A Translation of the New Edition of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*

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Abstract

The Suśruta Project is producing a new Sanskrit text edition of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* based on the early Nepalese manuscripts.[1] As we gradually transcribe and edit the manuscripts, we are producing this new translation of the classic work.

1 MS Kathmandu KL 699, MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079, and MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333.

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Introduction

This section begins with several lists of poisonous plants. The Sanskrit names for these plants are mostly not standard or familiar from anywhere in Sanskrit or ethnobotanical literature. It remains a historical puzzle why these particular names are so difficult to interpret. However, we are not the first to encounter these difficulties. In the twelfth century, the learned commentator on the text, Ḍalhaṇa, remarked,

> In spite of having made the greatest effort, it has been impossible to identify these plants. In the Himalayan regions, Kirātas and Śabaras are able to identify them.[100]

Ḍalhaṇa also recorded variant readings of these poison names from the manuscripts that he consulted of the lost commentary of Gayadāsa (fl. c. CE 1000). The identities of these poisons have been in doubt for at least a thousand years.[101] Identifications have in many cases been equally impossible for us today.

Translation

1 And now I shall explain what should be known about stationary poisons.[102]

3 It is said that there are two kinds of poisons, stationary (*sthāvara*) and mobile (*jaṅgama*). The former dwells in ten sites, the latter in sixteen places.

4 Traditionally, the ten are: root, leaf, fruit, flower, bark, milky sap (*kṣīra*), pith (*sāra*), resin (*niryāsa*), the elements (*dhātu*), and the tuber.

5 In that context,

- the eight root-poisons are:

Expected (Pillay 2010): Croton tiglium, L. = Naepala, Jayapala, kanakaphala, titteriphala (NL #720); Calotropis spp.; Citrullus colocynthus (colocynth); Ricinus communis (castor);

100 After *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, *kalpasthāna* 2.5 (Su 1938: 564). From the view of Sanskrit authors, Kirāṭas and Śabaras were tribal peoples. The eleventh-century author Bhikṣu Govinda, however, cast his treatise as a dialogue with a Kirāṭa king called Madana

1. liquorice (*klītaka*)[i],[103]
2. sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*)[ii],[104]
3. jequirity (*guñjā*)[iii],[105]
4. aconite (*subhaṅgurā*)[iv],[106]
5. *karaṭā*,[107] and ending with
6. leadwort (*vidyutśikhā* → *agni- or rakta-śikhā?*)[v],[108]
7. 'endless' (*ananta*)[vi], and
8. *vijayā*,[109]

Note about Gayī's edition.

who was a master of the alchemical art (HIML: IIA, 620).

101 See Wujastyk 2003: 80–81.

102 No reference is made to Dhanvantari (see Birch, Wujastyk, Klebanov, Parameswaran, et al. 2021). "Stationary" here is a term contrasted with "moving," and signifies plants as opposed to animals and insects.

103 Licorice eaten in excess can be poisonous.

104 The roots of sweet-scented oleander are highly toxic, as are most parts of the plant.

105 Jequirity does indeed contain a dangerous toxin called Abrin in its seeds and to a lesser extent in its leaves, but apparently not in its roots or bulb. Abrin is not harmful if eaten, but an infusion of the bruised (not boiled) seeds injected or rubbed in the eyes can be fatal (NK: # 6). The dose can be quite small.

106 The plant is usually called just *bhaṅgurā* without the prefix *su-* "good."

107 This poisonous root cannot at present be identified. Similar-sounding candidates include *karkaṭaka*, *karaghāṭa* (emetic nut), and *karahāṭa*, but since this is a prose passage, there would be no reason to alter the word to fit a metre. Monier-Williams et al. (MW: 255) cite an unknown lexical source that equates *karaṭa* (mn.) with safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*, L.), but this plant does not have a poisonous root.

108 The roots of both rose and white leadwort are very toxic.

109 Meulenbeld (1989: 61, n. 3) argued that our text read a masculine or neuter noun *vijaya*, which never signifies cannabis. However, unlike the vulgate, the unanimous readings of the Nepalese manuscripts give feminine *vijayā*. Nevertheless, even this form only started to signify *Cannabis sativa* L. after the end of the first millennium (Meulenbeld 1989; Wujastyk 2002; McHugh 2021). The *Sauśrutanighaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā*, almost none of which have any poisonous parts (Suvedī and Tīvārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (*DC.*) *Seemann* (Sivarajan and Balachandran 1994: 518), a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (Nadkarni 1982*a*: #862). This identification is tenuous.

i Glycyrrhiza glabra, L.; see AVS 3.84, NK #1136
ii Nerium oleander, L.; see ADPS 223, NK #1709
iii Abrus precatorius, L.; see AVS 1.10, NK #6, Potter 168
iv → *bhaṅgura* = *ativiṣā*? Aconitum ferox, Wall. ex Ser.; see NK #38
v Plumbago zeylanica (or rosea?), L.; see NK #1966, 1967
vi ?; see ?

