

A Translation of the New Edition of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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Draft of 15th March 2023
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Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 13: On Leeches

Literature

Previous scholarship

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of studies on Indian leeches and their application.⁴⁹

A Persian version of this chapter of the *Suśrutasamhitā* was included in *Sikandar Shāh's Mine of Medicine* (*Ma'dīn al-shifā' i Sikandar-Shāhī*) composed in 1512 by Miyān Bhūwah b. *Khawāṣṣ Khān*.⁵⁰

More recently, Brooks has explored the sense of touch in relation to leeching and patient-physician interactions.⁵¹

Translation

- 1 And now we shall explain **the chapter** about leeches.
 - 3 The leech is for the benefit of kings, rich people, delicate people, children, the elderly, fearful people and women. It is said to be the most gentle means for letting blood.
 - 4 In that context, one should let blood that is corrupted by wind, bile or phlegm with a horn, a leech, or a **gourd**, respectively. Or, each kind can be made to flow by any of them in their particular way.⁵²
- 1.13.5x And there are the following about this:

49 HIML: IA, 209; IB, 324, n. 131.

50 Siddiqi 1959: 96–109; Azeez Pasha 1971; Storey 1971: 231–232; HIML: IB, 324, n. 128; Speziale 2019: 8–9.

51 Brooks 2020a,b,c.

52 This sentence is hard to construe grammatically, although its meaning seems clear. In place of विशेषस्तु, Cakrapāṇidatta and Ḍalhaṇa both read विशेषतस्, which helps interpretation (Su 1939: 95, Su 1938: 55). It is noteworthy that the critical syllable स्तु is smudged or corrected in both MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079 and in 1-1146, a much later Devanāgarī manuscript.

There is an insertion in the text, printed in parentheses in the vulgate at 1.13.4 (Su 1938: 55) as विशेषतस्तु विस्त्रव्यं शृङ्गजलौकालाबुभिर्गृहीयात्. This insertion is not included in the earlier edition of the vulgate, but is replaced by स्निग्धशीतरूक्षत्वात् (Su 1931: 54). Ḍalhaṇa noted that, “this reading is discussed to some extent by some compilers (निबन्धकार), but it is definitely rejected by most of them, including Jejjhaṭa.”

- 1.13.5 The horn of cows is praised for being unctuous, **smooth**, and very sweet. Therefore, when wind is troubled, that is good for bloodletting.⁵³
- 1.13.5a Having a length of seven fingers and a large body the shape of a half moon, should first be placed into a cut. A strong person should suck with the mouth.⁵⁴
- 1.13.6 A leech lives in the cold, is sweet and is born in the water. So when someone is afflicted by bile, they are suitable for bloodletting.⁵⁵
- 1.13.7 A **gourd** is well known for being pungent, dry and sharp. So when someone is afflicted by phlegm it is suitable for bloodletting.
- 1.13.8 In that context, at the scarified location one should let blood using a horn wrapped in a covering of a thin bladder, or with a **gourd** with a flame inside it because of the suction.⁵⁶
- 1.13.9 Leeches are called “*jala-ayu-ka*” because water (*jala*) is their life (*āyur*).⁵⁷ “Home” (*okas*) means “dwelling;” their home is water, so they are called “water-dwellers (*jalaaukas*).”
- 1.13.10 There are twelve of them: six are venomous and just the same number are non-venomous.
- 1.13.11 Here is an explanation of the poisonous ones, together with the therapy:
- Black (*kṛṣṇā*)
 - Mottled (*karburā*)
 - Sting-gush (*alagarddā*)⁵⁸

53 The vulgate replaced “smooth” with “hot.”

54 This passage is not found in the vulgate, but it is similar to the passage cited by Ḍalhaṇa at 1.13.8 (*Su 1938*: 56) and attributed to Bhāluki. Bhāluki was the author of a *Bhālukitantra* that may have predated Jeṇḍaṭa and might even have been one of the sources for the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (*HIML*: v. IA, 689–690 *et passim*). The editor Ācārya was aware of this reading in the Nepalese manuscripts; see his note 4 on 1.13.5 (*Su 1938*: 55, note 4).

55 Note that the particular qualities (*guṇas*) of the leech in this and the following verses counteract the quality of the affliction. See Brooks 2018: 113, table 1.

56 There are questions about the wrapping or covering of the horn. Other versions of the text, and the commentator, propose that there may be two coverings, or that cloth may be a constituent. Comparison with contemporary horn-bloodletting practice by traditional Sudanese healers suggests that a covering over the top hole in the horn is desirable when sucking, to prevent the patient’s blood entering the mouth (PBS 2020). Our understanding of this verse is that the bladder material is used to cover the mouthpiece and then to block it, in order to preserve suction in the horn for a few minutes while the blood is let.

