

A Translation of the Nepalese Text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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Sūtrasthāna

Nidānasthāna

Śārīrasthāna

Cikitsāsthāna

Kalpasthāna

Kalpasthāna 4: Snakes and Invenomation

Introduction

The fourth chapter of the Kalpasthāna of the *Suśrutasamhitā* addresses the topic of snake bites and snake venom. Unusually for the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, the discussion is framed as a question from Suśruta to the wise Dhanvantari. Suśruta's questions are about the number of snakes, how they are classified, the symptoms of their bites and the pulses or stages of toxic shock experienced by a victim of snakebite and related topics. The taxonomy of snakes is presented in tabular form in Figures 1 and 2.²⁷⁷

Literature

A brief survey of this chapter's contents and a detailed assessment of the existing research on it to 2002 was provided by Meulenbeld.²⁷⁸ There also exists an substantial herpetological literature from colonial India as well as more recent studies of snakes in the context of cultural and religious life.

The ophiological literature of the colonial period begins with Fayrer (1874), whose work included striking colour paintings of snakes.²⁷⁹ Fayrer provided a biological taxonomy of snakes as well as chapters on mortality statistics during the nineteenth century, treatment and effects of poison,

²⁷⁷ On the idea of notational variants in scientific translation, see Elshakry 2008; Sarukkai 2016; Wujastyk 2021a: 81–83.

²⁷⁸ HIML: IA, 292–294.

²⁷⁹ The first edition of Fayrer's work was published two years earlier, in 1872.

and experimental data. Ewart (1878) included descriptions of appearance and behaviour of poisonous snakes and sometimes their local names; he also distinguished his publication by fine colour illustrations.²⁸⁰ Wall (1913: 75–124) provided a useful analysis of the medical effects of snake envenomation in India arranged by the varied symptomology of different snakes. He also discussed the difference between the symptoms of toxicity and fright (69–75) and also the difficulties arising out of uncertainty about the effects of snake-bite (124–126). The *Suśrutasamhitā* too recognized the emotional and somatic effects of fright (see 291 below). Wall (1921) provided a wealth of detail of the snakes of Sri Lanka, including line drawings.

Doniger (2015) provided a good survey of snakes as protagonists in religious literature from the *Atharvaveda* through the epics, *Purāṇas* and Buddhist literature. Slouber (2016: 31–33 *et passim*) discussed the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s *Kalpasthāna* as a precursor and influence on later Tantric traditions of snake-bite interpretation and therapy. Semeka-Pankratov (1979) traced semiotics of the term *nāga* through Vedic, Pali and Sanskrit literature.

A discussion of this chapter specifically in the light of the Nepalese manuscripts was published by Harimoto.²⁸¹ After a close comparative reading of lists of poisonous snakes, Harimoto concluded that, “the Nepalese version is internally consistent while the [vulgate] editions are not.” Harimoto showed how the vulgate editions had been adjusted textually to smooth over inconsistencies, and gave insights into these editorial processes.²⁸²

Translation

- 1 Now we shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) about what should be known concerning the venom in those who have been bitten by snakes.²⁸³
- 3 Suśruta, grasping his feet, questions the wise Dhanvantari, the expert in all the sciences.

²⁸⁰ Calling his work a supplement to Fayrer (1874), but also being cited by Fayrer, Ewart 1878 evidently also collected local knowledge from his “snake-man” (p. 22)

²⁸¹ Harimoto 2011: 101–104.

²⁸² The two editions that Harimoto noted, Su 1938 and Su 1889, present identical texts.

²⁸³ The *Sarvāṅgasundarī*, commenting on 1.16.17 (Ah 1939: 246), glossed कल्प as प्रयोग.

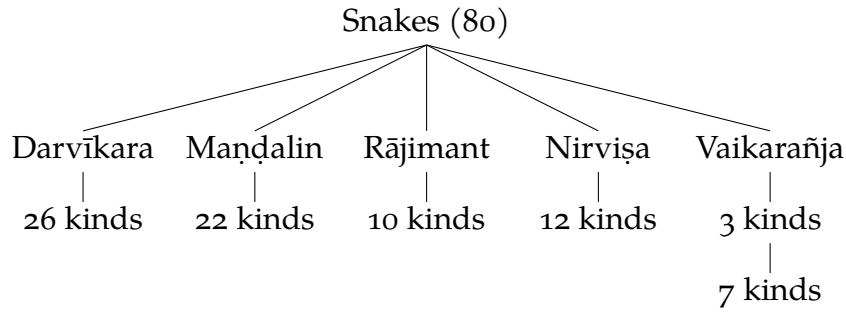


Figure 1: The taxonomy of snakes in the vulgate, 5.4.9–13ab (Su 1938: 571).