- the leaf-poisons include:
  - 'poison-leaf' (*viṣapatrikā*)[vii],
  - 'drum-giver' (*lambaradā*)[viii],
  - thorn apple (*karambha*)[ix], and
  - 'big thorn apple' (*mahākarambha*)[x];
- the fruits of items like: jequirity (*guñjā*)[xi], rūṣkara ()[xii], viṣa ()[xiii], and vedikā ()[xiv], are
  - kumudavati (*kumadavati*)[xv],
  - reṇuka (*?*)[xvi],
  - kurūkaka (*?*)[xvii],
  - 'little bamboo' (*veṇuka*)[xviii],[110],
  - thorn apple (*karambha*)[xix],
  - 'big thorn apple' (*mahākarambha*)[xx],
  - 'pleaser' (*nandanā*)[xxi],
  - 'crow' (*kāka*)[xxii],
- the flower-poisons include those of:
  - rattan (*vetra*)[xxiii],

110 Not poisonous.

vii unknown; see ?
viii unknown; see ?
ix Datura metel, L.; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.
x Datura metel, L.?; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.
xi ; see
xii ; see
xiii ; see
xiv ; see
xv unknown; see ?
xvi ?; see Piper aurantiacum Wall. (NK: #1924) is not poisonous.
xvii ?; see ?
xviii Bambusa bambos, Druce?; see NK #307
xix Datura metel, L.; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.
xx Datura metel, L.?; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.
xxi ?; see ?
xxii ?; see ?
xxiii Calamus rotang, L.; see AVS 1.330, NK #413

    - wild chinchona (*kādamba*)[xxiv],
    - black pepper (*vallīja* → *marica*)[xxv],
    - thorn apple (*karambha*)[xxvi], and
    - big thorn apple (*mahākarambha*)[xxvii];
- the seven bark, pith (*sāra*) and resin (*niryāsa*) poisons are:
    - 'gutboiler' (*antrapācaka*)[xxviii],
    - 'blade' (*kartarīya*)[xxix],
    - wild mustard (*saurīyaka*)[xxx],
    - emetic nut (*karaghāṭa* → *karahāṭa?* → *madana*)[xxxi],
    - thorn apple (*karambha*)[xxxii],
    - wild asparagus (*nandana* → *bahuputrā?*)[xxxiii], and
    - munj grass (*nārācaka*)[xxxiv];[111]
- the three milky sap (*kṣīra*)-poisons are:
    - purple calotropis (*kumudaghnī* → *arka?*)[xxxv],[112]
    - oleander spurge (*snuhī*)[xxxvi], and

111 The bark of wild asparagus (*Asparagus racemosus*, Willd.) is toxic.

112 The name of this poison, *kumuda-ghnī*, means 'lotus killer'. In Sanskrit literature, the *kumuda* lotus is associated with the moon, since it blossoms by night. Since the sun causes this lotus to close, it is therefore an 'enemy' of the lotus. One of the chief words for the sun, *arka*, is also the name of *Calotropis gigantea*, which indeed has a milky juice which is a violent purgative, poison and abortifacient.

xxiv Anthocephalus cadamba, Miq.; see NK #204

xxv Piper nigrum, L.?; see NK #1929; Rā.6.115, Dha.4.85, Dha.2.88

xxvi Datura metel, L.; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.

xxvii Datura metel, L.?; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.

xxviii unknown; see ?

xxix unknown; see ?

xxx Cleome viscosa, L.? (cf. Rā.4.144); see AVS 2.116, NK #615

xxxi Randia dumetorum, Lamk.; see NK #2091

xxxii Datura metel, L.; see AVS 2.305 (cf. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK #796 ff., Potter 292 f., ADPS 132.

xxxiii Asparagus racemosus, Willd.; see ADPS 441, AVS 1.218, NK #264, IGP 103, IMP 4.2499ff., Dymock 482ff.