57 This is a folk etymology.

58 Treating गर्दा as गल्दा and translating as in RV 8.1.20, with Jamison and Brereton

- Rainbow (*indrāyudhā*)
- Oceanic (*sāmudrikā*)
- **Cow-praising** (*govandanā*)⁵⁹

Amongst these,

- The one called a Black is the colour of kohl and has a broad head;
- The one called Mottled is like the **Indian mottled eel**, long with a segmented (*chinna*), humped belly.
- The one called Sting-gush is hairy, has large sides and a black mouth.
- The one called Rainbow is coloured like a rainbow, with vertical stripes.
- The one called Oceanic is slightly blackish-yellow, and is covered with variegated flower patterns.
- The one called Govandana is like a cow's testicles, having a bifurcated form on the lower side, and a tiny mouth.

When someone is bitten by them, the symptoms are: a swelling at the site of the bite, excessive itching and fainting, fever, a temperature, and vomiting. In that context the Great Antidote (*mahāgada*) should be applied in drinks and liniments (*ālepana*), etc.⁶⁰ A bite by the Rainbow leech is not treatable. These venomous ones have been explained together with their remedies.

(2014: 1023, verse 20 and cf. commentary). But if गर्द is to be taken from $\sqrt{\text{गर्द}}$ then we might have “crying from the sting.”

59 The manuscripts all read गोवन्दना against the vulgate's गोचन्दना.

60 The “Great Antidote” is described in the Kalpasthāna, at 5.5.61–63ab (Su 1938: 578). Ḍalhaṇa and the vulgate included errhines in the list of therapies, and Ḍalhaṇa added that “etc.” indicated showers and baths too.

Editions and Abbreviations

Ah 1939	Kuṇṭe, Aṇṇā Moreśvara, Navare, Kṛṣṇaśāstrī, and Parādkar, Hariśāstrī (1939) (eds.), श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम्, श्रीमदरुणदत्तविरचितया सर्वाङ्गसुन्दराख्यया व्याख्यया, हेमाद्रिप्रणीतया आयुर्वेदरसायनाह्वया टीकया च समुल्लसितम् = <i>The Astāṅgahrīdaya</i> (6th edn., Mumbayyām: Nirṇayasāgara Press), ark:/13960/t3tt6967d .
Anup	<i>Anup Sanskrit Library.</i>
Apte	Apte, Vaman Shivaram (1992), <i>The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary</i> (Kyoto: Rinsen Book Company), ISBN: 4-653-00038-7; Reprinted from Gode and Karve 1957–9.
AS	<i>Asiatic Society.</i>
As 1980	Āṭhavale, Anaṃta Dāmodara (1980) (ed.), अष्टाङ्गसङ्ग्रहः श्रीमद् वृद्धवाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= <i>Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasaṅgraha with Indu's Commentary</i>] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), URL .
Bhela 1921	Mookerjee, Ashutosh, and Ananta Krishna Shastri, Vedantabisharad (1921) (eds.), <i>The Bhela Samhita. Sanskrit Text</i> (Calcutta: University of Calcutta), ark:/13960/t3sv3157j ; Based on two copies made of the Thanjavur codex unicus (MS Thanjavur TMSSML 10773, Burnell 1880: 63–4, P. P. S. Sastri 1933: #11085).
Bhela 2000	Krishnamurthy, K. H. (2000), <i>Bhela-saṃhitā. Text with English Translation, Commentary and Critical Notes</i> (Haridas Ayurveda Series, 8; Varanasi: Chaukhambha Visvabharati).
BL	<i>British Library.</i>

Ca. 1941	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1941) (ed.), महर्षिणा पुनर्वसुनोपदिष्टा, तच्छिष्येणान्निवेशेन प्रणीता, चरक-ढबलाभ्यां प्रतिसंस्कृता चरकसंहिता, श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संवलिता (3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/t48q2f20n .
HIML	Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1999–2002), <i>A History of Indian Medical Literature</i> , 5 vols. (Groningen: E. Forsten), ISBN: 9069801248.
IOLR	Eggeling, Julius, et al. (1887–1935), <i>Catalogue of the Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Library of the India Office</i> (London: Secretary of State for India), ark:/13960/s2kbbk5zcrg9 .
KL	<i>Kaiser Library</i> .
MN ₁	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1920) (ed.), महामतिश्रीमाधवकरप्रणीतं माधवनिदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्ठदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्यया, श्रीवाचस्पति-वैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्याया विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लसितम् = <i>Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita & Shrikanthadatta and Ātankadarpaṇa by Vāchaspati Vaidya</i> (1st edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/t9z08jn5j .
MN ₃	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1932) (ed.), महामतिश्रीमाधवकरप्रणीतं माधवनिदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्ठदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्यया, श्रीवाचस्पति-वैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्याया विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लसितम् = <i>Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita & Shrikanthadatta and Ātankadarpaṇa by Vāchaspati Vaidya</i> (3rd edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/t66452x0h ; Reprinted Varanasi: Chowkhambha, 1986.
MW	Monier-Williams, Monier, Leumann, E., Cappeller, C., et al. (1899), <i>A Sanskrit–English Dictionary Ety-</i>