- 4 “My Lord, please speak about the number of snakes, and their divisions, the symptoms of someone who has been bitten, and the knowledge about the successive shocks (*vega*) of poisoning”.²⁸⁴
- 5 On hearing his query, that distinguished physician spoke.
“The venerable snakes such as Vāsukī and Takṣaka are uncountable.
- 6–9ab “They are snake-lords who support the earth, as bright as the ritual fire, ceaselessly roaring, raining and scorching. They hold up the earth, with its oceans, mountains and continents. If they are angered, they can destroy the whole world with a breath and a look. Honour to them. They have no role here in medicine.
“The ones that I shall enumerate in due order are those mundane ones with poison in their fangs who bite humans.”²⁸⁵
- 9cd–10 “There are eighty kinds of snakes and they are divided in five ways: Darvīkaras, Maṇḍalins, Rājimats, and Nirviṣas. And Vaikarañjas that are traditionally of three kinds.”²⁸⁶

²⁸⁴ The expression “successive shocks” translates वेग, which in other contexts may mean “(natural) urge.” Here, it is rather the discrete stages or phases of physiological reaction to envenomation. Cf. the symptoms of cobra poisoning described by Wall (1913: 80).

²⁸⁵ The next few verses are discussed in detail by Harimoto (2011: 101–104), who shows that in the taxonomy of snakes, the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā* has greater internal coherence than the vulgate recension.

²⁸⁶ Harimoto (2011) translated these names as “hooded,” “spotted,” “striped,” “harmless,” and “hybrid.” Figure 1 shows the taxonomy described in the vulgate text; Figure 2 shows the different and more logical division of the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

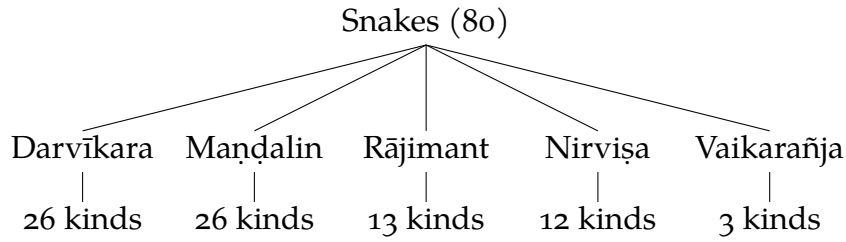


Figure 2: The taxonomy of snakes in the Nepalese version.

- 11 “Of those, there are twenty and six hooded snakes, and the same number of Maṇḍalins are known. There are thirteen Rājīmants.²⁸⁷
- 12 “There are said to be twelve Nirviṣas and, according to tradition, three Vaikarañjas.
- 13–14ef “If they are trodden on, ill-natured or provoked or even just looking for food, those very angry snakes will bite. And that is said to happen in three ways: serpented (*sarpita*), torn (*darita*) and thirdly without venom (*nirviṣa*). Some experts on this want to add “hurt by the snake’s body”.²⁸⁸
- 15–16 “The physician can recognize the following as “ophidian (*sarpita*)”: Where a rearing snake makes one, two or more puncture-marks of its teeth, when they are deep and without much blood,²⁸⁹ accompanied by a little ring of spots (*cuñcumālaka*),²⁹⁰ lead to degeneration, and are close together and swollen.

Or “There are 20 phanins and 6 maṇḍalins. The same number are known. There are 13 Rājīmants.” Or even, “there are 20 Phanins and six of them are Maṇḍalins.” Are phanins really the same as darvīkaras?

287 The phrasing of this śloka is awkward.

288 This might refer to constriction. The phrase reads like a commentarial addition rather than the main text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

289 The word उद्धृत “aroused” was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa at 5.4.15 (Su 1938: 571) as उन्मोद्य, a word not found as such in standard dictionaries (MW; KEWA; AyMahā; Apte). Semantic considerations suggest that the word is not related to √muṭ “break” or *mūta*/*mūṭa* “woven basket.” Perhaps it is related to the Tamil மோதி (*mōṭi*), whose meanings include “arrogance, grandeur, display” (DED₂: #5133) or to faintly-documented forms like *moṭyate* “is twisted” (CDIAL: #10186). Ḍalhaṇa’s उन्मोद्य may thus mean “twisting up” or “making an arrogant display.”

Note that पद “puncture-mark” (more literally, “footprint”) is being used in the same sense as in 1.13.19 (Su 1938: 57) when describing the marks on the body where a knife scarifies the skin before leeching. See footnote 47.

290 The usual dictionary lexeme is चक्षु, not चुक्षु as in the Nepalese witnesses. We translate “spots” following Ḍalhaṇa and Gayadāsa on 5.4.15 (Su 1938: 571), where they described a group of spots or swellings at the site of the bite. On the history of the word मालक, see Kieffer-Pülz 1996.

