

A Translation of the New Edition of the  
*Suśrutasamhitā*

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### Abstract

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

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<sup>1</sup> MS Kathmandu KL 699, MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079, and MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333.

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## Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 2

### Translation

- 1 And now I shall explain the one giving the knowledge of stationary poisons.<sup>100</sup>
- 3 It is said that there are two kinds of poisons, stationary (*sthāvara*) and mobile (*jaṅgama*). The former dwells in ten places, the latter has sixteen locations.
- 4 Traditionally, the ten are: root, leaf, fruit, flower, bark, milky sap (*kṣīra*), pith (*sāra*), resin (*niryāsa*), the element (*dhātu*)s, and the tuber.
- 5 In that context,
  - the eight root-poisons are:
    - liquorice (*klītaka*)<sup>101</sup>,
    - sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*)<sup>102</sup>,
    - jequirity (*guñjā*)<sup>103</sup>,
    - aconite (*subhaṅgurā* → *bhaṅgura* = *atviṣā*?)<sup>104</sup>,
    - ? (*karaṭā* → *karaghāṭa* → *karahāṭa*?)<sup>105</sup>,
    - and ending with
    - leadwort (*vidyutśikhānta* → *agni-* or *rakta-śikhā*?)<sup>106</sup>, and
    - cannabis (*vijayā*)<sup>107,108</sup>,
  - the five leaf-poisons are:

100 No reference is made to Dhanvantari (see Birch, Wujastyk, Klebanov, Parameswaran, et al. 2021).

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

102 Nerium oleander, L.; see ADPS 223, NK #1709

103 Abrus precatorius, L.; see AVS 1.10, NK #6, Potter 168

104 Aconitum ferox, Wall. ex Ser.; see NK #39, “parts used: dried tuberous roots.”

105 ?; see ?

106 Plumbago zeylanica (or rosea?), L.; see NK #1966, 1967

107 Cannabis sativa, L.; see AVS 1.356, NK #442

108 The roots of sweet-scented oleander are highly toxic, as are most parts of the plant. 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). The dose can be quite small. Large doses of the root-extract of rauwolfia can be fatal. In large doses luffa is emetic and a drastic purgative. The roots of both rose and white leadwort are very toxic. It is at present uncertain whether cannabis was known in India at Suśruta’s time (**meul-sear**).

- ‘poison-leaf’ (*viṣapatrikā*)<sup>109</sup>,
- ‘dangling’ (*lambā*)<sup>110</sup>,
- ‘choice tree’ (*varadāru*)<sup>111</sup>,
- thorn apple (*karambha*)<sup>112</sup>, and
- ‘big thorn apple’ (*mahākarambha*)<sup>113</sup>;
- the twelve fruit-poisons are:
  - kumudvatī (*kumudvatī*)<sup>114</sup>,
  - ‘little bamboo’ (*veṇukā*)<sup>115</sup>,
  - thorn apple (*karambha*)<sup>116</sup>,
  - ‘big thorn apple’ (*mahākarambha*)<sup>117</sup>,
  - ribbed gourd (*karkoṭaka*)<sup>118</sup>,
  - black cardamom (*hareṇu*)<sup>119</sup>,
  - purple calotropis (*khadyotaka* → *arka?*)<sup>120</sup>,
  - carmarī (*carmarī*)<sup>121</sup>,
  - heliotrope (*ibhagandhā* → *hastīśuṇḍa?*)<sup>122</sup>,
  - ‘snake-killer’ (*sarpaghātī*)<sup>123</sup>,
  - ‘gladdener’ (*nandana*)<sup>124</sup>, and

109 unknown; see ?

110 unknown; see ?

111 unknown; see ?

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

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

114 unknown; see ?

115 *Bambusa bambos*, Druce?; see NK #307

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

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

118 *Luffa acutangula*, (L.) Roxb.? (*Mormodica cochinchinensis*, Spreng.? Cf. *Luffa tuberosa*); see AVS 3.347 (NK #1640, 1643; NK #1520)

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

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

121 unknown; see ?

122 *Heliotropium indicum*, L.; see AVS 3.136, NK #1203

123 unknown; see ?