	<i>mologically and Philologically Arranged, New Edition</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press); 1970 reprint.
NAK	<i>National Archives of Kathmandu.</i>
NCC	Raghavan, V., et al. (1949–), <i>New Catalogus Catalogorum, an Alphabetical Register of Sanskrit and Allied Works and Authors</i> , 39 vols. (Madras University Sanskrit Series; Madras: University of Madras); v.1: revised edition, 1968. Searchable at https://vmlt.in/ncc/ .
NGMCP	NGMCP (2014), “Nepal-german Manuscript Cataloguing Project. Online Title List and Descriptive Catalogue,” Universität Hamburg and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, URL .
RORI	<i>Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute.</i>
Su 1889	Bhaṭṭācāryya, Jīvānanda Vidyāsāgara (1889) (ed.), सुश्रुतः. सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पोत्तर-तन्त्र-कल्पित आयुर्वेद. भगवता धन्वन्तरिणोपदिष्टः सुश्रुतनामधेयेन तच्छिष्येण विरचितः (3rd edn., Calcutta: Saratī Press), ark:/13960/t1nh6j09c ; HIML : IB, 311, edition b.
Su 1915	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1915) (ed.), सुश्रुतसंहिता, सुश्रुतेन विरचिता, वैद्यवरश्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया समुल्लसिता, आचार्योपाह्वेन त्रिविक्रमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = <i>The Sushrutasamhita of Sushruta, the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shri Dalhaṇāchārya</i> (Mumbayyām: Nirṇayasāgaramudrāyantrālaye), ark:/13960/t3sv0mt50 , accessed 29/07/2020; HIML : IB, 312 edition *v.
Su 1931	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1931) (ed.), सुश्रुतसंहिता, वैद्यवरश्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया समुल्लसिता, महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता, सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पस्थानोत्तरतन्त्रात्मकः. आचार्योपाह्वेन त्रिविक्रमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = <i>The Sushrutasamhitā of Sushruta with the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shree Dalhaṇāchārya</i> (2nd edn.,

	Mumbayyām: Pāṇḍuraṅga Jāvajī at the Nirṇaya-sāgaramudrāyantrālaye), ark :/ 13960 / t9j41sg94 , accessed 09/06/2020; HIML : IB, 312 edition *v.
Su 1938	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama, and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (1938) (eds.), श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्य-विरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाव्याख्यया च समुल्लसिता महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता (3rd edn., Bombay: Nirṇayasāgara Press), ark :/ 13960 / t09x0sk1h ; HIML : IB, 313, edition cc ('the vulgate').
Su 1938 ²	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama, and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (2004) (eds.), महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता, श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यप-ञ्जिकाव्याख्यया च समुल्लसिता (Vārāṇasī: Caukhambhā Kṛṣṇadāsa Akādamī); Reprint of the third, 1938 edition (Su 1938).
Su 1939	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama, and Śarman, Nandakiśora (1939) (eds.), सुश्रुतसंहितायाः सूत्रस्था-नम्. श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया भानुमतीव्याख्याया समेतम् = <i>Sushrut-saṁhitā (sūtra Sthān) with Bhānumatī Commentary by Chakrapāṇi Datta with Introduction by Gaṇanāth Sen</i> (Śrīsvāmi Lakṣmīrāma Nidhi Granthamālā = Shri Swāmī Lakshmī Rām Trust Series, 1; [Jaipur]: Śyāmasundara Śarman), ark :/ 13960 / t54g0d12m ; Printed at the Nirṇayasāgara Press, Bombay.
Su 1945	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikramācārya, and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (1945) (eds.), महर्षिणा सुश्रु-तेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता (मूलमात्रा). पाठान्तर-परिशिष्टादिभिः संवलिता = <i>the Suśrutasaṁhitā of Suśruta with Vari-ous Readings, Notes and Appendix etc.</i> (Mumbāi: Nirṇayasāgarākhyamudraṇālaye), ark :/ 13960 / t8kd4jh7n .
TMSSML	Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji Saraswati Mahal Library.

Viṣṇudh. Śarman, Madhusūdana, and Śarman, Mādhavaprasāda (1912) (eds.), विष्णुधर्मोत्तरपुराणम् = [Viṣṇudharmottarapurāṇa] (Mumbai: Khemarāja Śrīkṛṣṇadāsa at the Śrīveṅkaṭeśvara Steam Press), [ark :/ 13960 / t6qz6fr23](https://nopr.ernet.in/ark:/13960/t6qz6fr23); Lithograph format. Edited on the basis of a manuscript belonging to the astrologer Śudhākaraśarman of the Varanasi Sanskrit Pāṭhaśālā.