- 17 Where there are streaks with blood, whether it be blue or white, the physician should recognize that to be “torn (*darita*),” having a small amount of venom.
- 18 The physician can recognize the locations of the bites of a person in a normal state as being free from poison, when the location is not swollen, and there is little corrupted blood.
- 19 The wind of a timid person who has been touched by a snake can get irritated by fear. It causes swelling.²⁹¹ That is “hurt by a snake’s body.”
- 20 Locations bitten by sick or frightened snakes are known to have little poison. Similarly, a site bitten by very young or old snakes has little poison.
- 21 Poison does not progress in a place frequented by eagles, gods, holy sages, spirits, and saints, or in places full of herbs that destroy poison.

Dalhana
says
garuda.

[Types of snake]

- 22 Darvīkara snakes are known to have hoods, to move rapidly, and to have rings, ploughs, umbrellas, crosses, and hooks on them.
- 23 Maṇḍalin snakes are known for being large and slow-moving. They are decorated with many kinds of circles. They are like a flaming fire because of their poisons.

²⁹¹ (Wall 1913: 69) remarked on the difficulty of separating toxicity symptoms from the psychosomatic effects of terror:

The gravity of symptoms due to fright does not appear to me to be sufficiently recognised, though there is no doubt in my mind that fatal cases from this cause are abundant, especially among the timid natives of this country.

. Wall went on to give several case studies in which patients experienced syncope or even died as a result of bites from toxicologically harmless creatures.

Uttaratantra

Editions and Abbreviations

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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, Ananta Dāmodara (1980) (ed.), अष्टाङ्गसङ्ग्रहः श्रीमद्वृद्धवाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅga-saṅgraha with Indu's Commentary*] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7.
- AyMahā Jośī, Veṇīmādhavaśāstrī, and Jośī, Nārāyaṇa Harī (1968), आयुर्वेदीय महाकोशः अर्थात् आयुर्वेदीय शब्दकोशः संस्कृत-संस्कृत (Muṃbaī: Mahārāṣṭra Rājya Sāhitya āṇi Saṃskṛti Maṃḍala), ark:/13960/t22c41g8t.
- Bhela 1921 Mookerjee, Ashutosh, and Ananta Krishna Shastri, Ved-antabisharad (1921) (eds.), *The Bhela Samhita. Sanskrit Text* (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).

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- BL *British Library.*
- Ca 1941 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1941) (ed.), महर्षिणा पुनर्वसुनोपदिष्टा, तच्छिष्येणान्निवेशेन प्रणीता, चरकदृढबलाभ्यां प्रतिसंस्कृता चरकसंहिता, श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संवलिता (3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirnaya Sagara Press), [ark:/13960/t48q2f20n](https://nirnayapress.org/ark:/13960/t48q2f20n).
- CDIAL Turner, R. L. (1966–85), *A Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages* (London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0197135501, [URL](https://www.oxfordjournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1093/acprof:osobl/9780197135501); With *Indexes* compiled by Dorothy Rivers Turner (OUP, London, 1969), *Phonetic Analysis* by R. L. and D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1971), and *Addenda and Corrigenda* edited by J. C. Wright (School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 1985).
- DED₂ Burrow, Thomas, and Emeneau, Murray B. (1984), *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* (2nd edn., Oxford: Clarendon Press), [ark:/13960/t4wj06g26](https://www.oxfordjournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1093/acprof:osobl/9780197135501), [URL](https://www.oxfordjournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1093/acprof:osobl/9780197135501).
- EWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1986–2001), *Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag), ISBN: 3-533-03826-2.
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- HIML Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1999–2002), *A History of Indian Medical Literature*, 5 vols. (Groningen: E. Forsten), ISBN: 9069801248.
- IOLR Eggeling, Julius, et al. (1887–1935), *Catalogue of the Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Library of the India Office* (London: Secretary of State for India), [ark:/13960/s2kbk5zcr9](https://nirnayapress.org/ark:/13960/s2kbk5zcr9).

- KEWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1953–72), *Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen; a Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag).
- KL *Kaiser Library.*
- Mānasollāsa Shrigondekar, Gajanan K. (1925–61) (ed.), *मानसोल्लासः = Mānasollāsa [or Abhilaṣitārthacintāmaṇi] of King Someśvara* (Gaekwad's Oriental Series; Baroda: Oriental Institute), ark:/13960/t87h8tn95; v. 2: ark:/13960/t3gz41v8m.
- MN₁ Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1920) (ed.), *महामतिश्री-माधवकरप्रणीतं माधवनिदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्ठदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्यया, श्रीवाचस्पतिवैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्याया विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लसितम् = Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita & Shrikanthadatta and Ātankadarpaṇa by Vāchaspati Vaidya* (1st edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/t9z08jn5j.
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- MW Monier-Williams, Monier, Leumann, E., Cappeller, C., et al. (1899), *A Sanskrit–English Dictionary Etymologically and Philologically Arranged, New Edition* (Oxford: Clarendon Press); 1970 reprint.
- NAK *National Archives of Kathmandu.*
- NCC Raghavan, V., et al. (1949–), *New Catalogus Catalogorum, an Alphabetical Register of Sanskrit and Allied Works and Authors*, 39 vols. (Madras University Sanskrit Series; Madras: University of Madras); v.1: revised edition, 1968. Searchable at <http://vmlt.in/ncc/>.