xxxiv Saccharum bengalense, Retz.?; see NK #2184

xxxv Calotropis gigantea, (L.) R. Br.; see ADPS 52, AVS 1.341, NK #427, Potter 63

xxxvi Euphorbia neriifolia, L., or E. antiquorum, L.; see ADPS 448, AVS (2.388), 3.1, NK #988, IGP 457b

    - 'web-milk' (*jālakṣīri*)[xxxvii];
- the two element (*dhātu*)-poisons are:
    - 'foam-stone' (*phenāśma*)[xxxviii], and
    - orpiment (*haritāla*)[xxxix];[113]
- the thirteen tuber-poisons are:
    - jequirity (*kālakūṭa*)[xl],[114]
    - wolfsbane (*vatsanābha*)[xli],
    - Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*)[xlii],
    - leadwort (*pālaka* → *citraka*)[xliii],
    - 'muddy' (*kardama*)[xliv], the
    - 'Virāṭa's plant' (*vairāṭaka*)[xlv],
    - nutgrass (*mustaka*)[xlvi],
    - atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*)[xlvii],
    - sacred lotus (*prapuṇḍarīka*)[xlviii],

113 Dutt (1922: 38–42) conjectured that 'foam-stone' may be impure white arsenic obtained by roasting orpiment.

114 The much later (perhaps sixteenth century) alchemical *Rasaratnasamuccaya* of pseudo-Vāgbhaṭa (21.14) says that the *kālakūṭa* poison, here translated as 'jequirity', is similar to '*kākacañcu*' or 'Crow's Beak', which is indeed a name for the plant jequirity or *Abrus precatorius*, L., more commonly called *guñjā* (not to be confused with *gañjā*). The black seed-pod is described as having a 'sharp deflexed beak' in botanical descriptions, so the Sanskrit name is quite graphic and appropriate. The poisonous scarlet seeds of *A. precatorius* can have a distinct black dot or tip, which could perhaps be translated '*kāla-kūṭa*', or 'Black Tip'.
The *Rājanighaṇṭupariśiṣṭa* (9.35) gives *kālakūṭaka* as a synonym for *kāraskara*, or *Strychnos nux-vomica*, L., whose seeds are notoriously poisonous.

xxxvii unknown; see ?
xxxviii unknown; see ?
xxxix Arsenii trisulphidum; see NK v. 2, p. 20 ff.
xl Abrus precatorius, L.? Cf. RRS 21.14.; see AVS 1.10, NK #6, Potter 168.
xli Aconitum napellus, L.; see AVS 1.47, NK #42, Potter 4 f.
xlii Brassica juncea, Czern. & Coss.; see AVS 1.301, NK #378
xliii Plumbago zeylanica (indica? rosea?), L.; see Rā. 6.124, ADPS 119, NK #1966, 1967
xliv unknown; see ?
xlv unknown; see ?
xlvi Cyperus rotundus, L.; see ADPS 316, AVS 2.296, NK #782
xlvii Aconitum heterophyllum, Wall. ex Royle; see AVS 1.42, NK #39
xlviii Nelumbo nucifera, Gaertn.; see Dutt 110, NK #1698

- radish (*mūlaka*)[xlix],
- 'alas, alas' (*hālāhala*)[l],
- 'big poison' (*mahāviṣa*)[li], and
- galls (*karkaṭa*)[lii]. [115]

Thus, there are fifty-five stationary poisons.

6 There are believed to be four kinds of wolfsbane, two kinds of nutgrass, and six kinds of Indian mustard. But the rest are said to be unique types.

The effects of poisons

7–10 People should know that root-poisons cause writhing (*udveṣṭana*), ranting (*pralāpa*), and delirium (*moha*), and leaf-poisons cause yawning, writhing, and wheezing (*śvāsa*).

Fruit-poisons cause swelling of the scrotum, a burning feeling and writhing. Flower-poisons will cause vomiting, distension (*ādhmāna*) and sleep (*svāpa*).