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लङ्घितः सुश्रुतसंहितायां प्रयुक्तानाम् औषधद्रव्याणां पर्याय-गुणकर्मवर्णात्मको पूर्वग्रन्थः (Be-
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Glossary

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Glossary and Index of Medical Substances

- amaranth (*taṇḍulīyaka*) *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, L. See King 321, NK: v. 1, #144, Potter_{rev}: 15. Cf. AVS: v. 1, 121, 32
- axlewood (*dhava*) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. See AVS: v. 1, 163 f, Chopra, GIMP: 20, 52
- bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) *Bambusa bambos*, Druce. See NK: v. 1, #307, 32
- beautyberry (*priyaṅgu*) ← *śyāmā*. *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: v. 1, 334, NK: v. 1, #420. Some say also *Setaria italica* Beauv. GVDB: 263–264. See also GVDB: 413, 49, 53
- beautyberry (*śyāmā*) *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: v. 1, 334, NK: v. 1, #420, 30, 32
- beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC (Dymock: v. 1, 428, GJM1: 602, NK: v. 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: v. 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing), 49
- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) → *śālaparṇī*. *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. See Dymock: v. 1, 428, GJM1: 602, cf. NK: v. 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: v. 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing, 29
- black creeper (*pālindī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buehneri*, Roemer & Schultes. See AVS: v. 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203, NK: v. 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434, 32, 35, 48, 49
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420, 31
- blackbuck (*hariṇa*) *Antelope cervicapra*, L. See BIA: 270 IW: 95, 165, *et passim*, 35
- cardamom (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton. See AVS: v. 2, 360, NK: v. 1, #924, Potter_{rev}: 66, 49, 53
- cassia cinnamon (*patra*) *Cinnamomum tamala*, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees. See AVS: v. 2, 84, NK: v. 1, #589, 32, 49
- castor oil tree (*gandharvahasta*) → *eraṇḍa*. GVDB: 135, K&B: v. 3, 2277, 26
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: v. 1, #2145, Chopra, GIMP: 214, 31
- certain minerals (*tārāvitāra*) Unknown. It is not even certain that these are minerals. The variant reading in the

- vulgate, *tāraḥ sutāraḥ* was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.14 (*Su* 1938: 568) as follows *tāro rūpyam, sutāraḥ pāradah*, “tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury.”, 53
- chebulic myrobalan (*haritakī*) Terminalia chebula Retz. *GVDB*: 466, 31
- cherry (*elavālu*) Prunus cerasus, L.?. See *BVDB* 58, *NK*: v. 1, #2037, *GVDB*: 58, 49
- chital deer (*pṛṣata*) Axis axis, Erxleben. See *BIA*: 292, *IW*: 93, 35
- cobra’s saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → nāgakeśara. Mesua ferrea, L. See *NK*: v. 1, #1595, *GVDB*: 220, 49
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) Erythrina suberosa Roxb. See *GVDB* 245, 52
- costus (*kuṣṭha*) Saussurea costus, Clarke. See *NK*: v. 1, #2239, 32, 49, 53
- country mallow (*atibalā*) Abutilon indicum, (L.) Sweet, but may be other kinds of mallow, e.g., Sida rhombifolia, L.. See *NK*: v. 1, #11, *IGP*: 1080, *NK*: v. 1, #2300, *ADPS*: 71, 77, 29
- country sarsaparilla (*anantā*) Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br. See *ADPS*: 434, *AVS*: v. 3, 141–5, *NK*: v. 1, #1210. But see *GVDB*: 13 for complications that may suggest that it is to be equated with *sārivā*, which may sometimes be Cryptolepis or Ichnocarpus frutescens R. Rr. (*GVDB*: 429–431), 29, 37, 48, 49, 52
- crape jasmine (*tagara*) Tabernaemontana divaricata (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schultes. See *GJM*: 557, *AVS*: v. 5, 232. Synonym of ???. But some say Valeriana jatamansi, Jones See *GVDB*: 173–174 for discussion (and charming comments on brain liquid testing). Some say *tagara* is Indian rose-bay or Indian valerian, but there remain many historical questions about the ancient and regional identities of this plant See, e.g., *AVS*: v. 5, 334, 32, 49, 106
- crimson trumpet-flower tree (*pāṭalā*) Stereospermum chelonides, (L. f.) A. DC. See *GJM*: 573, *AVS*: v. 5, 192 ff, *ADPS*: 362 f, *AVS*: v. 3, 1848 f, *IGP* 1120, *Dymock*: v. 3, 20 ff, 52
- cuscut grass (*uśīra*) Andropogon murcatus, Retz. Also “vetiver grass.” See *NK*: v. 1, #180, 32
- datura (*dhattūra*) Datura metel, L. See *AVS*: v. 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), *NK*: v. 1, #796 ff. *Potter*_{rev}: 292 f, *ADPS*: 132, 26
- decanted liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*) *K&B*: v. 2, 502, *NK*: v. 2, appendix VI, #49, 28
- deodar (*bhadradāru*) Cedrus deodara, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See *AVS* 41, *NK*: v. 1, #516, 49
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) → añjana. See *Indian barberry*, 31
- embelia (*viḍaṅga*) Embelia ribes, Burm. f. See *ADPS*: 507, *AVS*: v. 2, 368, *NK*: v. 1, #929, *Potter*_{rev}: 113, 49
- emetic nut (*madana*) Randia dumetorum, Lamk. See *NK*: v. 1, #2091, 30
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (su)bhaṅgura = bhṛṅga? Eclipta prostrata (L.) L. See *GVDB*: 288, 37
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → kāñjī, kāñjikā, sauṇvīra. *GVDB*: 458, *NK*: v. 2, appendix VI, #18, 28
- fern (*ajaruhā*) Nephrodium species *GVDB*: 7, uncertain. Perhaps Christella dentata (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy, which is reported to have folk applications against skin diseases in India, 34
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) Woodfordia fruticosa (L.) Kurz. See *AVS*: v. 5, 412, *NK*: v. 1, #2626, 31
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) Dipterocarpus turbinatus Gaertn. f. See *GVDB*: 28, *Chopra*, *GIMP*: 100, 52
- giant potato (*kṣīravīdārī*) possibly → kṣīraśukla. Ipomoea mauritiana, Jacq. See *ADPS*: 510, *AVS*: v. 3, 222, *AVS*: v. 3,