- NGMCP NGMCP (2014), "Nepal-german Manuscript Cataloguing Project. Online Title List and Descriptive Catalogue," Universität Hamburg and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, [URL](#).
- PW Böhrtlingk, Otto, and Roth, Rudolph (1855–75), *Sanskrit-Wörterbuch* (St. Petersburg: Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften), [URL](#), accessed 18/05/2023.
- PWK Böhrtlingk, Otto (1879), *Sanskrit-wörterbuch in kürzerer fassung* (St. Petersburg: Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften), [URL](#), accessed 18/05/2023.
- RORI *Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute*.
- 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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Materia Medica

Numbers after the final colon refer to pages in this book.

- amaranth (*taṇḍulīyaka*) *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, L. See King 321, NK: 1, #144, Potter_{rev}: 15. Cf. AVS: 1, 121: 75
- axlewood (*dhava*) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. See AVS: 1, 163 f, Chopra: 20: 96
- bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) *Bambusa bambos*, Druce. See NK: 1, #307: 74
- beautyberry (*priyaṅgu*) → *śyāmā*. *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: 1, 334, NK: 1, #420. Some say also *Setaria italica* Beauv. GVDB: 263–264. See also GVDB: 413: 92, 97
- beautyberry (*śyāmā*) *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: 1, 334, NK: 1, #420: 72, 74
- beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC (Dymock: 1, 428, GJM1: 602, NK: 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing): 92
- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) → *śālaparṇī*. *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. See Dymock: 1, 428, GJM1: 602, cf. NK: 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing: 41
- black creeper (*pālindī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer & Schultes. See AVS: 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434: 74, 77, 91, 92
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420: 74
- blackbuck (*hariṇa*) *Antilope cervicapra*, L. See BIA: 270 IW: 95, 165, et passim: 77
- blue water-lily (*utpala*) *Nymphaea stellata*, Willd. See GJM1: 528, IGP 790; Dutt: 110, NK: 1, #1726: 23, 72, 91, 92
- cardamom (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton. See AVS: 2, 360, NK: 1, #924, Potter_{rev}: 66: 92, 97
- cassia cinnamon (*patra*) *Cinnamomum tamala*, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees. See AVS: 2, 84, NK: 1, #589: 74, 92
- castor oil tree (*gandharvahasta*) → *eraṇḍa*. GVDB: 135, K&B: 3, 2277: 37
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: 1, #2145, Chopra: 214: 42
- 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 rūpyaṃ, sutāraḥ pāradah*, “tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury.”: 96
- chaff (*kāṇḍana*) The word *kāṇḍana* is not found in dictionaries; *kaṇḍana* is threshing, separating the chaff from the grain in a mortar. Cf. Hemādri’s *Caturvargacintāmaṇi* (PWK: 2, 8) (Śiromaṇi 1873: 1, 138: 21, citing the *Vāyupurāṇa*): 24, 174

- chebulic myrobalan (*harītakī*) Terminalia chebula Retz. [GVDB](#): 466 : 73
- cherry (*elavālu*) Prunus cerasus, L.?. See [BVDB](#) 58, [NK](#): 1, #2037, [GVDB](#): 58 : 92
- chital deer (*prṣata*) Axis axis, Erxleben. See [BIA](#): 292, [IW](#): 93 : 77
- cobra's saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → nāgakeśara. Mesua ferrea, L. See [NK](#): 1, #1595, [GVDB](#): 220 : 92
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) Erythrina suberosa Roxb. See [GVDB](#) 245 : 96
- costus (*kuṣṭha*) Saussurea costus, Clarke. See [NK](#): 1, #2239 : 74, 92, 97
- country mallow (*atibalā*) Abutilon indicum, (L.) Sweet, but may be other kinds of mallow, e.g., Sida rhombifolia, L.. See [NK](#): 1, #11, [IGP](#): 1080, [NK](#): 1, #2300, [ADPS](#): 71, 77 : 41
- country sarsaparilla (*anantā*) Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br. See [ADPS](#): 434, [AVS](#): 3, 141–5, [NK](#): 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) : 41, 81, 91, 92, 96
- crape jasmine (*nata*) → crape jasmine [GVDB](#): 215 : 170, 171
- crape jasmine (*tagara*) Tabernaemontana divaricata (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schultes. See [GJM](#): 557, [AVS](#): 5, 232. Synonym of crape jasmine. 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](#): 5, 334 : 74, 92, 170, 171
- crimson trumpet-flower tree (*pāṭalā*) Stereospermum chelonides, (L. f.) A. DC. See [GJM](#): 573, [AVS](#): 5, 192 ff, [ADPS](#): 362 f, [AVS](#): 3, 1848 f, [IGP](#) 1120, [Dymock](#): 3, 20 ff : 96
- cuscus grass (*uśīra*) Andropogon murcatus, Retz. Also “vetiver grass.” See [NK](#): 1, #180 : 74
- datura (*dhattūra*) Datura metel, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamañjarī*), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff. [Potter_{rev}](#): 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132 : 38
- deodar (*bhadradāru*) Cedrus deodara, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See [AVS](#) 41, [NK](#): 1, #516 : 92
- dried meat (*vallūra*) [MW](#): 929, [AyMahā](#): 1, 730. The term is used, rarely, in both the CS (1.5.10) and SS (1.13. 16, 6.42.75–76). It is a Dravidian loanword and occurs in the *Arthaśāstra* etc. ([KEWA](#): 3, 167) : 23
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) → *añjana*. See [Indian barberry](#) : 42
- embelia (*viḍaṅga*) Embelia ribes, Burm. f. See [ADPS](#): 507, [AVS](#): 2, 368, [NK](#): 1, #929, [Potter_{rev}](#): 113 : 92
- emetic nut (*madana*) Randia dumetorum, Lamk. See [NK](#): 1, #2091 : 73
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (su)bhaṅgura = bhr̥ṅga? Eclipta prostrata (L.) L. See [GVDB](#): 288 : 80
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → *kāñjī*, *kāñjikā*, *sauvīra*. [GVDB](#): 458, [NK](#): 2, appendix VI, #18 : 39, 40
- fern (*ajaruḥā*) Nephrodium species [GVDB](#): 7, uncertain. Perhaps Christella dentata (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy, which is reported to have folk applications against skin diseases in India : 77
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) Woodfordia fruticosa (L.) Kurz. See [AVS](#): 5, 412, [NK](#): 1, #2626 : 73
- fragrant lotus (*saugandhika*) A type of *kumuda* or *utpala* ([GVDB](#): 457) : 23
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) Dipterocarpus turbinatus Gaertn. f. See [GVDB](#): 28, [Chopra](#): 100 : 96