The consumption of poisons from bark, pith (*sāra*) and resin (*niryāsa*) will cause foul breath, hoarseness (*pāruṣya*), a headache, and a discharge of phlegm (*kapha*).[116]

The milky sap (*kṣīra*)-poisons make one froth at the mouth, cause loose stool, and make the tongue feel heavy.[117] The element (*dhātu*)-poisons

115 Leadwort root is a powerful poison. Nutgrass is tuberous, but non-toxic. Atis has highly toxic tuberous roots. Neither sacred lotus nor galls are toxic. The 'alas, alas' poison (*hālāhala*) is the mythical poison produced from the churning of the ocean at the time of creation: it occurs in medical texts such as the present one, and commentators identify it with one or other of the lethal poisons such as wolfsbane or jequirity. Agrawala (1963: 126) makes the intriguing suggestion that the word *hālāhala*, possibly to be identified with Pāṇini's *hailihila* (P.6.2.38), may be of Semitic origin, although his evidence seems uncertain (Steingass (1930: 1506a) cites Persian *halāhil* 'deadly (poison)' as a loan from Sanskrit). Mayrhofer 1953–72: iii.585 also cites a claim for an Austro-Asiatic origin for the word.

116 At 1.2.6 (Su 1938: 11), Ḍalhaṇa glosses hoarseness (*pāruṣya*) as *vāgrūkṣatā*, "a rough, dry voice."

117 At 6.54.10 (Su 1938: 773), Ḍalhaṇa glosses loose stool (*viḍbheda*) as *dravapurīṣatā*, "having liquid stool."

xlix Raphanus sativus, L.; see NK #2098

l unknown; see Cf. Soḍhalanighantu p.43 (sub bola) = stomaka = vatsanābha

li unknown; see ?

lii Rhus succedanea, L.; see NK #2136

give one a crushing pain in the chest, make one faint and cause a burning feeling on the palate.
These poisons are classified as ones which are generally speaking lethal after a period of time.

11–17 Symptoms of tuber poisoning

The tuber-poisons, though, are severe. I shall talk about them in detail. With jequirity (*kālakūṭa*)[liii], there is numbness, trembling, and rigidity. With wolfsbane (*vatsanābha*)[liv], there is rigidity of the neck, and the faeces, urine, and eyes become yellow. With Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*)[lv], the wind becomes defective (*vātavaiguṇya*), there is constipation (*ānāha*), and lumps (*granthi*) start to appear. With leadwort (*pālaka* → *citraka*)[lvi], everyone agrees that there is weakness in the neck, and speech gets jumbled. With the one called 'muddy' (*kardama*)[lvii], there is a discharge (*praseka*), the faeces pour out, and the eyes turn yellow. With the 'Virāṭa's plant' (*vairāṭaka*)[lviii], one's limbs hurt, and one's head becomes ill. With nutgrass (*mustaka*)[lix], one's arms and legs grow stiff, and start to tremble.

15b With atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*)[lx], one's limbs grow weak, there is a burning feeling.

16a With sacred lotus (*prapuṇḍarīka*)[lxi], one's eyes go red, and one's belly becomes distended.

16b With radish (*mūlaka*)[lxii]es, one is drained of colour, one vomits, one has hiccups, distension, and passes out.

17a With 'alas, alas' (*hālāhala*)[lxiii], a man starts, after a while, to gasp and turn brown.

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liii Abrus precatorius, L.? Cf. RRS 21.14.; see AVS 1.10, NK #6, Potter 168.
liv Aconitum napellus, L.; see AVS 1.47, NK #38, Potter 4 f.
lv Brassica juncea, Czern & Coss.; see AVS 1.301, NK #378
lvi Plumbago zeylanica (indica? rosea?), L.; see Rā. 6.124, ADPS 119, NK #1966, 1967
lvii unknown; see ?
lviii unknown; see ?
lix Cyperus rotundus, L.; see ADPS 316, AVS 2.296, NK #782
lx Aconitum heterophyllum, Wall. ex Royle; see AVS 1.42, NK #39
lxi Nelumbo nucifera, Gaertn.; see Dutt 110, NK #1698
lxii Raphanus sativus, L.; see NK #2098
lxiii unknown; see Cf. Soḍhalanighantu p.43 (sub bola) = stomaka = vatsanābha

17b With 'big poison' (*mahāviṣa*)[lxiv], one gets violent knots (*granthi*) and stabbing pains in the heart.

18a With galls (*karkaṭa*)[lxv], one leaps up laughing and gnashing one's teeth.

19a These thirteen cited poisons which originate from tubers are fearfully potent. Experts know them all by these ten features: they are traditionally said to be dry (*rūkṣa*), hot, sharp, rarified (*sūkṣma*), fast-acting, pervasive, expansive (*vikāśin*), limpid (*viśada*), light, and indigestible.