- 1717 ff, 106–108
ginger (*mahaṣadha*) *Zingiber officinale*,
Roscoe. See ADPS: 50, NK: v. 1, #2658,
IGP: 1232, 35
gold (*hema*) gold, 49
gold and sarsaparilla (*surendragopa*)
Unknown. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.15
(Su 1938: 568) glossed *surendra* as
“gold” and *gopā* as “Indian
sarsaparilla.” He also noted other
opinions that *surendra* was “Tellicherry
bark”, 53
golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) *rājadruma*
= *āragvadha*. *Cassia fistula* L. See
GVDB 37, 52
gourd (*alābu*) *Lagenaria siceraria* Standl.
GVDB: 25. Some say *Lagenaria*
vulgaris, Seringe (NK: v. 1, #1419) but
this is not appropriate for blood-letting,
21, 22, 30
heart-leaf sida (*balā*) *Sida cordifolia*, Linn.
See ADPS: 71, NK: v. 1, #2297, 29, 49
heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*.
Tinospora cordifolia, (Willd.) Hook.f.
& Thoms.?. See ADPS: 38, NK: v. 1,
#2472, 624, Dastur #229, 32, 47
heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*)
Tinospora cordifolia (Thunb.) Miers.
GVDB: 456. Likely, but uncertain, 32
henna (*madayantikā*) *Lawsonia inermis*, L.
See AVS: v. 3, 303, NK: v. 1, #1448,
Potter_{rev}: 151, 33
Himalayan mayapple (*vakra*)
Podophyllum emodi, Wall.
(NK: #1971). But perhaps a synonym of
crape jasmine and ?? (GVDB: 354), 53
Himalayan monkshood (*ativiṣā*)
Aconitum heterophyllum Wall.
GVDB: 12, NK: v. 1, #39. Also “atis
roots”, 33, 35, 53
hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*,
L. See ADPS: 387, AVS: v. 1, 281,
NK: v. 1, #363, 33, 47
Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) →
sūryavallī? *Holostemma ada-kodien*,
Schultes. See ADPS: 195, AVS: v. 3, 167,
NK: v. 1, #1242, AVS: v. 3, 1619, 108
hornwort (*jalaśūka*) ← *jalanīlikā*.
Ceratophyllum demersum, L. See
AVS: v. 2, 56, IGP: 232. Singh and
Chunekar (GVDB: 166) suggest
pondweed. Ḍalhaṇa noted on 1.16.19
(Su 1938: 79) that some people
interpret it as a poisonous, hairy,
air-breathing, underwater creature, 29
Indian barberry (*añjana*) → *rasañjana*,
dāruharidrā. *Berberis aristata*, DC.
Dymock: v. 1, 65, NK: v. 1, #335,
GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, 31, 34, 105
Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis*
aristata, DC. See Dymock: v. 1, 65,
NK: v. 1, #685, GJM1: 562, IGP 141,
47, 49
Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) → *dāruharidrā*,
añjana. *Berberis aristata*, DC. See
Dymock: v. 1, 65, NK: v. 1, #685,
GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, 32
Indian ipecac (*payasyā*) Uncertain.
Possibly *Tylophora indica* (Burm.f.)
Merr. Perhaps a synonym of panacea
twiner, giant potato, purple roscoe,
and plants like asthma plant and Gulf
sandmat (GVDB: 237–238). Also
“curds” when not a plant, 29, 108
Indian kudzu (*vidārī*) → *payasyā*. *Pueraria*
tuberosa (Willd.) DC. See ADPS: 510,
AVS: v. 1, 792 f, AVS: v. 4, 391; not
Dymock: v. 1, 424 f. See GJM2: 444, 451,
AVS: v. 1, 187, but AVS: v. 3, 1719 =
Ipomoea mauritiana, Jacq, 29
Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) *Rubia*
cordifolia, L. See IGP, Chopra,
GIMP: 215, GVDB: 289, 26, 49
Indian mottled eel (*varmimatsya*) Almost
certainly the mottled eel. MW: 962c
noted that the *varmi* fish “is commonly
called *vāmi*.” The “vam fish,” or
“*vānimatsya*” in Bengal, is a marine and
freshwater eel, *Anguilla bengalensis*. It is
the most common eel in Indian inland