124 unknown; see ?

- ‘juice-cooker’ (*sārapāka*)<sup>125,126</sup>
- the five flower-poisons are:
  - rattan (*vetra*)<sup>127</sup>,
  - wild chinchona (*kādamba*)<sup>128</sup>,
  - black pepper (*vallīja* → *marica*)<sup>129</sup>,
  - thorn apple (*karambha*)<sup>130</sup>, and
  - big thorn apple (*mahākarambha*)<sup>131</sup>;
- the seven bark, pith (*sāra*) and resin (*niryāsa*) poisons are:
  - ‘gutboiler’ (*antrapācaka*)<sup>132</sup>,
  - ‘blade’ (*kartariya*)<sup>133</sup>,
  - wild mustard (*saurīyaka*)<sup>134</sup>,
  - emetic nut (*karaghāṭa* → *karahāṭa?* → *madana*)<sup>135</sup>,
  - thorn apple (*karambha*)<sup>136</sup>,
  - wild asparagus (*nandana* → *bahuputrā?*)<sup>137</sup>, and
  - munj grass (*nārācaka*)<sup>138,139</sup>
- the three milky sap (*kṣīra*)-poisons are:
  - purple calotropis (*kumudaghñī* → *arka?*)<sup>140, 141</sup>

125 unknown; see ?

126 Bamboo is not toxic. Heliotrope flowers are abortifacient in large doses.

127 Calamus rotang, L.; see AVS 1.330, NK #413

128 Anthocephalus cadamba, Miq.; see NK #204

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

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

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

132 unknown; see ?

133 unknown; see ?

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

135 Randia dumetorum, Lamk.; see NK #2091

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

137 Asparagus racemosus, Willd.; see ADPS 441, AVS 1.218, NK #264, IGP 103, IMP 4.249ff., Dymock 482ff.

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

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

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

141 The name of this poison, *kumuda-ghñī*, means ‘lotus killer’. In Sanskrit literature, the

- oleander spurge (*snuhī*)<sup>142</sup>, and
- ‘web-milk’ (*jālakṣīri*)<sup>143</sup>;
- the two element (*dhātu*)-poisons are:
  - ‘foam-stone’ (*phenāśma*)<sup>144</sup>, and
  - orpiment (*haritāla*)<sup>145,146</sup>
- the thirteen tuber-poisons are:
  - jequirity (*kālakūṭa*)<sup>147,148</sup>
  - wolfsbane (*vatsanābha*)<sup>149</sup>,
  - Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*)<sup>150</sup>,
  - leadwort (*pālaka* → *citraka*)<sup>151</sup>,
  - ‘muddy’ (*kardama*)<sup>152</sup>, the
  - ‘Virāṭa’s plant’ (*vairāṭaka*)<sup>153</sup>,
  - nutgrass (*mustaka*)<sup>154</sup>,

*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.

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

143 unknown; see ?

144 unknown; see ?

145 *Arsenii trisulphidum*; see NK v. 2, p. 20 ff.

146 **Dutt-1922** conjectured that ‘foam-stone’ may be impure white arsenic obtained by roasting orpiment.

147 *Abrus precatorius*, L.? Cf. RRS 21.14.; see AVS 1.10, NK #6, Potter 168.

148 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.

149 *Aconitum napellus*, L.; see AVS 1.47, NK #42, Potter 4 f.

150 *Brassica juncea*, Czern. & Coss.; see AVS 1.301, NK #378

151 *Plumbago zeylanica* (indica? rosea?), L.; see Rā. 6.124, ADPS 119, NK #1966, 1967

152 unknown; see ?

153 unknown; see ?

154 *Cyperus rotundus*, L.; see ADPS 316, AVS 2.296, NK #782



- atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*)<sup>155</sup>,
- sacred lotus (*prapuṇḍarīka*)<sup>156</sup>,
- radish (*mūlaka*)<sup>157</sup>,
- 'alas, alas' (*hālāhala*)<sup>158</sup>,
- 'big poison' (*mahāviṣa*)<sup>159</sup>, and
- galls (*karkaṭa*)<sup>160, 161</sup>.