19b- Because of their dryness they cause inflammation of the wind; their heat inflames the choler and blood. Because of their sharpness they unhinge the mind, and they cut through the connections with the sensitive points (*marman*). Because of being rarified they infiltrate and disconnect the parts of the body. Because they are fast-acting they kill quickly, and because of their pervasiveness they blend with one's physical constitution (*prakṛti*). Because they expand they destroy the humour (*doṣa*)s, element (*dhātu*)s, and the impurities. Because they are limpid they overflow, because they are light they are difficult to cure, and because they are indigestible they are hard to eliminate. And so they cause long suffering.

24 One can be certain that any poison which is instantly lethal, whether it be stationary, mobile, or artificial, will have all ten of these features.

Slow-acting poison

25 A poison, whether it be stationary, mobile, or artificial, which has not completely gone from the body, but which is worn out or damaged by anti-toxic medicine, or else dried up by blazing fire, wind, or sunshine, or which has just lost its virulence by itself, becomes a 'slow-acting poison (*dūṣīviṣa*)'. Because it has lost its potency it is no longer lethal. It is surrounded by phlegm (*kapha*) and has an aftermath that lasts for years.

27 If he is suffering from this, his stools and complexion deteriorate, he gets bad breath and a nasty taste in his mouth, and is very thirsty. He faints, vomits, his speech is slurred, and he is depressed. Also, he has the symptoms of contaminated dropsy (*duṣyodara*).[118]

118 'Contaminated dropsy' (*duṣyodara* or *dūṣyudara*) is described elsewhere as a condition

lxiv unknown; see ?

lxv Rhus succedanea, L.; see NK #2136

28 If it lodges in his stomach (*āmāśaya*), his wind and phlegm become diseased; if it lodges in his intestines (*pakvāśaya*), his wind and choler become diseased. The man's hair and body are ruined, and he looks like a bird whose wings have been chopped off.

29a-c If it lodges in one of the body tissue (*dhātu*)s such as the chyle (*rasa*), it causes the diseases that were described as arising from the elements, and it rapidly becomes inflamed on nasty days which are cold and windy.

29d-31 Now listen to the preliminary signs of such a case: sleepiness, heaviness, yawning, slackness (*viśleṣa*) and exhilaration (*harṣa*), and a chafing of the limbs (*aṅgamarda*). Next, it causes food-mania (*annamada*) and indigestion, appetite-loss (*arocaka*), round blotches (*maṇḍala*), skin disease (*koṭha*), and delirium (*moha*). The body tissues dwindle away (*kṣaya*), the feet, hands, and face get swollen, dropsy develops, and there is vomiting and diarrhoea. Perhaps his colour may drain away and he may faint or have irregular fever (*viṣamajvara*). It may cause heightened, powerful thirst.

32 These various disorders are of many different types: one poison may produce madness, while another one may cause constipation (*ānāha*), and yet another may deplete the semen. One may cause slurred speech, while another pallid skin disease (*kuṣṭha*).

33 Traditionally, 'slow-acting poison' (*dūṣī-viṣa*) is so called because it corrupts (*dūṣayate*) the body tissue (*dhātu*)s. This corruption is caused by repetitively keeping to certain locations, times, foods, and sleeping in the daytime.

34- The stages of slow poisoning

In the first shock of having taken a stationary poison, a person goes a brown colour, his tongue becomes stiff, he grows faint, and starts to gasp.

35 In the second, he trembles, collapses, has a burning feeling, as well as a sore throat. When the poison reaches the stomach (*āmāśaya*), it causes pain in the chest (*hṛd*).

36 In the third, the roof of his mouth goes dry, he gets violent shooting

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which arises when women of ill-character mix nail clippings, hair, urine, faeces, or menstrual blood with a man's food, in order to gain power over him (2.7.11–13).

pains (*śūla*) in the stomach (*āmāśaya*), and his eyes swell up and go a nasty, yellow colour.

37 In the fourth shock, it causes the stomach and intestines to sting (*toda*), he gets hiccups, a cough, a rumbling in the gut (*antra*), and his head becomes very heavy.

38 In the fifth he dribbles phlegm (*kapha*), is drained of colour, his joints crack (*parvabheda*), all his humours are inflamed, and he also has a pain in his belly (*pakvādhāna*).

39a In the sixth, his consciousness is annihilated and he completely loses control of his bowels.

39b In the seventh, his shoulders, back and loins break, and he is finished.