- giant potato (*kṣīraavidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. Ipomoea mauritiana, Jacq. See [ADPS: 510](#), [AVS: 3, 222](#), [AVS: 3, 1717 ff: 171–173](#)
- ginger (*mahaśadha*) Zingiber officinale, Roscoe. See [ADPS: 50](#), [NK: 1, #2658](#), [IGP: 1232: 77](#)
- gold (*hema*) gold: [92](#)
- 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”: [97](#)
- golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) rājadruma = āragvadha. Cassia fistula L. See [GVDB 37: 96](#)
- gourd (*alābu*) Lagenaria siceraria Standl. [GVDB: 25](#). Some say Lagenaria vulgaris, Seringe ([NK: 1, #1419](#)) but this is not appropriate for blood-letting: [19, 20, 73](#)
- heart-leaf sida (*balā*) Sida cordifolia, Linn. See [ADPS: 71](#), [NK: 1, #2297: 41, 92](#)
- heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*. Tinospora cordifolia, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.?. See [ADPS: 38](#), [NK: 1, #2472, 624](#), [Dastur #229: 74, 91](#)
- heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*) Tinospora cordifolia (Thunb.) Miers. [GVDB: 456](#). Likely, but uncertain: [74](#)
- henna (*madayantikā*) Lawsonia inermis, L. See [AVS: 3, 303](#), [NK: 1, #1448](#), [Potter_{rev}: 151: 75](#)
- Himalayan mayapple (*vakra*) Podophyllum emodi, Wall. ([NK: #1971](#)). But perhaps a synonym of [crape jasmine](#) and [crape jasmine](#) ([GVDB: 354](#)): [97](#)
- Himalayan monkshood (*ativiṣā*) Aconitum heterophyllum Wall. [GVDB: 12](#), [NK: 1, #39](#). Also “atis roots”: [75, 77, 97](#)
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) Boerhaavia diffusa, L. See [ADPS: 387](#), [AVS: 1, 281](#), [NK: 1, #363: 75, 91](#)
- Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) → *sūryavallī*? Holostemma ada-kodien, Schultes. See [ADPS: 195](#), [AVS: 3, 167, 169](#), [NK: 1, #1242: 173](#)
- horned pondweed (*śaivāla*) also *śaivāla*, *śevāra*. Zannichellia palustris L. The uncertainties of this identification are discussed by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 409](#)). Sometimes identified with [scutch grass](#) (*dūrṇā*) ([GVDB: 409](#)). Identified as Ceratophyllum demersum Linn. (“hornwort”) by [AVS: 2, 56–57x: 171, 173](#)
- hornwort (*jalaśūka*) → *jalanīlikā*. Ceratophyllum demersum, L. See [AVS: 2, 56](#), [IGP: 232](#). T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 166](#)) suggest [horned pondweed](#). Ḍalhaṇa noted on 1.16.19 ([Su 1938: 79](#)) that some people interpret it as a poisonous, hairy, air-breathing, underwater creature: [41](#)
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) → *rasāñjana*, *dāruharidrā*. Berberis aristata, DC. [Dymock: 1, 65](#), [NK: 1, #335](#), [GJM1: 562](#), [IGP: 141: 42, 76, 170](#)
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) Berberis aristata, DC. See [Dymock: 1, 65](#), [NK: 1, #685](#), [GJM1: 562](#), [IGP 141: 91, 92](#)
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) → *dāruharidrā*, *añjana*. Berberis aristata, DC. See [Dymock: 1, 65](#), [NK: 1, #685](#), [GJM1: 562](#), [IGP: 141: 74](#)
- 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: [41, 173](#)
- Indian kudzu (*vidārī*) → *payasyā*. Pueraria tuberosa (Willd.) DC. See [ADPS: 510](#), [AVS: 1, 792 f](#), [AVS: 4, 391](#); not [Dymock: 1, 424 f](#). See [GJM2: 444, 451](#)