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 Root-poisons cause writhing (*udveṣṭana*), moaning (*pralāpa*), and delirium (*moha*). Leaf-poison is known for causing yawning, writhing limbs, and wheezing (*śvāsa*). Fruit-poisons cause swelling of the scrotum, a burning feeling, and a repugnance for food. Flower-poisons will cause vomiting, distension (*ādhmāna*), and delirium (*moha*). The use of bark, pith (*sāra*) and resin (*niryāsa*) poisons will cause foul-smelling breath, coarseness (*pāruṣya*), a headache, and a flow of phlegm (*kapha*). The milky sap (*kṣīra*)-poisons make one froth,<sup>162</sup> and make the tongue feel heavy. The element (*dhātu*)-poisons give one a pain in the chest,

155 *Aconitum heterophyllum*, Wall. ex Royle; see AVS 1.42, NK #39

156 *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn.; see Dutt 110, NK #1698

157 *Raphanus sativus*, L.; see NK #2098

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

159 unknown; see ?

160 *Rhus succedanea*, L.; see NK #2136

161 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. **agra-īndi** 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 (**stei-pers** cites Persian *halāhil* 'deadly (poison)' as a loan from Sanskrit). **mayr-kurz** also cites a claim for an Austro-Asiatic origin for the word.

162 This is indeed the observed effect of the milky sap of *Calotropis procera*, R. Br. (NK).

make one faint, and cause a burning feeling on the palate. These poisons are classified as ones which are normally 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*)<sup>163</sup>, there is numbness, trembling, and rigidity. With wolfsbane (*vatsanābha*)<sup>164</sup>, there is rigidity of the neck, and the faeces, urine, and eyes become yellow. With Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*)<sup>165</sup>, the wind becomes defective (*vātavaiguṇya*), there is constipation (*ānāha*), and lumps (*granthi*) start to appear. With leadwort (*pālaka* → *citraka*)<sup>166</sup>, everyone agrees that there is weakness in the neck, and speech gets jumbled. With the one called ‘muddy’ (*kardama*)<sup>167</sup>, there is a discharge (*praseka*), the faeces pour out, and the eyes turn yellow. With the ‘Virāṭa’s plant’ (*vairāṭaka*)<sup>168</sup>, one’s limbs hurt, and one’s head becomes ill. With nutgrass (*mustaka*)<sup>169</sup>, one’s arms and legs grow stiff, and start to tremble.

- 15b With atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*)<sup>170</sup>, one’s limbs grow weak, there is a burning feeling.
- 16a With sacred lotus (*prapuṇḍarīka*)<sup>171</sup>, one’s eyes go red, and one’s belly becomes distended.
- 16b With radish (*mūlaka*)<sup>172</sup>, one is drained of colour, one vomits, one has hiccups, distension, and passes out.
- 17a With ‘alas, alas’ (*hālāhala*)<sup>173</sup>, a man starts, after a while, to gasp and turn brown.

163 *Abrus precatorius*, L.? Cf. RRS 21.14.; see AVS 1.10, NK #6, Potter 168.

164 *Aconitum napellus*, L.; see AVS 1.47, NK #38, Potter 4 f.

165 *Brassica juncea*, Czern & Coss.; see AVS 1.301, NK #378

166 *Plumbago zeylanica* (indica? rosea?), L.; see Rā. 6.124, ADPS 119, NK #1966, 1967

167 unknown; see ?

168 unknown; see ?

169 *Cyperus rotundus*, L.; see ADPS 316, AVS 2.296, NK #782

170 *Aconitum heterophyllum*, Wall. ex Royle; see AVS 1.42, NK #39

171 *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn.; see Dutt 110, NK #1698

172 *Raphanus sativus*, L.; see NK #2098

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

- 17b With 'big poison' (*mahāvīṣa*)<sup>174</sup>, one gets violent knots (*granthi*) and stabbing pains in the heart.
- 18a With galls (*karkaṭa*)<sup>175</sup>, 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' (*dūṣṭvīṣa*). 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*).<sup>176</sup>

<sup>174</sup> unknown; see ?