Remedies for the stages of slow poisoning

40 In the first shock of the poison, he should vomit and be sprinkled with cold water. Then he should be made to drink an antidote (*agada*) together with honey and ghee.

41a In the second, he should vomit as before, and then be given a purgative to drink.

41b In the third, it is good for him to drink an antidote and take a nasal medicine (*nasya*) as well as an eye salve (*añjana*).

42a In the fourth, he should drink a medical antidote mixed with oil.

42b In the fifth, he should be prescribed the antidote together with a decoction (*kvātha*) of honey and liquorice (*madhuka*)[lxvi].

43 In the sixth, the cure is the same as for diarrhoea. And in the seventh, he should have medicated powder blown up his nose, and after having a 'crow's foot (*kākapada*)' cut made on his head, he should have a piece of bloody meat put on it.[119]

44 In the intervals between each shock, assuming that the above actions

119 Suśruta explains the term *avapīḍa* 'medicated nasal powder' as the procedure either of administering nasal drops (*avapīḍa*), or blowing medicated powder into the nose (4.40.44–46): it is particularly recommended for unconscious or incapable patients. The 'crow's-foot' procedure is also recommended later in the 'Section on Procedures' (5.5.24a) in cases of snake-bite. It is also described by Caraka (see p. **??** below).

lxvi Glycyrrhiza glabra, L.; see AVS 3.84, NK #1136

have been performed, one should give the patient cold porridge together with ghee and honey, to take away the poison.

45–46 Both kinds of poison are destroyed by a porridge prepared with the stewed juice (*niṣkvātha*) of the following: luffa (*koṣātakya*)[lxvii], migraine tree (*agnimantha*)[lxviii], velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*)[lxix], 'sun-creeper' (*sūryavallī* → *jīvantī?*)[lxx], heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*)[lxxi], myrobalan (*abhayā*)[lxxii]s, siris (*śirīṣa*)[lxxiii], white siris (*kiṇihī*)[lxxiv], selu plum (*śelu*)[lxxv], white clitoria (*giryāhvā*)[lxxvi], the two kinds of turmeric (*rajanī*)[lxxvii], the two hogweed (*punarnavā*)[lxxviii]s (red and white), black cardamom (*hareṇu*)[lxxix], the three pungent spices (*trikaṭu*) (dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*)[lxxx], long pepper (*pippalī*)[lxxxi], and black pepper (*marica*)[lxxxii]), the two Indian sarsaparillas (*sārive*) (country sarsaparilla (*anantā*)[lxxxiii] and black creeper (*pālindī*)[lxxxiv]) and country mallow (*balā*)[lxxxv].

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lxvii Luffa cylindrica, (L.) M. J. Roem. or L. acutangula, (L.) Roxb.; see ADPS 252, NK #1514 etc.

lxviii Premna corymbosa, Rottl.; see IMP 1927, ADPS 21, NK #2025, AVS 4.348; GJM 523: = P. integrifolia/serratifolia, L.

lxix Cissampelos pariera, L.; see ADPS 366, NK #592, GJM 573, IMP 1.95; cf. AVS 2.277

lxx Holostemma ada-kodien, Schultes; see ADPS 195, AVS 3.167, NK #1242, IMP 3.1619

lxxi Tinospora cordifolia, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.?; see ADPS 38, NK #2472 & 624, Dastur #229

lxxii Terminalia chebula, Retz.; see ADPS 172, NK #2451, Potter 214

lxxiii Albizia lebbeck, Benth.; see AVS 1.81, NK #91

lxxiv Albizia procera, (Roxb.) Benth.; see GVDB 98, NK #93

lxxv Cordia myxa, L. non Forssk.; see GJM 529 (2), IGP 291b, cf. IMP 3.1677f; cf. AVS 2.180 (C. dichotoma, Forst.f.), NK #672 (C. latifolia, Roxb.)

