

# A Translation of the New Edition of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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# Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 4

## 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 poisoning experienced by a victim of snakebite and related topics. The taxonomy of snakes is presented in a presentational variant form in Figure 2.

## 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.<sup>247</sup> There also exists a herpetological literature from colonial India as well as more recent studies of snakes in the context of religious life.<sup>248</sup>

A discussion of this chapter specifically in the light of the Nepalese manuscripts was published by Harimoto.<sup>249</sup> 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.<sup>250</sup>

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<sup>247</sup> HIML: IA, 292–294.

<sup>248</sup> E.g., Ewart 1878; Wall 1921. 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 toxic effects and fright (69–75) and also the difficulties arising out of uncertainty about the effects of snake-bite (124–126). 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.

<sup>249</sup> Harimoto 2011: 101–104.

<sup>250</sup> The two editions that Harimoto noted, Su 1938 and Su 1889, present identical texts.

## Translation

- 1 Now we shall explain the procedure relating to the knowledge concerning the venom in those who have been bitten by snakes.<sup>251</sup>
- 3 Suśruta, grasping his feet, questions the wise Dhanvantari, the expert in all the sciences.
- 4 “My Lord, please speak about the number of snakes, and their divisions, the symptoms of someone who has been bitten, and the knowledge concerning the waves (*vega*) of poisoning”.<sup>252</sup>
- 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.”<sup>253</sup>
- 9cd–10 “There are eighty kinds of snakes and they are divided in five ways: Darvīkaras, Maṇḍalins, Rājimants, and Nirviṣās. And Vaikaraṇjas that are traditionally of three kinds.<sup>254</sup>
- 11 “Twenty hooded snakes are known, six Maṇḍalins, and the same number of Rājimants. Nirviṣas and Karaṇjas are

<sup>251</sup> *Sarvāṅgasundarī* on 1.16.17 kalpa = prayoga.

<sup>252</sup> The word “wave” translates वेग, which in other contexts may mean “(natural) urge.” Here, it is rather the discrete stages or phases of physiological reaction to envenomation.

<sup>253</sup> 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 *Suśrutasaṃhitā* has greater internal coherence than the vulgate recension.

<sup>254</sup> Harimoto (2011) translates these names as “hooded,” “spotted,” “striped,” “harmless,” and “hybrid.”

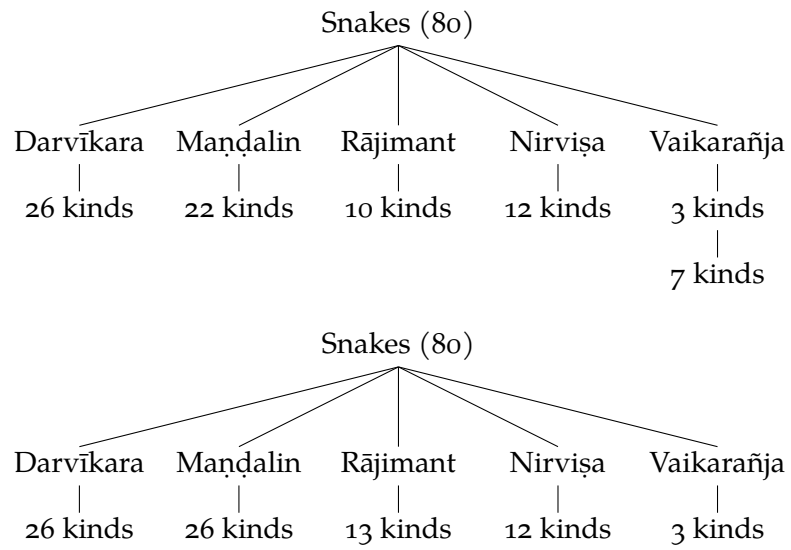


Figure 2: Top: the taxonomy of snakes in 5.4.9–13ab (Su 1938: 571).  
Bottom: the taxonomy of snakes in the Nepalese version.