- AVS: 1, 187, but AVS: 3, 1719 = *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq: 41
- Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) *Rubia cordifolia*, L. See IGP, Chopra: 215, GVDB: 289: 37, 92
- Indian mottled eel (*varmimatsya*) Almost certainly the mottled eel. MW: 962c noted that the *varmi* fish "is commonly called *vāmi*." The "vam fish," or "বান মাছ (*bān māch*)" 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): 21
- Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*) *Brassica juncea*, Czern. & Coss. See AVS: 1, 301, NK: 1, #378: 24
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*) → *anantā*. *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–5, NK: 1, #1210; and black creeper, *pāṇḍī*. *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buehneri*, Roemer & Schultes AVS: 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434: 91, 92, 171
- jambul (*jambū*) *Syzygium cumini*, (L.) Skeels. See ADPS: 188, NK: 1, #967, Potter_{rev}: 168, Wujastyk 2003a: 73
- jasmine (*mālatī*) *Jasminium grandiflorum*, L. See NK: 1, #1364: 75
- jequirity (*guñjā*) *Abrus precatorius*, L. See AVS: 1, 10, NK: 1, #6, Potter_{rev}: 168: 80
- lac (*lākṣā*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). See GJM1: 445, NK: 2, #32. Watt (Watt_{Comm}: 1053–1066) is characteristically informative, and is definite about the antiquity of lac in India: 97
- liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L.? GVDB: 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant: 80
- liquorice (*madhuka*) see *yaṣṭīmadhuka*: 41, 77, 90, 92
- liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L. AVS: 3, 84, NK: 1, #1136, GVDB: 329 f.: 42
- lodh tree (*lodhra*) *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb. See GJM1: 597, ADPS: 279 f, NK: 1, #2420. T. B. 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*: 92
- long pepper (*māgadha*) *Piper longum*, L. See NK: 1, #1928; but cf. AVS: 3, 245: 76
- long pepper (*pippalī*) *Piper longum*, L. See ADPS: 374, NK: 1, #1928: 77, 92
- luffa (*koṣṭakī*) = *kośātakī*. *Luffa cylindrica*, (L.) M. J. Roem. or *L. acutangula*, (L.) Roxb. ADPS: 252–253, NK: 1, #1514 etc. GVDB: 121: 73, 91, 172
- luffa gourd (*kośavatī*) = *koṣṭakī*, luffa: 91
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. GVDB: 37: 73
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacardium*, L. See NK: 1, #2269, AVS: 5, 98: 76
- medhshingi (*vijayā*2) *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) The *Sauśrutaniḡhaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viśāṇī* (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): 81
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See AVS 1927, ADPS: 21, NK: 1, #2025, AVS: 4, 348; GJM1: 523: = *P. integrifolia/serratifolia*, L.: 91
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. GVDB: 126: see purple *roscoea* and giant potato: 41, 173
- monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus*