<sup>175</sup> *Rhus succedanea*, L.; see NK #2136

<sup>176</sup> 'Contaminated dropsy' (*duṣyodara* or *dūṣyudara*) is described elsewhere as a condition

- 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*)<sup>177</sup>.
- 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.<sup>178</sup>
- 44 In the intervals between each shock, assuming that the above actions

<sup>177</sup> Glycyrrhiza glabra, L.; see AVS 3.84, NK #1136

<sup>178</sup> 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).

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*)<sup>179</sup>, migraine tree (*agnimantha*)<sup>180</sup>, velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*)<sup>181</sup>, 'sun-creeper' (*sūryavallī* → *jīvantī*?)<sup>182</sup>, heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*)<sup>183</sup>, myrobalan (*abhayā*)<sup>184</sup>s, siris (*śirīṣa*)<sup>185</sup>, white siris (*kiṇihī*)<sup>186</sup>, selu plum (*śelu*)<sup>187</sup>, white clitoria (*giryāhvā*)<sup>188</sup>, the two kinds of turmeric (*rajanī*)<sup>189</sup>, the two hogweed (*punarnavā*)<sup>190</sup>s (red and white), black cardamom (*hareṇu*)<sup>191</sup>, the three pungent spices (*trikaṭu*) (dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*)<sup>192</sup>, long pepper (*pippalī*)<sup>193</sup>, and black pepper (*marica*)<sup>194</sup>), the two Indian sarsaparillas (*sārive*) (country sarsaparilla (*anantā*)<sup>195</sup> and black creeper (*pāṇḍī*)<sup>196</sup>) and country mallow (*balā*)<sup>197</sup>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

187 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.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

197 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*)<sup>198</sup>, Indian rosebay (*tagara*)<sup>199</sup>, costus (*kuṣṭha*)<sup>200</sup>, deodar (*bhadradāru*)<sup>201</sup>, black cardamom (*hareṇu*)<sup>202</sup>, Alexandrian laurel (*punnāga*)<sup>203</sup>, cherry (*elavāluka*)<sup>204</sup>, cobra's saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*)<sup>205</sup>, water-lily (*utpala*)<sup>206</sup>, white clitoria (*sitā* → *śvetā*?)<sup>207</sup>, embelia (*viḍaṅga*)<sup>208</sup>, sandalwood (*candana*)<sup>209</sup>, cassia cinnamon (*patra*)<sup>210</sup>, 'going-to-my-darling' (*priyaṅgu*)<sup>211</sup>, rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*)<sup>212</sup>, the two turmeric (ordinary turmeric (*rajanī*)<sup>213</sup> and Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*)<sup>214</sup>), the two Indian nightshade (*bṛhatī*)s (poison berry (*bṛhatī*)<sup>215</sup> and yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*)<sup>216</sup>), the two Indian sarsaparillas (*sārive*) (country sarsaparilla (*anantā*)<sup>217</sup> and black creeper (*pālindī*)<sup>218</sup>), beggarweed (*sthirā* → *śālaparṇī*)<sup>219</sup>, and 'spotted-leaf' (*sahā* → *pr̥śni*-

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

199 Tabernaemontana divaricata (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schultes.; see GJM 557, AVS 5.232

200 Saussurea costus, Clarke; see NK #2239

201 Cedrus deodara, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don; see AVS 41, NK #516

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

203 Calophyllum inophyllum, L.; see AVS 1.338, NK #425

204 Prunus cerasus, L.?; see BVDB 58, NK #2037

205 Mesua ferrea, L.; see NK #1595

206 Nymphaea stellata, Willd.; see GJM 528, IGP 790; Dutt 110, NK #1726

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

208 Embelia ribes, Burm. f.; see ADPS 507, AVS 2.368, NK #929, Potter 113

209 Santalum album, L.; see ADPS 111, NK #2217

210 Cinnamomum tamala, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees; see AVS 2.84, NK #

211 Callicarpa macrophylla, Vahl.; see AVS 1.334, NK #420

212 Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats; see AVS 2.285, NK #177

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

214 Berberis aristata, DC.; see Dymock 1.65, NK #685, GJM 562, IGP 141

215 Solanum violaceum, Ortega; see ADPS 100, NK #2329, AVS 5.151

216 Solanum virginianum, L.; see ADPS 100, NK #2329, AVS 5.164

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

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

219 Desmodium gangeticum (L.) DC; see Dymock 1.428, GJM 602, NK #1192; ADPS 382, 414 and AVS 2.319, 4.366 are confusing



*parṇī*)<sup>220</sup>.