## Editions and Abbreviations

- Ah 1939 Kumṭe, Aṇṇā Moreśvara, Navare, Kṛṣṇaśāstrī, and Parādkar, Hariśāstrī (1939) (eds.), श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम्, श्रीमदरुणदत्तविरचितया सर्वाङ्गसुन्दराख्यया व्याख्यया, हेमाद्रिप्रणीतया आयुर्वेदरसायनाह्वया टीकया च समुल्लसितम् = *The As-tāṅgahṛidaya* (6th edn., Mumbayyām: Nirṇayasāgara Press), [ark:/13960/t3tt6967d](http://ark:/13960/t3tt6967d).
- 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 श्रीमद्बृह्मवाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasanṅraha with Indu's Commentary*] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), [ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7](http://ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7).
- AyMahā Jośī, Veṇīmādhavaśāstrī, and Jośī, Nārāyaṇa Harī (1968), आयुर्वेदीय महाकोशः अर्थात् आयुर्वेदीय शब्दकोशः संस्कृत-संस्कृत (Mumbai: Mahārāṣṭra Rājya Sāhitya āṇi Saṃskṛti Maṇḍala), [ark:/13960/t22c41g8t](http://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](http://ark:/13960/t3sv3157j); Based on two copies made of the Thanjavur codex unicus (MS Thanjavur TMSSML 10773, Burnell 1880: 63–4, P. P. S. Sastri 1933: #11085).
- Bhela 2000 Krishnamurthy, K. H. (2000), *Bhela-saṃhitā. Text with English Translation, Commentary and Critical Notes* (Haridas Ayurveda Series, 8; Varanasi: Chaukhambha Visvabharati).
- BL *British Library.*



- Ca. 1941 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1941) (ed.), महर्षिणा पुनर्वसुनोपदिष्टा, तच्छिष्येणाग्निवेशेन प्रणीता, चरकदृढबलाभ्यां प्रतिसं-स्कृता चरकसंहिता, श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संवलिता (3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirnaya Sagara Press), [ark:/13960/t48q2f20n](https://nirnayasangraha.org/ark:/13960/t48q2f20n).
- EWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1986–2001), *Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag), ISBN: 3-533-03826-2.
- 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/s2kbb5zcrg9](https://nirnayasangraha.org/ark:/13960/s2kbb5zcrg9).
- KEWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1953–72), *Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen; a Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag).
- KL *Kaiser Library*.
- MN<sub>1</sub> 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](https://nirnayasangraha.org/ark:/13960/t9z08jn5j).
- MN<sub>3</sub> Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1932) (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* (3rd edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), [ark:/13960/t66452x0h](https://nirnayasangraha.org/ark:/13960/t66452x0h); Reprinted Varanasi: Chowkhambha, 1986.

MW	Monier-Williams, Monier, Leumann, E., Cappeller, C., et al. (1899), <i>A Sanskrit–English Dictionary Etymologically and Philologically Arranged, New Edition</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press); 1970 reprint.
NAK	<i>National Archives of Kathmandu.</i>
NCC	Raghavan, V., et al. (1949–), <i>New Catalogus Catalogorum, an Alphabetical Register of Sanskrit and Allied Works and Authors</i> , 39 vols. (Madras University Sanskrit Series; Madras: University of Madras); v.1: revised edition, 1968. Searchable at <a href="https://vmlt.in/ncc/">https://vmlt.in/ncc/</a> .
NGMCP	NGMCP (2014), “Nepal-german Manuscript Cataloguing Project. Online Title List and Descriptive Catalogue,” Universität Hamburg and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, <a href="#">URL</a> .
RORI	<i>Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute.</i>
Su 1889	Bhaṭṭācāryya, Jivānanda Vidyāsāgara (1889) (ed.), सुश्रुतः. सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पोत्तर-तन्त्र-कल्पित आयुर्वेद. भगवता धन्वन्तरिणोपदिष्टः सुश्रुतनामधेयेन तच्छिष्येण विरचितः (3rd edn., Calcutta: Saratī Press), <a href="https://nopr.ernet.in/13960/t1nh6j09c">ark:/13960/t1nh6j09c</a> ; HIML: IB, 311, edition b.
Su 1915	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1915) (ed.), सुश्रुतसंहिता, सुश्रुतेन विरचिता, वैद्यवरश्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया समुल्लसिता, आचार्योपाद्वेन त्रिविक्रमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = <i>The Sushrutasamhita of Sushruta, the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shri Dalhanāchārya</i> (Mumbayyām: Nirṇaya-sāgaramudrāyantrālaye), <a href="https://nopr.ernet.in/13960/t3sv0mt50">ark:/13960/t3sv0mt50</a> , 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. आचार्योपाद्वेन त्रिविक्रमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = <i>The Sushrutasamhitā of Sushruta with the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shree Dalhanāchārya</i> (2nd edn.,