- waters and a prized food fish (Froese and Pauly 2022). However, some NIA languages identify the “vam” fish with the Indian Pike Conger, *Congresox talabonides* (Bleeker) (Talwar and Kacker 1984: 235, 236), 23
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*) → *anantā*.
Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br. ADPS: 434, AVS: v. 3, 141–5, NK: v. 1, #1210; and black creeper, *pāṇḍī*.
Ichnocarpus frutescens, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer & Schultes AVS: v. 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203, NK: v. 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434, 47, 49, 105
- jambul (*jambū*) *Syzygium cumini*, (L.) Skeels. See ADPS: 188, NK: v. 1, #967, Potter_{rev}: 168, Wujastyk 2003a, 31
- jasmine (*mālātī*) *Jasminium grandiflorum*, L. See NK: v. 1, #1364, 32
- jequirity (*guñjā*) *Abrus precatorius*, L. See AVS: v. 1, 10, NK: v. 1, #6, Potter_{rev}: 168, 37
- lac (*lākṣā*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). See GJM1: 445, NK: v. 2, #32. Watt (1908: 1053–1066) is characteristically informative, and is definite about the antiquity of lac in India, 53
- liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L.? GVDB: 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant, 37
- liquorice (*madhuka*) see *yaṣṭīmadhuka*, 29, 35, 46, 49
- liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L. AVS: v. 3, 84, NK: v. 1, #1136, GVDB: 329 f., 31
- lodh tree (*lodhra*) *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb. See GJM1: 597, ADPS: 279 f, NK: v. 1, #2420. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 351–352) notes that there are two varieties, *S. racemosa*, qualified as *śāvara*, and *S. crataegoides* Buch.-Ham. for *paṭṭikā lodhra*, 49
- long pepper (*māgadha*) *Piper longum*, L. See NK: v. 1, #1928; but cf. AVS: v. 3, 245, 34
- long pepper (*pippalī*) *Piper longum*, L. See ADPS: 374, NK: v. 1, #1928, 35, 49
- luffa (*koṣṭakī*) = *koṣātakī*. *Luffa cylindrica*, (L.) M. J. Roem. or *L. acutangula*, (L.) Roxb. ADPS: 252–253, NK: v. 1, #1514 etc. GVDB: 121, 30, 47, 107
- luffa gourd (*koṣavatī*) = *koṣṭakī*, luffa, 47
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. GVDB: 37, 31
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacarium*, L. See NK: v. 1, #2269, AVS: v. 5, 98, 34
- medhshingi (*viṣayā*) *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) The *Sauśrutaniḥaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *viṣayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann (ADPS: 518; GVDB: 373 f, a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (NK: #862), 38
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See AVS 1927, ADPS: 21, NK: v. 1, #2025, AVS: v. 4, 348; GJM1: 523: = *P. integrifolia/serratifolia*, L., 47
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. GVDB: 126: see purple *roscoea* and giant potato, 29, 108
- monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis*, Schneider. See Reptiles: 58, 29, 35
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo* Linn. GVDB: 308, 32
- myrobalan (*abhayā*) *Terminalia chebula*, Retz. See ADPS: 172, NK: v. 1, #2451, Potter_{rev}: 214, 47, 53
- natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. NK: v. 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with *svarjikṣāra* 4.8.50 (Su 1938: 441), 49
- neem tree (*nimba*) *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. GVDB: 226, 26