## 50–52 Curing the ‘slow-acting’ poison

Someone suffering from ‘slow-acting poison (*dūṣṭviṣa*)’ 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*)<sup>221</sup>, rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*)<sup>222</sup>, spikenard (*māṃsī*)<sup>223</sup>, lodh tree (*śāvara* → *lodhra*)<sup>224</sup>, nutgrass (*paripelava* → *plava* → *mustā*?)<sup>225</sup>, soda crystals (*suvarcikā* → *suvarjikā*)<sup>226</sup>, cardamom (*sūkṣmailā*)<sup>227</sup>, ‘scented pavonia’ (*toya* → *bālaka*)<sup>228</sup>, and ‘gold-chalk’ ochre (*kanakagairika*). This antitoxin, taken with honey, eliminates ‘slow-acting poison’. It is called ‘slow-acting poison antidote (*dūṣṭviṣāri*)’, 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*).

220 *Uraria lagopoides*, DC; see GJM 577, Dymock 1.426, IMP 1.750ff., NK #2542; ADPS 382, AVS 2.319 4.366 are confusing

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

222 *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.) Wats; see AVS 2.285, NK #177

223 *Nardostachys grandiflora*, DC.; see NK #1691

224 *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb.; see ADPS 279, NK #2420

225 *Cyperus rotundus*, L.; see ADPS 316, AVS 2.296, NK #782

226 Sodium carbonate; see NK 2, p. 101

227 *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton; see AVS 2.360, NK #924, Potter 66

228 *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 Kumṭe, Aṇṇā Moreśvara, Navare, Kṛṣṇaśāstrī, and Parādkar, Hariśāstrī (1939) (eds.), श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम्, श्रीमद-  
रुणदत्तविरचितया सर्वाङ्गसुन्दराख्यया व्याख्यया, हेमाद्रिप्रणीतया आयुर्वेद-  
सायनाह्वया टीकया च समुल्लसितम् = *The Astāṅgahṛidaya* (6th edn.,  
Mumbayyām: Nirṇayasāgara Press), [ark:/13960/t3tt6967d](http://13960/t3tt6967d).
- Anup *Anup Sanskrit Library* (n.d.).
- Apte Apte, Vaman Shivaram (1992), *The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary* (Kyoto: Rinsen Book Company), ISBN: 4-653-00038-7; Reprinted from Gode and Karve 1957-9.
- AS *Asiatic Society* (n.d.).
- As 1980 Āṭhavale, Anaṃta Dāmodara (1980) (ed.), *Aṣṭāṅgasan̄grahaḥ. Śrīmad Vṛddhavāgbhaṭaviracitaḥ Induvyākhyāsahitaḥ* (Pune: Ma-  
heśa Anaṃta Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), [ark:/13960/t9773bb9z](http://13960/t9773bb9z).
- Bhela 1921 Mookerjee, Ashutosh and Ananta Krishna Shastri, Ved-  
antabisharad (1921) (eds.), *The Bhela Samhita. Sanskrit Text* (Calcutta: University of Calcutta), [ark:/13960/t3sv3157j](http://13960/t3sv3157j);  
Based on two copies made of the Thanjavur codex unicus  
(MS Thanjavur TMSSML 10773, Burnell 1880: 63-4, P. P. S.  
Sastri 1933: #11085).
- Bhela 2000 Krishnamurthy, K. H. (2000), *Bhela-saṃhitā. Text with English Translation, Commentary and Critical Notes* (Haridas Ayurveda Series, 8; Varanasi: Chaukhambha Visvabharati).
- BL *British Library* (n.d.).
- Ca. 1941 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1941) (ed.), महर्षिणा पुनर्व-  
सुनोपदिष्टा, तच्छिष्येणाग्निवेशेन प्रणीता, चरकदृढबलाभ्यां प्रतिसंस्कृता च-  
रकसंहिता, श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संवलिता  
(3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirṇaya Sagara Press), [URL](http://13960/t3sv3157j), accessed  
01/01/2018.
- 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](#).
- 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 Dalhanāchārya* (Mumbayyām: Nirṇayasāgaramudrāyantrālaye), [ark : / 13960 / t3sv0mt50](#), accessed 29/07/2020; [HIML](#): IB, 312 edition \*v.
- Su 1931 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1931) (ed.), सुश्रुतसंहिता, वैद्यवरश्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया समुल्लसिता, महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता, सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पस्थानोत्तरतन्त्रात्मकः. आचार्योपाह्वेन त्रिविक्रमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = *The Sushrutasamhitā of Sushruta with the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shree Dalhanāchārya* (2nd edn., Mumbayyām: Pāṇḍuraṅga Jāvajī at the Nirṇayasāgaramudrāyantrālaye), [ark : / 13960 / t9j41sg94](#), accessed 09/06/2020; [HIML](#): IB, 312 edition \*v.