- Mumbayyām: Pāṇḍuraṅga Jāvajī at the Nirṇayasāgara-mudrāyantrālaye), [ark :/ 13960 / t9j41sg94](#), accessed 09/06/2020; [HIML](#): IB, 312 edition \*v.
- Su 1938      Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama, and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (1938) (eds.), श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाव्याख्यया च समुल्लसिता महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता (3rd edn., Bombay: Nirṇayasāgara Press), [ark :/ 13960 / t09x0sk1h](#); [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 श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाव्याख्यया च समुल्लसिता (Vārāṇasī: Caukhambhā Kṛṣṇadāsa Akādamī); Reprint of the third, 1938 edition ([Su 1938](#)).
- Su 1939      Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama, and Śarman, Nandakiśora (1939) (eds.), सुश्रुतसंहितायाः सूत्रस्थानम्. श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया भानुमतीव्याख्याया समेतम् = *Sushrut-saṅhitā (sūtra Sthān) with Bhānumatī Commentary by Chakrapāṇi Datta with Introduction by Gaṇanāth Sen* (Śrīsvāmī Lakṣmīrāma Nidhi Granthamālā = Shrī Swāmī Lakshmi Rām Trust Series, 1; [Jaipur]: Śyāmasundara Śarman), [ark :/ 13960 / t54g0d12m](#); Printed at the Nirṇayasāgara Press, Bombay.
- Su 1945      Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikramācārya, and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (1945) (eds.), महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता (मूलमात्रा). पाठान्तर-परिशिष्टादिभिः संवलितः = *the Suśrutasaṅhitā of Suśruta with Various Readings, Notes and Appendix etc.* (Mumbāi: Nirṇayasāgarākhyamudraṇālaye), [ark :/ 13960 / t8kd4jh7n](#).
- TMSSML      *Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji Saraswati Mahal Library.*
- Viṣṇudh.      Śarman, Madhusūdana, and Śarman, Mādhavaprasāda (1912) (eds.), विष्णुधर्मोत्तरपुराणम् = [*Viṣṇudharmottarapurāṇa*] (Mumbai: Khemarāja Śrīkṛṣṇadāsa at the Śrīveṅkaṭeśvara Steam Press), [ark :/ 13960 / t6qz6fr23](#); Lithograph format. Edited on the basis of a manuscript belonging to the

astrologer Śudhākaraśarman of the Varanasi Sanskrit  
Pāṭhaśālā.

## Index of Manuscripts

*The numbers after the colon refer to pages in this document.*

Thanjavur TMSSML 10773: 90

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परिशिष्टादिभिः संवलिता = *the Suśrutasaṃhitā of Suśruta with Various Readings,  
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## Glossary

*vega*

- waves: 70

waves

- *vega*: 70

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## Glossary and Index of Medical Substances

