

A Translation of the New Edition of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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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
- 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
- 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
- 7 A **gourd** is well known for being pungent, dry and sharp. So when someone is afflicted by phlegm it is suitable for bloodletting.
- 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
- 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*).”
- 10 There are twelve of them: six are venomous and just the same number are non-venomous.
- 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.

12 Now the ones without poison.⁶¹

- Tawny (*kapilā*)
- Ruddy (*piṅgalā*)
- Dart-mouth (*śaṅkumukhī*)
- Mouse (*mūṣikā*)
- Lotus-mouth (*puṇḍarīkamukhī*)
- Sāvarikā (*sāvarikā*)

Amongst these,

(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.

61 The translations of the names of these leeches are slightly whimsical, but give a sense of the original; *sāvarikā* remains etymologically puzzling.

- The one called Tawny has sides that look as if they are dyed with realgar and is the colour of glossy mung beans on the back.⁶²
- The one called Ruddy is a bit red, has a round body, is yellowish, and moves fast.
- The one called Dart-mouth is the colour of liver, drinks fast and has a long mouth.
- The one called Mouse is the colour and shape of a mouse and has an undesirable smell.
- The one called Lotus is the colour of mung beans and has a mouth that looks like a lotus.
- The one called Sāvarikā has the colour of a lotus leaf and is eighteen centimetres long. But that one is used when the purpose is an animal.

The non-venomous ones have been explained.

- 13 Their lands are Yavana, Pāṇḍya, Sahya, Potana and so on.⁶³ Those in particular have large bodies and are strong, they drink rapidly, consume a lot, and are without venom.

62 The compound स्निग्धमुद्गवर्णा is supported by all the manuscript witnesses and is translated here. Nevertheless, the reading of the vulgate, that separates स्निग्धा, f., “slimy” as an adjective for the leech, seems more plausible: “it is slimy and the colour of a mung bean.”

63 This passage is discussed by Karttunen (2015: 109–110, 388–389). At the time of the composition of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, Yavana would most likely have referred the Hellenistic Greek diaspora communities in Bactria and India (Law 1984: 136–137; Mairs 2013; 2014). The Pāṇḍya country is unproblematically the extreme south-eastern tip of the Indian subcontinent (Schwartzberg, Bajpai, et al. 1978: E8, p. 20 *et passim*). Sahya refers to the Western Ghats (Schwartzberg, Bajpai, et al. 1978: D5–7, p. 20 *et passim*). Potana is identified by Schwartzberg, Bajpai, et al. (1978: E6, p. 14, 140 *et passim*) as modern Bodhan in Telangana; it was the ancient capital of the Aśmaka Mahājanapada mentioned in Pali canonical sources (see also Law 1984: 142). Law (1984: 179) also identified it with Pratiṣṭhāna, modern Paithan. The vulgate reading “Pautana” is not a known toponym. Dalhaṇa on 1.13.13 (Su 1938: 57) identified “Yavana” as the land of the Turks (तुरुष्क) and “Pautana” as the Mathurā region.

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- Anup *Anup Sanskrit Library.*
- Apte Apte, Vaman Shivaram (1992), *The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary* (Kyoto: Rinsen Book Company), ISBN: 4-653-00038-7; Reprinted from Gode and Karve 1957–59.
- AS *Asiatic Society.*
- As 1980 Āṭhavale, Anaṃta Dāmodara (1980) (ed.), अष्टाङ्गसङ्ग्रहः श्रीमद्द्ववाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasaṅgraha with Indu's Commentary*] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7.
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- BL *British Library.*
- Ca. 1941 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1941) (ed.), महर्षिणा पुनर्वसुनोपदिष्टा, तच्छिष्येणाग्निवेशेन प्रणीता, चरकदृढबलाभ्यां प्रतिसं-स्कृता चरकसंहिता, श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संवलित्ता (3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirṇaya 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/s2k5zcrg9 .
KL	<i>Kaiser Library</i> .
MN ₁	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1920) (ed.), महामतिश्री-माधवकरप्रणीतं माधवनिदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्ठदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्या, श्रीवाचस्पतिवैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्या विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लसितम् = <i>Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita & Shrikanthadatta and Ātānkadarpaṇa by Vāchaspati Vaidya</i> (1st edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/t9z08jn5j .
MN ₃	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1932) (ed.), महामतिश्री-माधवकरप्रणीतं माधवनिदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्ठदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्या, श्रीवाचस्पतिवैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्या विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लसितम् = <i>Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita & Shrikanthadatta and Ātānkadarpaṇa 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 Etymologically 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.
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Śyāmasundara Śarman), [ark:/13960/t54g0d12m](#); Printed
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लमात्रा). पाठान्तर-परिशिष्टादिभिः संवलिता = *the Suśrutasaṁhitā of Su-
śruta with Various Readings, Notes and Appendix etc.* (Mumbāi:
Nirṇayasāgarākhyamudraṇālaye), [ark:/13960/t8kd4jh7n](#).
- TMSSML *Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji Saraswati Mahal Library.*
- Viṣṇudh. Śarman, Madhusūdana, and Śarman, Mādhavaprasāda
(1912) (eds.), विष्णुधर्मोत्तरपुराणम् = [*Viṣṇudharmottarapurāṇa*]
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Steam Press), [ark:/13960/t6qz6fr23](#); Lithograph format.
Edited on the basis of a manuscript belonging to the
astrologer Śudhākaraśarman of the Varanasi Sanskrit
Pāṭhaśālā.