- nutgrass (*kuruvinda*) Unknown. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.15 (Su 1938: 568) glossed the term as **nutgrass**, but noted other opinions that it was a whetstone or a very special metallic gem. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 108) added that it could be a variety of rice, *ṣaṣṭika dhānya*, 53
- nutgrass (*mustā*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See ADPS: 316, AVS: v. 2, 296, NK: v. 1, #782, 107
- panacea twiner (*arkapuṣpī*) → *arkaparnī*, *Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merr. GVDB: 23–24. Maybe identical to **Indian ipecac**, **giant potato** and similar sweet, milky plants. See GVDB: 24, 127, 238, 441, 443 for discussion. For discussion in the context of **Holostemma creeper**, see ADPS: 195 and AVS: v. 3, 171. The etymology of the name suggests *Helianthus annuus* Linn., but this plant is native to the Americas, 47, 106
- peas (*hareṇu*) *hareṇu* = *satīna*. *Pisum sativum*, L. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 419–420, 467–468) notes that two plants are usually meant under this name, but there is no agreement on the identity of the second, 47, 49, 53
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) *Ficus religiosa*, L. See ADPS: 63, 56
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśrṅga*) *Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R. Br. See AVS: v. 3, 107, NK: v. 1, #1173, 34
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīrīṇī*) various milky plants, perhaps including *Euphorbia hirta* Linn. (asthma plant) and *E. microphylla* Heyne (Gulf sandmat) (GVDB: 127), 106
- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb. GVDB: 232–233, 47
- poison berry (*br̥hatī*) *Solanum violaceum*, Ortega. See ADPS: 100, NK: v. 1, #2329, AVS: v. 5, 151, 47, 49
- pondweed (*paripelavā*) Normally a neuter noun. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 238, 264–265, 409) argued that *plava* and *śaivāla* are the same thing, and may be either *Zannichellia palustris*, L., or *Potamogeton pectinatus*, L., 49
- pondweed (*śaivāla*) *Zannichellia palustris* L. Sometimes identified with ?? (*dūrvā*). GVDB: 409, 106
- prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*) *Achyranthes aspera*, L. See GJM1: 524 f, AVS: v. 1, 39, ADPS: 44 f, AVS: v. 3, 2066 f, Dymock: v. 3, 135, 26, 29
- purging nut (*mūṣikā*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See AVS: v. 3, 261, NK: v. 1, #1374, 34
- purple calotropis (*arka*) *Calotropis gigantea*, (L.) R. Br. See ADPS: 52, AVS: v. 1, 341, NK: v. 1, #427, Potter_{rev}: 57, Chopra's IDG: 305–308, 29
- purple roscoeia (*kṣīrakākolī*) GVDB: 89 notes that many physicians use *Roscoeia procera* Wall. in this context. But the identification is uncertain. Possibly connected to **milk-white** or **giant potato**., 106, 107
- rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrvī*, *Marsdenia tenacissima* (Roxb.) Wight et Arn. Good discussion at GVDB: 314–316, 324, 47
- red chalk (*gairika*) *gairika*, 49
- red gourd (*bimbī*) *Coccinia indica*, W. & A. See PVS 1994.4.715; NK: v. 1, #534, 30
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.) Wats. See AVS: v. 2, 285, NK: v. 1, #177, 49
- sacred lotus (*padma*) *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn. See NK: v. 1, #1698, 32
- sage-leaved alangium (*ankolla*) *Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang. GVDB: 5–6, 31
- sandalwood (*candana*) *Santalum album*, L. See ADPS: 111, NK: v. 1, #2217, 49
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*. *Caesalpinia sappan*, L. AVS: v. 1, 323,

- K&B: v. 2, 847 f, [GVDB](#): 234, 31
scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) Pentapetes
phoenicea, L. [NK](#): #1836, [GVDB](#): 268, 33
scented pavonia (*bālaka*) Pavonia odorata,
Willd. See [ADPS](#): 498, [NK](#): v. 1, #1822,
49
selu plum (*śelu*) Cordia myxa, L. non
Forssk. See [GJM1](#): 529 (2), [IGP](#): 291b, cf.
[AVS](#): v. 3, 1677 f; cf. [AVS](#): v. 2, 180 (C.
dichotoma, Forst.f.), [NK](#): v. 1, #672 (C.
latifolia, Roxb.), 47
sesame oil (*taila*) Sesamum indicum L.
[GVDB](#): 183, 30
sirīs (*śirīṣa*) Albizia lebbeck, Benth. See
[AVS](#): v. 1, 81, [NK](#): v. 1, #91, 47
sirīs seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) Albizia lebbeck,
Benth. See [AVS](#): v. 1, 81, [NK](#): v. 1, #91, 31
small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*)
Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb. See
[GVDB](#): 432, 52
spikenard (*māmsī*) Nardostachys
grandiflora, DC. See [NK](#): v. 1, #1691, 49
spikenard (*nalada*) → māmsī.
Nardostachys grandiflora, DC. See
[NK](#): v. 1, #1691, 29
sugar (*sitā*) Ḍalhaṇa makes this equation
at 1.37.25 ([Su 1938](#): 162), 49
sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → ādityavallī,
sūryamukhī, Helianthus annuus Linn.
[GVDB](#): 35, 443, 47
sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet
plants are enumerated at
Suśrutasaṃhitā 1.42.11. See also
[GVDB](#): 127, 29
sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*)
Nerium oleander, L. See [ADPS](#): 223,
[NK](#): v. 1, #1709, 37
Tellicherry bark (*kuṭāja*) Holarrhena
pubescens Wall. ex G. Don, with
Wrightia tinctoria and W. arborea
considered [GVDB](#): 101–102,
[ADPS](#): 267–270, 105
thorn apple (*karambha*) Datura metel, L.
See [AVS](#): v. 2, 305 (cf.
Abhidhānamāñjarī), [NK](#): v. 1, #796 ff.
Potter_{rev}: 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132, 38
three heating spices (*tryūṣaṇa*) śuṇṭhī
(Dried ginger) Zingiber officinale,
Roscoe. [ADPS](#): 50, [NK](#): v. 1, #2658,
[AVS](#): v. 5, 435, [IGP](#) 1232, pippalī (long
pepper) Piper longum, L. [ADPS](#): 374,
[NK](#): v. 1, #1928, and marica (black
pepper) Piper nigrum, L. [ADPS](#): 294,
[NK](#): v. 1, #1929, 47
three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) Crataeva
magna (Lour.) DC. See [AVS](#): v. 2, 202;
cf. [NK](#): v. 1, #696, 34
tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) G. arboreum L.
[ADPS](#): 231. Pace the identifications of
Singh and Chunekar ([GVDB](#): 92, 247),
since G. barbadense L. is native to
South America and G. herbaceum L.
which is native to Africa, 26
tree cotton (*picu*) See *kārpāsa*, 28, 31
turmeric (*haridrā*) Curcuma longa Linn.
[GVDB](#): 465, 47, 53
turmeric (*rajanī*) Curcuma longa, L.
[ADPS](#): 169, [AVS](#): v. 2, 259, [NK](#): v. 1,
#750, 49
velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) Cissampelos pariera, L.
See [ADPS](#): 366, [NK](#): v. 1, #592,
[GJM1](#): 573, [AVS](#): v. 1, 95; cf.
[AVS](#): v. 2, 277, 47
velvet-mite (*indragopa*) Kerria lacca
(Kerr.). Lienhard 1978, 30
verbena (*phañjī*) Clerodendrum serratum,
L. See [AVS](#): v. 2, 121, [ADPS](#): 87, 33
watered buttermilk (*udaśvīt*) [MW](#): 183, 30
water-lily (*utpala*) Nymphaea stellata,
Willd. See [GJM1](#): 528, [IGP](#) 790; **dutt**,
[NK](#): v. 1, #1726, 30, 48, 49
weaver's beam tree (*muṣkaka*) Schrebera
swietenoides, Roxb. See [AVS](#): v. 5, 88,
Lord, [NK](#): v. 1, #2246, 52
white calotropis (*alarka*) Calotropis
procera, (Ait.) R. Br. See [NK](#): v. 1, #428,
Chopra, [GIMP](#): 46b, Chopra's
IDG: 305–308, 29
white clitoria (*śvetā*) → giryāhvā. Clitoria
ternatea, L. See [AVS](#): v. 2, 129, [NK](#): v. 1,