- amaranth (*taṇḍulīyaka*) *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, L. See King 321, NK: v. 1, #144, *Potter<sub>rev</sub>*: 15. Cf. AVS: v. 1, 121, 44
- axlewood (*dhava*) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. See AVS: v. 1, 163 f, Chopra: 20, 63
- bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) *Bambusa bambos*, Druce. See NK: v. 1, #307, 44
- beautyberry (*priyaṅgu*) ← *śyāmā*. *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: v. 1, 334, NK: v. 1, #420. Some say also *Setaria italica* Beauv. GVDB: 263–264. See also GVDB: 413, 60, 64
- beautyberry (*śyāmā*) *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: v. 1, 334, NK: v. 1, #420, 42, 44
- beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC (*Dymock*: v. 1, 428, *GJM1*: 602, NK: v. 1, #1192; *ADPS*: 382, 414 and AVS: v. 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing), 60
- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) → *śālāparṇī*. *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. See *Dymock*: v. 1, 428, *GJM1*: 602, cf. NK: v. 1, #1192; *ADPS*: 382, 414 and AVS: v. 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing, 33
- black creeper (*pāḷindī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buehneri*, Roemer & Schultes. See AVS: v. 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203, NK: v. 1, #1283, 1210, *ADPS*: 434, 44, 47, 59, 60
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420, 43
- blackbuck (*hariṇa*) *Antelope cervicapra*, L. See BIA: 270 IW: 95, 165, *et passim*, 47
- blue water-lily (*utpala*) *Nymphaea stellata*, Willd. See *GJM1*: 528, *IGP* 790; *Dutt*: 110, NK: v. 1, #1726, 25, 42, 59, 60
- cardamom (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton. See AVS: v. 2, 360, NK: v. 1, #924, *Potter<sub>rev</sub>*: 66, 60, 64
- cassia cinnamon (*patra*) *Cinnamomum tamala*, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees. See AVS: v. 2, 84, NK: v. 1, #589, 44, 60
- castor oil tree (*gandharvahaṣṭa*) → *eraṇḍa*. GVDB: 135, K&B: v. 3, 2277, 30
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: v. 1, #2145, Chopra: 214, 35
- 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 pāradaḥ*, “tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury.”, 64
- chebulic myrobalan (*haritakī*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. GVDB: 466, 43
- cherry (*elavālu*) *Prunus cerasus*, L.?. See BVDB 58, NK: v. 1, #2037, GVDB: 58, 60
- chital deer (*pr̥ṣata*) *Axis axis*, Erxleben. See BIA: 292, IW: 93, 47
- cobra’s saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → *nāgakeśara*. *Mesua ferrea*, L. See NK: v. 1, #1595, GVDB: 220, 60
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) *Erythrina suberosa* Roxb. See GVDB 245, 63
- costus (*kuṣṭha*) *Saussurea costus*, Clarke. See NK: v. 1, #2239, 44, 60, 64
- country mallow (*atibālā*) *Abutilon indicum*, (L.) Sweet, but may be other kinds of mallow, e.g., *Sida rhombifolia*, L.. See NK: v. 1, #11, *IGP*: 1080, NK: v. 1, #2300, *ADPS*: 71, 77, 33
- country sarsaparilla (*anantā*) *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. See *ADPS*: 434, AVS: v. 3, 141–5, NK: v. 1, #1210. But see GVDB: 13 for complications that may suggest that it is to be equated with *sārivā*, which may sometimes be *Cryptolepis* or *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br. (GVDB: 429–431), 33, 49, 59, 60, 63
- crape jasmine (*nata*) → crape jasmine GVDB: 215, 123, 124
- crape jasmine (*tagara*) *Tabernaemontana divaricata* (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schultes. See *GJM1*: 557, AVS: v. 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**: v. 5, 334, **44**, **60**, **123**, **124**
- crimson trumpet-flower tree (*pāṭalā*)  
*Stereospermum chelonides*, (L. f.) A. DC. See **GJM1**: 573, **AVS**: v. 5, 192 ff, **ADPS**: 362 f, **AVS**: v. 3, 1848 f, **IGP** 1120, **Dymock**: v. 3, 20 ff, **63**
- cuscut grass (*uśīra*) *Andropogon murcatus*, Retz. Also “vetiver grass.” See **NK**: v. 1, #180, **44**
- datura* (*dhattūra*) *Datura metel*, L. See **AVS**: v. 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), **NK**: v. 1, #796 ff. **Potter<sub>rev</sub>**: 292 f, **ADPS**: 132, **30**
- decanted liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*)  
**K&B**: v. 2, 502, **NK**: v. 2, appendix VI, #49, **32**
- deodar (*bhadrādāru*) *Cedrus deodara*, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See **AVS** 41, **NK**: v. 1, #516, **60**
- dried meat (*vallūra*) **MW**: 929, **AyMahā**: v. 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**: v. 3, 167), **25**
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) → *añjana*. See **Indian barberry**, **35**
- embelia (*vidāṅga*) *Embelia ribes*, Burm. f. See **ADPS**: 507, **AVS**: v. 2, 368, **NK**: v. 1, #929, **Potter<sub>rev</sub>**: 113, **60**
- emetic nut (*madana*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See **NK**: v. 1, #2091, **42**
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (*su*)bhaṅgura = *bhṛṅga*? *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See **GVDB**: 288, **49**
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → *kāñjī*, *kāñjikā*, *sauvīra*. **GVDB**: 458, **NK**: v. 2, appendix VI, #18, **32**
- 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, **46**
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) *Woodfordia fruticosa* (L.) Kurz. See **AVS**: v. 5, 412, **NK**: v. 1, #2626, **43**
- fragrant lotus (*saugandhika*) A type of *kumuda* or *utpala* (**GVDB**: 457), **25**
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* Gaertn. f. See **GVDB**: 28, **Chopra**: 100, **63**
- giant potato (*kṣīravīdārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq. See **ADPS**: 510, **AVS**: v. 3, 222, **AVS**: v. 3, 1717 ff, **125–127**
- ginger (*mahaṣadha*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See **ADPS**: 50, **NK**: v. 1, #2658, **IGP**: 1232, **47**
- gold (*hema*) gold, **60**
- 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”, **64**
- golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) *rājadruma* = *āragvadha*. *Cassia fistula* L. See **GVDB** 37, **63**
- gourd (*alābu*) *Lagenaria siceraria* Standl. **GVDB**: 25. Some say *Lagenaria vulgaris*, Seringe (**NK**: v. 1, #1419) but this is not appropriate for blood-letting, **21**, **22**, **43**
- heart-leaf sida (*balā*) *Sida cordifolia*, Linn. See **ADPS**: 71, **NK**: v. 1, #2297, **33**, **60**
- heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*. *Tinospora cordifolia*, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.?. See **ADPS**: 38, **NK**: v. 1, #2472, 624, **Dastur** #229, **44**, **59**

- heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*)  
*Tinospora cordifolia* (Thunb.) Miers.  
 GVDB: 456. Likely, but uncertain, 44
- henna (*madayantikā*) *Lawsonia inermis*, L.  
 See AVS: v. 3, 303, NK: v. 1, #1448,  
 Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 151, 45
- Himalayan mayapple (*vakra*)  
*Podophyllum emodi*, Wall.  
 (NK: #1971). But perhaps a synonym of  
 crape jasmine and crape jasmine  
 (GVDB: 354), 64
- Himalayan monkshood (*ativiṣā*)  
*Aconitum heterophyllum* Wall.  
 GVDB: 12, NK: v. 1, #39. Also “atis  
 roots”, 45, 47, 64
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*,  
 L. See ADPS: 387, AVS: v. 1, 281,  
 NK: v. 1, #363, 45, 59
- Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) →  
*sūryavallī*? *Holostemma ada-kodien*,  
 Schultes. See ADPS: 195, AVS: v. 3, 167,  
 NK: v. 1, #1242, AVS: v. 3, 1619, 126
- horned pondweed (*śaivāla*) also *śaivāla*,  
*śevāra*. *Zannichellia palustris* L. The  
 uncertainties of this identification are  
 discussed by Singh and Chunekar  
 (GVDB: 409). Sometimes identified  
 with scutch grass (*dūrvā*) (GVDB: 409).  
 Identified as *Ceratophyllum demersum*  
 Linn. (“hornwort”) by  
 AVS: v. 2, 56–57x, 125, 127
- hornwort (*jalaśūka*) ← *jalanīlikā*.  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*, L. See  
 AVS: v. 2, 56, IGP: 232. Singh and  
 Chunekar (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, 33
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) → *rasañjana*,  
*dāruharidrā*. *Berberis aristata*, DC.  
 Dymock: v. 1, 65, NK: v. 1, #335,  
 GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, 35, 46, 124
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis*  
*aristata*, DC. See Dymock: v. 1, 65,  
 NK: v. 1, #685, GJM1: 562, IGP 141,  
 59, 60
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) → *dāruharidrā*,  
*añjana*. *Berberis aristata*, DC. See  
 Dymock: v. 1, 65, NK: v. 1, #685,  
 GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, 44
- 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, 33, 126
- Indian kudzu (*vidārī*) → *payasyā*. *Pueraria*  
*tuberosa* (Willd.) DC. See ADPS: 510,  
 AVS: v. 1, 792 f, AVS: v. 4, 391; not  
 Dymock: v. 1, 424 f. See GJM2: 444, 451,  
 AVS: v. 1, 187, but AVS: v. 3, 1719 =  
*Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq, 33
- Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) *Rubia*  
*cordifolia*, L. See IGP, Chopra: 215,  
 GVDB: 289, 30, 60
- 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), 23
- Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*) *Brassica juncea*,  
 Czern. & Coss. See AVS: v. 1, 301,  
 NK: v. 1, #378, 26
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*) → *anantā*.  
*Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br.  
 ADPS: 434, AVS: v. 3, 141–5, NK: v. 1,  
 #1210; and black creeper, *pālindī*.  
*Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or  
*Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer &  
 Schultes AVS: v. 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203,



