

Abstract

A brief survey of views thus far expressed in regard to the identification of the Rg-vedic Soma plant is given. In the present study, the problem has been approached from the point of view of the effects produced by Soma drinking rather than from the morphological aspects of the plant. A comprehensive report on the later Soma-substitutes is also provided. The recent view that the Rg-vedic Soma plant is an Agaric is negated by the interpretations of the Rg-vedic text itself. Nowhere in the Vedic literature Soma is referred to either as a leafless plant or as a climber. The summation of evidences leads to the irresistible conclusion that the Rg-vedic Soma was prepared from Cannabis sativa.