- bengalensis, Schneider. See [Reptiles](#): 58 : 41, 77
- mung beans (*mudga*) *Phaseolus radiatus* L. [GVDB](#): 310–311 : 117
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo* Linn. [GVDB](#): 308 : 74
- myrobalan (*abhayā*) *Terminalia chebula*, Retz. See [ADPS](#): 172, [NK](#): 1, #2451, [Potter_{rev}](#): 214 : 91, 97
- natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. [NK](#): 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with svarjikṣāra 4.8.50 ([Su 1938](#): 441) : 92
- neem tree (*nimba*) *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. [GVDB](#): 226 : 38
- 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. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 108) added that it could be a variety of rice, *ṣaṣṭika dhānya* : 97
- nutgrass (*mustā*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See [ADPS](#): 316, [AVS](#): 2, 296, [NK](#): 1, #782 : 173
- 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](#): 3, 171. The etymology of the name suggests *Helianthus annuus* Linn., but this plant is native to the Americas : 91, 171
- peas (*hareṇu*) *hareṇu* = *satīna*. *Pisum sativum*, L. T. B. 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 : 91, 92, 97
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) *Ficus religiosa*, L. See [ADPS](#): 63 : 99
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*) *Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R. Br. See [AVS](#): 3, 107, [NK](#): 1, #1173 : 76
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīriṇī*) various milky plants, perhaps including *Euphorbia hirta* Linn. (asthma plant) and *E. microphylla* Heyne (Gulf sandmat) ([GVDB](#): 127) : 171
- plumed cockscomb (*indīvara*) Uncertain; possibly *Celosia argentea* Linn. But see the useful discussion in [GVDB](#): 44–45. Possibly another name for [thorn apple](#) (*karambha*), q.v. : 174
- pointed gourd (*patola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb. [GVDB](#): 232–233 : 91
- poison berry (*bṛhatī*) *Solanum violaceum*, Ortega. See [ADPS](#): 100, [NK](#): 1, #2329, [AVS](#): 5, 151 : 91, 92
- pondweed (*paripelavā*) Normally a neuter noun. T. B. 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. : 92
- pondweed (*śevāla*) *Zannichellia palustris* L. See [horned pondweed](#) : 23
- prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*) *Achyranthes aspera*, L. See [GJM1](#): 524 f, [AVS](#): 1, 39, [ADPS](#): 44 f, [AVS](#): 3, 2066 f, [Dymock](#): 3, 135 : 38, 41
- purging nut (*mūṣikā*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See [AVS](#): 3, 261, [NK](#): 1, #1374 : 77
- purple calotropis (*arka*) *Calotropis gigantea*, (L.) R. Br. See [ADPS](#): 52, [AVS](#): 1, 341, [NK](#): 1, #427, [Potter_{rev}](#): 57, [Chopra IDG](#): 305–308 : 41
- 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](#) : 171, 172
- rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrōṭī*,

- Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) Wight et Arn. Good discussion at
 GVDB: 314–316, 324 : 91
- red chalk (*gairika*) *gairika* : 92
- red gourd (*bimbī*) *Coccinia indica*, W. & A. See PVS 1994.4.715; NK: 1, #534 : 73
- rice grains (*taṇḍula*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. Same as *unhusked rice* (*śāli*)
 GVDB: 174; or just "grains" : 24
- rice-grain chaff (*śālitaṇḍulakāṇḍana*) See chaff : 24
- rock salt (*saindhava*) See NK: 2, M#48, Watt_{Comm}: 963–971 : 24
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.) Wats. See AVS: 2, 285, NK: 1, #177 : 92
- sacred lotus (*padma*) *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn. See NK: 1, #1698 : 23, 74
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkolla*) *Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang.
 GVDB: 5–6 : 74
- sandalwood (*candana*) *Santalum album*, L. See ADPS: 111, NK: 1, #2217 : 92
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*. *Caesalpinia sappan*, L. AVS: 1, 323, K&B: 2, 847 f, GVDB: 234 : 42
- scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) *Pentapetes phoenicea*, L. NK: #1836, GVDB: 268 : 75
- scented pavonia (*bālaka*) *Pavonia odorata*, Willd. See ADPS: 498, NK: 1, #1822 : 92
- scutch grass (*dūrvā*) *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers. (GVDB: 205) : 171
- selu plum (*śelu*) *Cordia myxa*, L. non Forssk. See GJM1: 529 (2), IGP: 291b, cf. AVS: 3, 1677 f; cf. AVS: 2, 180 (C. *dichotoma*, Forst.f.), NK: 1, #672 (C. *latifolia*, Roxb.) : 91
- sesame oil (*taila*) *Sesamum indicum* L. GVDB: 183 : 41
- siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbek*, Benth. See AVS: 1, 81, NK: 1, #91 : 91
- siris seeds (*śirīṣamāśaka*) *Albizia lebbek*, Benth. See AVS: 1, 81, NK: 1, #91 : 74
- small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*) *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb. See GVDB: 432 : 96
- spikenard (*māṃsī*) *Nardostachys grandiflora*, DC. See NK: 1, #1691 : 92
- spikenard (*nalada*) → *māṃsī*. *Nardostachys grandiflora*, DC. See NK: 1, #1691 : 71
- sugar (*sitā*) *Ḍalhaṇa* makes this equation at 1.37.25 (Su 1938: 162) : 92
- sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → *ādityavallī*, *sūryamukhī*, *Helianthus annuus* Linn. GVDB: 35, 443 : 91
- sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet plants are enumerated at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.42.11. See also GVDB: 127 : 41
- sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*) *Nerium oleander*, L. See ADPS: 223, NK: 1, #1709 : 80
- Tellicherry bark (*kuṭaja*) *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G.Don, with *Wrightia tinctoria* and *W. arborea* considered GVDB: 101–102, ADPS: 267–270 : 171
- thorn apple (*karambha*) *Datura metel*, L. See GVDB: 76 for useful discussion. Also, AVS: 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), NK: 1, #796 ff. Potter_{rev}: 292 f, ADPS: 132. Possibly the same plant as *plumed cockscomb* (*indīvara*) (GVDB: 76, 44–45) : 81, 173
- three heating spices (*tryūṣaṇa*) *śuṇṭhī* (Dried ginger) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. ADPS: 50, NK: 1, #2658, AVS: 5, 435, IGP 1232, *pippalī* (long pepper) *Piper longum*, L. ADPS: 374, NK: 1, #1928, and *marica* (black pepper) *Piper nigrum*, L. ADPS: 294, NK: 1, #1929 : 91
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva magna* (Lour.) DC. See AVS: 2, 202; cf. NK: 1, #696 : 76
- top layer of fermented liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*) K&B: 2, 502, NK: 2, appendix VI, #49, McHugh 2021: 39 : 39, 40
- tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) *G. arboreum* L.