- NK: v. 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434, 59, 60, 124
- jambul (*jambū*) *Syzygium cumini*, (L.) Skeels. See ADPS: 188, NK: v. 1, #967, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 168, Wujastyk 2003a, 43
- jasmine (*mālatī*) *Jasminium grandiflorum*, L. See NK: v. 1, #1364, 44
- jequirity (*guñjā*) *Abrus precatorius*, L. See AVS: v. 1, 10, NK: v. 1, #6, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 168, 49
- lac (*lākṣā*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). See GJM1: 445, NK: v. 2, #32. Watt (*WattComm*: 1053–1066) is characteristically informative, and is definite about the antiquity of lac in India, 64
- liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L.? GVDB: 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant, 49
- liquorice (*madhuka*) see *yaṣṭīmadhuka*, 33, 47, 58, 60
- liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L. AVS: v. 3, 84, NK: v. 1, #1136, GVDB: 329 f., 35
- lodh tree (*lodhra*) *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb. See GJM1: 597, ADPS: 279 f, NK: v. 1, #2420. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 351–352) notes that there are two varieties, *S. racemosa*, qualified as *śāvāra*, and *S. crataegoides* Buch.-Ham. for *paṭṭikā lodhra*, 60
- long pepper (*māgadha*) *Piper longum*, L. See NK: v. 1, #1928; but cf. AVS: v. 3, 245, 46
- long pepper (*pippalī*) *Piper longum*, L. See ADPS: 374, NK: v. 1, #1928, 47, 60
- luffa (*koṣṭakī*) = *koṣātakī*. *Luffa cylindrica*, (L.) M. J. Roem. or *L. acutangula*, (L.) Roxb. ADPS: 252–253, NK: v. 1, #1514 etc. GVDB: 121, 43, 59, 126
- luffa gourd (*koṣavatī*) = *koṣṭakī*, luffa, 59
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. GVDB: 37, 43
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacarium*, L. See NK: v. 1, #2269, AVS: v. 5, 98, 46
- medhshingi (*vijayā2*) *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) The *Sauśrutaniḥaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *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), 49
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See AVS 1927, ADPS: 21, NK: v. 1, #2025, AVS: v. 4, 348; GJM1: 523: = P. integrifolia/serratifolia, L, 59
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. GVDB: 126: see purple *roscoea* and giant potato, 33, 127
- monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis*, Schneider. See Reptiles: 58, 33, 47
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo* Linn. GVDB: 308, 44
- myrobalan (*abhayā*) *Terminalia chebula*, Retz. See ADPS: 172, NK: v. 1, #2451, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 214, 59, 64
- natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. NK: v. 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with svarjikṣāra 4.8.50 (Su 1938: 441), 60
- neem tree (*nimba*) *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. GVDB: 226, 30
- nutgrass (*kuruvinda*) Unknown. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.15 (Su 1938: 568) glossed the term as *nutgrass*, but noted other opinions that it was a whetstone or a very special metallic gem. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 108) added that it could be a variety of rice, *ṣaṣṭika dhānya*, 64
- nutgrass (*mustā*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See ADPS: 316, AVS: v. 2, 296, NK: v. 1, #782, 126
- panacea twiner (*arkapuṣpī*) → *arkaparnī*,