- 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](https://nirayasa.org/ark:/13960/t09x0sk1h); [HIML](https://nirayasa.org/HIML): IB, 313, edition cc ('the vulgate').
- Su 1938<sup>2</sup> 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](https://nirayasa.org/Su1938)).
- Su 1939 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama and Śarman, Nandakiśora  
(1939) (eds.), सुश्रुतसंहितायाः सूत्रस्थानम्. श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया  
भानुमतीव्याख्याया समेतम् = *Sushrut-saṁhitā (sūtra Sthān) with  
Bhānumatī Commentary by Chakrapāṇi Datta with Introduction  
by Gaṇanāth Sen (Śrīsvāmī Lakṣmīrāma Nidhi Grantha-  
mālā = Shri Swāmī Lakshmī Rām Trust Series, 1; [Jaipur]:  
Śyāmasundara Śarman)*, [ark : / 13960 / t54g0d12m](https://nirayasa.org/ark:/13960/t54g0d12m); Printed at  
the Nirṇayasāgara Press, Bombay.
- Su 1945 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikramācārya and Ācārya, Nārāy-  
aṇa Rāma (1945) (eds.), महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता  
(मूलमात्रा). पाठान्तर-परिशिष्टादिभिः संवलिता = *the Suśrutasaṁhitā  
of Suśruta with Various Readings, Notes and Appendix etc.*  
(Mumbāi: Nirṇayasāgarākhyamudraṇālaye), [URL](https://nirayasa.org/URL).
- TMSSML *Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji Saraswati Mahal Library* (n.d.).
- Viṣṇudh. Śarman, Madhusūdāna and Śarman, Mādhavaprasāda  
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(Mumbai: Khemarāja Śrīkṛṣṇadāsa at the Śrīveṅkaṭeś-  
vara Steam Press), [ark : / 13960 / t6qz6fr23](https://nirayasa.org/ark:/13960/t6qz6fr23); Lithograph  
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Pāṭhaśālā.

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## Todo list

■ Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8. . . . .	25
■ I'm still unhappy about this verse. . . . .	28
■ Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate. . . . .	28
■ fn about sadyas+ . . . . .	28
■ Bear's bile instead of deer's bile. . . . .	29
■ punarṇavā in the N & K MSS . . . . .	30
■ śrita for śṛta . . . . .	30
■ explain more . . . . .	31
■ Medical difference from Sharma. . . . .	31
■ example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text. . . . .	31
■ 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. . . . .	32
■ √vyadh not √vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative. . . . .	32
■ opposite of the vulgate Same as As 1.8.89 (As 1980: 79). . . . .	32
■ Medical difference. . . . .	32
■ where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm. . . . .	33
■ maṣī burned charcoal. Find refs. . . . .	33
■ find ref. . . . .	39
■ Check out these refs. . . . .	40
■ or a dual? . . . . .	44

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