Index of Manuscripts

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Thanjavur TMSSML 10773: 76

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Glossary

cow-praising	- water-dwellers:	<i>piṅgalā</i>
- <i>govandanā</i> : 23	22	- ruddy: 23
<i>alagarddā</i>	<i>kapilā</i>	<i>puṇḍarikamukhī</i>
- sting-gush: 22	- tawny: 23	- lotus-mouth: 23
<i>ālepana</i>	<i>karburā</i>	rainbow
- liniments: 23	- mottled: 22	- <i>indrāyudhā</i> : 23
<i>āyur</i>	<i>kṛṣṇā</i>	ruddy
- life: 22	- black: 22	- <i>piṅgalā</i> : 23
black	life	<i>sāmudrikā</i>
- <i>kṛṣṇā</i> : 22	- <i>āyur</i> : 22	- oceanic: 23
<i>chinna</i>	liniments	<i>śaṅkumukhī</i>
- segmented: 23	- <i>ālepana</i> : 23	- dart-mouth: 23
dart-mouth	lotus-mouth	<i>sāvarikā</i>
- <i>śaṅkumukhī</i> : 23	- <i>puṇḍarikamukhī</i> :	- <i>sāvarikā</i> : 23
	23	<i>sāvarikā</i>
<i>govandanā</i>	<i>mahāgada</i>	- <i>sāvarikā</i> : 23
- cow-praising : 23	- great antidote: 23	segmented
great antidote	mottled	- <i>chinna</i> : 23
- <i>mahāgada</i> : 23	- <i>karburā</i> : 22	sting-gush
<i>indrāyudhā</i>	mouse	- <i>alagarddā</i> : 22
- rainbow: 23	- <i>mūṣikā</i> : 23	
<i>jala</i>	<i>mūṣikā</i>	tawny
- water: 22	- mouse: 23	- <i>kapilā</i> : 23
<i>jalaukas</i>	oceanic	water
	- <i>sāmudrikā</i> : 23	- <i>jala</i> : 22
		water-dwellers
		- <i>jalaukas</i> : 22

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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](#): 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*) → *śālapanī*. *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 (*pāṇḍī*) *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 (*gandharvahaṣṭa*) → *eraṇḍa*. [GVDB](#): 135, [K&B](#): v. 3, 2277, 26
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: v. 1, #2145, [Chopra](#): 214, 31
- certain minerals (*tārāvītāra*) 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 rūpyaṃ, sutāraḥ pāraḍaḥ*, “tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury.”, 53
- chebulic myrobalan (*harītakī*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. [GVDB](#): 466, 31
- cherry (*elavālu*) *Prunus cerasus*, L.?. See [BVDB](#) 58, NK: v. 1, #2037, [GVDB](#): 58, 49
- chital deer (*pr̥ṣata*) *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 [GJM1](#): 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 [GJM1](#): 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*, *sauvīra*. [GVDB](#): 458, [NK](#): v. 2, appendix VI, #18, 28
- fern (*ajaruhā*) *Nephrodium* species [GVDB](#): 7, uncertain. Perhbaps *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](#): 100, 52
- giant potato (*kṣīravidārī*) 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 Chuneekar ([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](#): 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 buehneri*, 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 (*mālatī*) *Jasminum 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 *śāvāra*, 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*) = *kośātakī*. *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 (*kośavatī*) = *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 (*vijayā2*) *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) The *Sauśrutaniḥaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣāśṛṅgī*), 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 roscoeia](#) 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 (*meṣaśrīga*) *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 IDG](#): 305–308, [29](#)
- purple roscoea (*kṣīrakākoli*) [GVDB](#): 89
- notes that many physicians use *Roscoea procera* Wall. in this context. But the identification is uncertain. Possibly connected to milk-white or giant potato., [106](#), [107](#)
- rajmahal hemp (*morāṭa*) → *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 (*aṅkolla*) *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](#)
- siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbeck*, Benth. See [AVS](#): v. 1, 81, [NK](#): v. 1, #91, [47](#)
- siris 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 (*māṃsī*) *Nardostachys grandiflora*, DC. See [NK](#): v. 1, #1691, [49](#)
- spikenard (*nalada*) → *māṃsī*.
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 Chuneekar ([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 (*udaśvit*) [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](#): 46b, [Chopra 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 (*kiñihī*) *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*, *moṛaṭa*, 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

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■ 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
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