- #621, 32
- white cutch tree (*somavalka*) *Acacia polyacantha*, Willd. See [AVS](#): v. 1, 30, [IGP](#) 7, [GJM1](#): 602, [AVS](#): v. 2, 935; *pace* [NK](#): v. 1, #1038, 33, 52
- white siris (*kiṇihī*) *Albizia procera*, (Roxb.) Benth. See [GVDB](#) 98, [NK](#): v. 1, #93, 47
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) → *nandana*? *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See [ADPS](#): 441, [AVS](#): v. 1, 218, [NK](#): v. 1, #264, [IGP](#): 103, [AVS](#): v. 4, 2499 ff, [Dymock](#): v. 3, 482 ff, 33
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhalātaka*, *lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*, [GVDB](#): 4. Uncertain, 47
- wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*, L., 47
- Withania* (*aśvagandhā*) *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See [AVS](#): v. 5, 409 f, [Dymock](#): v. 2, 566 f., Chevallier 150, 29
- wood apple (*kapittha*) *Limonia acidissima*, L. See [AVS](#): v. 3, 327, [NK](#): v. 1, #1021, 32, 34
- woodrose (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatopha curcas*, L. [AVS](#): v. 3, 261, 1[#1374][NK](#). [GVDB](#): 317; [ADPS](#): 23–25 discuss this issue well, 32
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*) *Solanum virginianum*, L. See [ADPS](#): 100, [NK](#): v. 1, #2329, [AVS](#): v. 5, 164, 47, 49

Todo list

■ Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8.	28
■ I'm still unhappy about this verse.	31
■ Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate.	31
■ fn about sadyas+	31
■ Bear's bile instead of deer's bile.	32
■ punarṇavā in the N & K MSS	33
■ śrita for śṛta	33
■ explain more	33
■ Medical difference from Sharma.	34
■ example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text.	34
■ The two uses of prāpta are hard to translate. prāptāḥ → kṣipraṃ is an example of the vulgate banalizing the Sanskrit text to make sense of a difficult passage.	34
■ √ vyadh not √ vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative.	34
■ opposite of the vulgate Same as 1.8.89 (As 1980: 79).	35
■ -> ativiṣa	43
■ Look up the ca. reference.	43
■ Come back to the issue of "kalpa". Look up passages in the Kośa.	50
■ write footnote: don't repeat ativiṣā; vulgate similar to H.	53
■ material corresponds to SS.1.45.205ab, where it describes how alcohol affects the body.	56
■ where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm.	58
■ maṣī burned charcoal. Find refs.	58
■ find ref.	64
■ Check out these refs.	65
■ meaning of kalpa	65
■ or a dual?	69