- ADPS: 231. Pace the identifications of T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 92, 247), since *G. barbadense* L. is native to South America and *G. herbaceum* L. which is native to Africa : 38, 175
- tree cotton (*picu*) See tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) : 40, 42
- turmeric (*haridrā*) *Curcuma longa* Linn. GVDB: 465 : 91, 97
- turmeric (*rajanī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. ADPS: 169, AVS: 2, 259, NK: 1, #750 : 24, 92
- unhusked rice (*śāli*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. GVDB: 395–396 : 24, 174
- velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) *Cissampelos pariera*, L. See ADPS: 366, NK: 1, #592, GJM1: 573, AVS: 1, 95; cf. AVS: 2, 277 : 91
- velvet-mite (*indragopa*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978 : 72
- verbena (*phañjī*) *Clerodendrum serratum*, L. See AVS: 2, 121, ADPS: 87 : 75
- watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) MW: 183 : 73
- weaver's beam tree (*muṣkaka*) *Schrebera swietenoides*, Roxb. See AVS: 5, 88, Lord, NK: 1, #2246 : 96
- white calotropis (*alarka*) *Calotropis procera*, (Ait.) R. Br. See NK: 1, #428, Chopra: 46b, Chopra IDG: 305–308 : 41
- white clitoria (*śvetā*) → *giryāhvā*. *Clitoria ternatea*, L. See AVS: 2, 129, NK: 1, #621 : 74
- white cutch tree (*somavalka*) *Acacia polyacantha*, Willd. See AVS: 1, 30, IGP 7, GJM1: 602, AVS: 2, 935; pace NK: 1, #1038 : 76, 96
- white siris (*kiṇihī*) *Albizia procera*, (Roxb.) Benth. See GVDB 98, NK: 1, #93 : 91
- white water-lily (*kumuda*) *Nymphaea alba*, Linn. GVDB: 105 : 23
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) → *nandana*? *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See further wild asparagus (*śatāvarī*) : 76
- wild asparagus (*śatāvarī*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See ADPS: 441, AVS: 1, 218, NK: 1, #264, IGP: 103, AVS: 4, 249 ff, Dymock: 3, 482 ff : 116, 175
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhalātaka*, *lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*, GVDB: 4. Uncertain : 91
- wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*, L. : 91
- Withania (*aśvagandhā*) *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See AVS: 5, 409 f, Dymock: 2, 566 f., Chevallier 150 : 41
- wood apple (*kapittha*) *Limonia acidissima*, L. See AVS: 3, 327, NK: 1, #1021 : 74, 76
- woodrose (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatopha curcas*, L. AVS: 3, 261, NK: 1, #1374. GVDB: 317; ADPS: 23–25 discuss this issue well : 75
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*) *Solanum virginianum*, L. See ADPS: 100, NK: 1, #2329, AVS: 5, 164 : 91, 92

Todo list

■ subject-verb-object	49
■ Don't put guesses in the main text. Footnote them.	49
■ Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8.	70
■ I'm still unhappy about this verse.	73
■ Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate.	73
■ fn about sadyas+	73
■ Bear's bile instead of deer's bile.	74
■ punarṇṇavā in the N & K MSS	75
■ śrita for śṛta	75
■ explain more	76
■ Medical difference from Sharma.	76
■ example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text. . . .	76
■ 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.	77
■ √ vyadh not √ vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative.	77
■ opposite of the vulgate Same as 1.8.89a (As 1980: 79).	77
■ -> ativiṣa	86
■ Look up the ca. reference.	86
■ Come back to the issue of "kalpa". Look up passages in the Kośa.	93
■ write footnote: don't repeat ativiṣā; vulgate similar to H.	97
■ material corresponds to SS.1.45.205ab, where it describes how alcohol affects the body.	100

■ Or “There are 20 phaṇins and 6 maṇḍalins. The same number are known. There are 13 Rājīmants.” Or even, “there are 20 Phaṇins and six of them are Maṇḍalins.” Are phaṇins really the same as darvīkaras?	104
■ Ḍalhaṇa says garuḍa.	105
■ where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm. .	110
■ maṣī burned charcoal. Find refs.	110
■ find ref.	116
■ Check out these refs.	116
■ meaning of kalpa	116
■ or a dual?	121