lxxvi Clitoria ternatea, L.; see AVS 2.129, NK #621

lxxvii Curcuma longa, L.; see ADPS 169, AVS 2.259, NK #750

lxxviii Boerhaavia diffusa, L.; see ADPS 387, AVS 1.281, NK #363

lxxix Amomum subulatum, Roxb.?; see PVS Caraka 2.734, AVS 1.128, NK #154

lxxx Zingiber officinale, Roscoe.; see ADPS 50, NK #2658, AVS 5.435, IGP 1232

lxxxi Piper longum, L.; see ADPS 374, NK #1928

lxxxii Piper nigrum, L.; see ADPS 294, NK #1929

lxxxiii Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br.; see ADPS 434, AVS 3.141–5, NK #1210

lxxxiv Ichnocarpus frutescens, (L.) R.Br. or Cryptolepis buchanani, Roemer & Schultes; see AVS 3.141, 3.145, 3.203, NK #1283, #1210, ADPS 434

lxxxv Sida cordifolia, L.; see ADPS 71, NK #2297

47–49 The ‘invincible’ ghee

There is a famous ghee called ‘Invincible’ (*ajeya*). It rapidly destroys all poisons and ‘always conquers’. It is made with a mash (*kalka*) of the following plants: liquorice (*madhuka*)[lxxxvi], Indian rosebay (*tagara*)[lxxxvii], costus (*kuṣṭha*)[lxxxviii], deodar (*bhadradāru*)[lxxxix], black cardamom (*hareṇu*)[xc], Alexandrian laurel (*punnāga*)[xci], cherry (*elavāluka*)[xcii], cobra’s saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*)[xciii], water-lily (*utpala*)[xciv], white clitoria (*sitā* → *śvetā?*)[xcv], embelia (*viḍaṅga*)[xcvi], sandalwood (*candana*)[xcvii], cassia cinnamon (*patra*)[xcviii], ‘going-to-my-darling’ (*priyaṅgu*)[xcix], rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*)[c], the two turmerics (ordinary turmeric (*rajanī*)[ci] and Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*)[cii]), the two Indian nightshade (*bṛhatī*)s (poison berry (*bṛhatī*)[ciii] and yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*)[civ]), the two Indian sarsaparillas (*sārive*) (country sarsaparilla (*anantā*)[cv] and black creeper (*pālindī*)[cvi]), beggarweed (*sthirā* → *śālaparṇī*)[cvii], and ‘spotted-leaf’ (*sahā* →

lxxxvi Glycyrrhiza glabra, L.; see AVS 3.84, NK #1136
lxxxvii Tabernaemontana divaricata (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schultes.; see GJM 557, AVS 5.232
lxxxviii Saussurea costus, Clarke; see NK #2239
lxxxix Cedrus deodara, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don; see AVS 41, NK #516
xc Amomum subulatum, Roxb.?; see PVS Caraka 2.734, AVS 1.128, NK #154
xci Calophyllum inophyllum, L.; see AVS 1.338, NK #425
xcii Prunus cerasus, L.?; see BVDB 58, NK #2037
xciii Mesua ferrea, L.; see NK #1595
xciv Nymphaea stellata, Willd.; see GJM 528, IGP 790; Dutt 110, NK #1726
xcv Clitoria ternatea, L.; see AVS 2.129, NK #621
xcvi Embelia ribes, Burm. f.; see ADPS 507, AVS 2.368, NK #929, Potter 113
xcvii Santalum album, L.; see ADPS 111, NK #2217
xcviii Cinnamomum tamala, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees; see AVS 2.84, NK #
xcix Callicarpa macrophylla, Vahl.; see AVS 1.334, NK #420
c Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats; see AVS 2.285, NK #177
ci Curcuma longa, L.; see ADPS 169, AVS 2.259, NK #750
cii Berberis aristata, DC.; see Dymock 1.65, NK #685, GJM 562, IGP 141
ciii Solanum violaceum, Ortega; see ADPS 100, NK #2329, AVS 5.151
civ Solanum virginianum, L.; see ADPS 100, NK #2329, AVS 5.164
cv Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br.; see ADPS 434, AVS 3.141–5, NK #1210
cvi Ichnocarpus frutescens, (L.) R.Br. or Cryptolepis buchanani, Roemer & Schultes; see AVS 3.141, 3.145, 3.203, NK #1283, #1210, ADPS 434
cvii Desmodium gangeticum (L.) DC; see Dymock 1.428, GJM 602, NK #1192; ADPS 382, 414 and AVS 2.319, 4.366 are confusing

pṛśniparṇī)[cviii].

