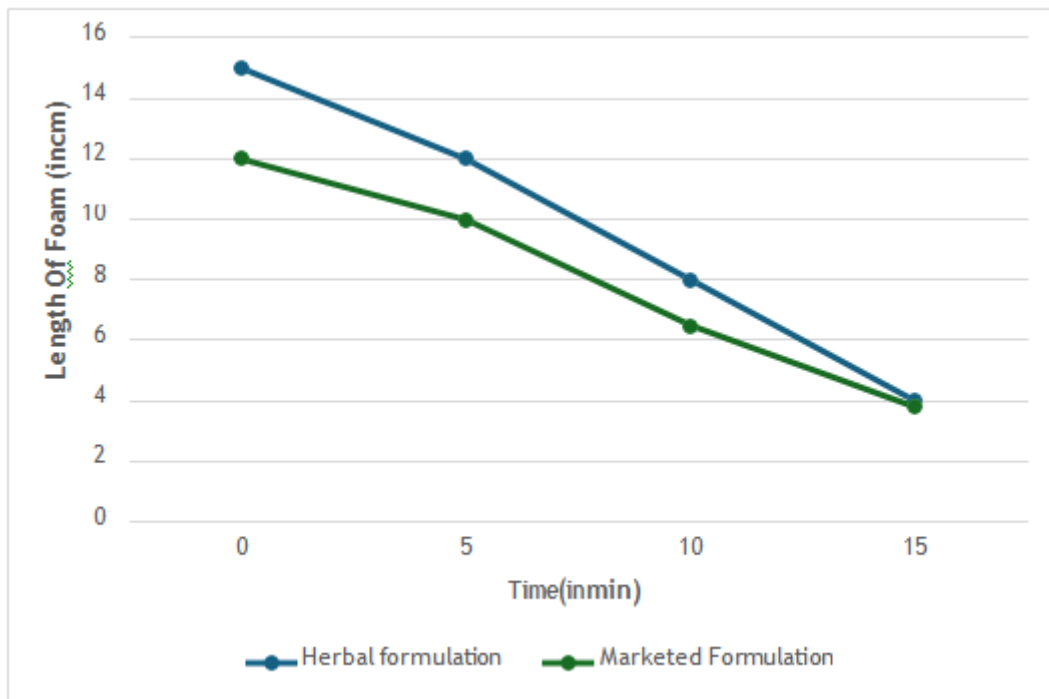
One of the essential parameters in evaluating a shampoo is lathering or mostly described as foaming. The formulated herbal shampoo resulted in the formation of small-

medium, dense, and uniform type of foam. The foam volume remained unchanged during a 5-minute period which suggests that the produced foams have good stability. The results are shown in (Table 5) [24,25].





Fig. 6 Foam Stability a) formulated shampoo b) market shampoo



**Dirt dispersion:**

Dirt dispersion is an important criterion for the evaluation of the cleansing action of shampoo.

Shampoos that cause the ink to concentrate in the foam are considered of poor quality because ink or dirt that stays in foam is difficult to rinse away and gets re-deposited on the hair cleansing action.

All shampoo concentrated the ink in the water portion, ensuring their satisfactory cleaning ability and actual effectiveness. The results are shown in (Table 5) [26-28].

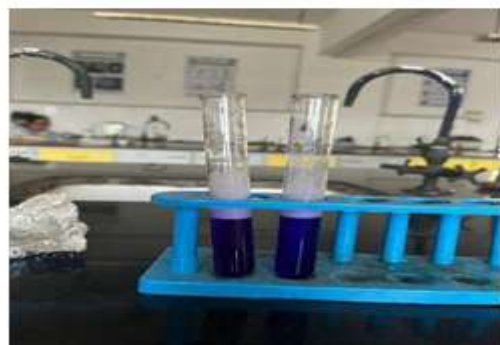


Fig. 7 Dirt Dispersion a) formulated shampoo b)

market shampoo

**Wetting time:**

The wetting ability of a surfactant is dependent on its concentration and is commonly used to test its efficacy. The canvas disc method is a quick, efficient and reliable test to evaluate the wetting ability of a shampoo. The wetting time of formulated shampoo and marketed shampoo was found to be 154 and 140 sec respectively as shown in (Table no. 5) It may be concluded that shampoo has good spreading and penetration abilities, which may enhance its cleansing action because shorter the wetting time shampoo will spread more quickly [29].



Fig. 8 Wetting Time a) formulated shampoo b) market shampoo

**Washability:**

It's important to wash away the shampoo easily, removing dirt. If the shampoo stays on the hair for a very long time or if it's not washed properly then buildup can occur on the scalp and hairs will become frizzy and damaged. The shampoo is easily washable [29].



Fig. 9 Washability a) formulated shampoo b) market shampoo

**Cleansing Action:**

Cleansing action was tested on hair in grease. Although cleaning action primary aim is to remove dirt, experimental detergency evaluation has been difficult to standardize, as there is no real agreement on a standard soil, are reproducible soiling process or the amount of soil a shampoo should ideally remove. The result of detergency ability when compared the formulated shampoo and marketed shampoo was found between the range of 20 -33 % as shown in (Table no.5) [30].

Formulated shampoo	Marketed shampoo
$DP = (1 - T/C)100$ $DP = (1 - 3.8/5)100$ $DP = 0.76 \times 100$ $DP = 76\%$	$DP = (1 - T/C)100$ $DP = (1 - 3.4/5)100$ $DP = 0.68 \times 100$ $DP = 68\%$



Fig 10 Cleansing action a) formulated shampoo b) market shampoo

**Stability study:**

The stability and acceptability of organoleptic properties of formulations during the storage period indicated that they are chemically and physically stable. The shampoo was observed for physicochemical changes for 1 month. No change was observed. The shampoo was very stable [28,30].

**FUTURE PROSPECTS:**

Herbal powder sachets and herbal hair care kits can be designed for better compliance. Personalized skin care is now slowly and steadily gaining a lot of importance and formulating a herb infused shampoo with better characterized parameters can aid in managing hair fall, dandruff as well as restore the hair quality.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In this research work a herb-infused shampoo was formulated and evaluated on various characterization parameters. The purpose of this study is to provide hair nourishment, and mild foam for cleansing action in the form of combined herbal extracts i.e. Reetha, Neem, Fenugreek, Coriander, Coconut oil, Hibiscus. Several tests were performed to evaluate and compare the physicochemical properties of both prepared and marketed shampoos. Favorable results for dirt dispensing, washability, pH, viscosity, and foamability were obtained. Our prepared shampoo showed comparable results with that of marketed shampoo for quality control tests, but further research and development are required to improve its overall quality. Herbal shampoos can bring in a paradigm shift in the management of various diseases related to scalp and hair health.

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