50–52 Curing the 'slow-acting' poison

Someone suffering from 'slow-acting poison (*dūṣīviṣa*)' should be well sweated, and purged both top and bottom. Then he should in all cases be made to drink the following antidote which removes 'slow-acting poison':

Take long pepper (*pippalī*)[cix], rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*)[cx], spikenard (*māṃsī*)[cxi], lodh tree (*śāvara* → *lodhra*)[cxii], nutgrass (*paripelava* → *plava* → *mustā?*)[cxiii], soda crystals (*suvarcikā* → *suvarjikā*)[cxiv], cardamom (*sūkṣmailā*)[cxv], 'scented pavonia' (*toya* → *bālaka*)[cxvi], and 'gold-chalk' ochre (*kanakagairika*). This antitoxin, taken with honey, eliminates 'slow-acting poison'. It is called 'slow-acting poison antidote (*dūṣīviṣāri*)', and there is no situation where it is not recommended.

53–54 If there are any side-effect (*upadrava*)s, such as fever, a burning feeling, hiccups, constipation (*ānāha*), depletion of the semen, distension, diarrhoea, fainting, illness in the heart, bellyache (*jaṭhara*), madness, trembling, or others, then one should treat each one in its own terms, as well as using the anti-toxic medicines.

55 'Slow-acting poison' is curable (*sādhya*) if caught immediately; it is treatable (*yāpya*) if it is of a year's standing; but it cannot be cured in someone who has unhealthy habits or who is weak (*kṣīṇa*).

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cviii Uraria lagopoides, DC; see GJM 577, Dymock 1.426, IMP 1.750ff., NK #2542; ADPS 382, AVS 2.319 4.366 are confusing
cix Piper longum, L.; see ADPS 374, NK #1928
cx Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats; see AVS 2.285, NK #177
cxi Nardostachys grandiflora, DC.; see NK #1691
cxii Symplocos racemosa, Roxb.; see ADPS 279, NK #2420
cxiii Cyperus rotundus, L.; see ADPS 316, AVS 2.296, NK #782
cxiv Sodium carbonate; see NK 2, p. 101
cxv Elettaria cardamomum, Maton; see AVS 2.360, NK #924, Potter 66
cxvi Pavonia odorata, Willd.; see ADPS 498, NK #1822

Thus ends the second chapter, called ‘on the knowledge of stationary poisons’, in the Procedures Section of Suśruta’s *Compendium*.

Abbreviations

Ah 1939 — Kuṃṭe, Aṇṇā Moreśvara, Navare, Kṛṣṇaśāstrī, and Parādkar, Hariśāstrī (1939) (eds.), श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम्, श्रीमद्-रुणदत्तविरचितया सर्वाङ्गसुन्दराख्यया व्याख्यया, हेमाद्रिप्रणीतया आयुर्वेदर-सायनाह्वया टीकया च समुल्लसितम् = *The Astāngahṛidaya* (6th edn., Muṃbayyām: Nirṇayasāgara Press), ark:/13960/t3tt6967d.

Anup — *Anup Sanskrit Library* (n.d.).

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AS — *Asiatic Society* (n.d.).

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BL — *British Library* (n.d.).

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HIML — Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1999–2002), *A History of Indian Medical Literature*, 5 vols. (Groningen: E. Forsten), ISBN: 9069801248.

KL — *Kaiser Library* (n.d.).

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* (n.d.).

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.

NGMCP — NGMCP (2014), 'Nepal-german Manuscript Cataloguing Project. Online Title List and Descriptive Catalogue', Universität Hamburg and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, URL.

NK — Nadkarni, K. M. (1982*a*), *Dr. K. M. Nadkarni's Indian Materia Medica, with Ayurvedic, Unani-tibbi, Siddha, Allopathic, Homeopathic, Naturopathic & Home Remedies, Appendices & Indexes ... in Two Volumes*, ed. A. K. Nadkarni, 2 vols. (3 ed., revised and enlarged by A. K. Nadkarni, Bombay: Popular Prakashan), ISBN: 8171541429, URL.

RORI — *Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute* (n.d.).

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 = *The Sushrutasamhita of Sushruta, the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shri Dalhaṇāchārya* (Mumbayyāṃ: Nirṇayasāgaramudrāyantrālaye), ark:/13960/t3sv0mt50, accessed 29/07/2020; HIML: IB, 312 edition *v.

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Su 1938 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (1938) (eds.), श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्य-व्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यप-ञ्जिकाव्याख्यया 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 श्री-गयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाव्याख्यया च समुल्लसिता (Vārāṇasī: Caukhambhā Kṛṣṇadāsa Akādamī); Reprint of the third, 1938 edition (Su 1938).

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TMSSML *Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji Saraswati Mahal Library* (n.d.).

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Glossary

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