- Tylophora indica (Burm. f.) Merr.  
GVDB: 23–24. Maybe identical to  
Indian ipecac, giant potato and similar  
sweet, milky plants. See GVDB: 24, 127,  
238, 441, 443 for discussion. For  
discussion in the context of  
Holostemma creeper, see ADPS: 195  
and AVS: v. 3, 171. The etymology of  
the name suggests Helianthus annuus  
Linn., but this plant is native to the  
Americas, 59, 125
- peas (*hareṇu*) hareṇu = satīna. Pisum  
sativum, L. Singh and Chunekar  
(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, 59, 60, 64
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) Ficus religiosa, L.  
See ADPS: 63, 67
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*)  
Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br. See  
AVS: v. 3, 107, NK: v. 1, #1173, 46
- 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), 125
- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) Trichosanthes  
dioica, Roxb. GVDB: 232–233, 59
- poison berry (*bṛhatī*) Solanum violaceum,  
Ortega. See ADPS: 100, NK: v. 1, #2329,  
AVS: v. 5, 151, 59, 60
- pondweed (*paripelavā*) Normally a neuter  
noun. Singh and Chunekar  
(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., 60
- pondweed (*śevāla*) Zannichellia palustris  
L. See horned pondweed, 25
- prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*)  
Achyranthes aspera, L. See GJM1: 524 f,  
AVS: v. 1, 39, ADPS: 44 f, AVS: v. 3,  
2066 f, Dymock: v. 3, 135, 30, 33
- purging nut (*mūṣikā*) Jatropha curcas, L.  
See AVS: v. 3, 261, NK: v. 1, #1374, 46
- purple calotropis (*arka*) Calotropis  
gigantea, (L.) R. Br. See ADPS: 52,  
AVS: v. 1, 341, NK: v. 1, #427,  
Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 57, Chopra IDG: 305–308, 33
- 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., 125, 126
- rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrvī*,  
Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) Wight  
et Arn. Good discussion at  
GVDB: 314–316, 324, 59
- red chalk (*gairika*) gairika, 60
- red gourd (*bimbī*) Coccinia indica, W. &  
A. See PVS 1994.4.715; NK: v. 1, #534,  
43
- rice (*śālī*) Oriza sativa, Linn.  
GVDB: 395–396, 26, 127
- rice grains (*taṇḍula*) Oriza sativa, Linn.  
Same as rice (*śālī*) GVDB: 174, 26
- rock salt (*saindhava*) See NK: v. 2, M#48,  
Watt<sub>Comm</sub>: 963–971, 26
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) Cymbopogon  
martinii (Roxb.) Wats. See  
AVS: v. 2, 285, NK: v. 1, #177, 60
- sacred lotus (*padma*) Nelumbo nucifera,  
Gaertn. See NK: v. 1, #1698, 25, 44
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkollā*) Alangium  
salvifolium (Linn. f.) Wang.  
GVDB: 5–6, 43
- sandalwood (*candana*) Santalum album,  
L. See ADPS: 111, NK: v. 1, #2217, 60
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*.  
Caesalpinia sappan, L. AVS: v. 1, 323,  
K&B: v. 2, 847 f, GVDB: 234, 35
- scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) Pentapetes  
phoenicea, L. NK: #1836, GVDB: 268, 45
- scented pavonia (*bālaka*) Pavonia odorata,  
Willd. See ADPS: 498, NK: v. 1, #1822,  
60
- scutch grass (*dūrvā*) Cynodon dactylon

- (Linn.) Pers. (GVDB: 205), 124  
 selu plum (*śelu*) *Cordia myxa*, L. non  
 Forssk. See GJM1: 529 (2), IGP: 291b, cf.  
 AVS: v. 3, 1677 f; cf. AVS: v. 2, 180 (*C.*  
*dichotoma*, Forst.f.), NK: v. 1, #672 (*C.*  
*latifolia*, Roxb.), 59  
 sesame oil (*taila*) *Sesamum indicum* L.  
 GVDB: 183, 34  
 siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbbeck*, Benth. See  
 AVS: v. 1, 81, NK: v. 1, #91, 59  
 siris seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) *Albizia lebbbeck*,  
 Benth. See AVS: v. 1, 81, NK: v. 1, #91, 43  
 small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*)  
*Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb. See  
 GVDB: 432, 63  
 spikenard (*māmsī*) *Nardostachys*  
*grandiflora*, DC. See NK: v. 1, #1691, 60  
 spikenard (*nalada*) → *māmsī*.  
*Nardostachys grandiflora*, DC. See  
 NK: v. 1, #1691, 41  
 sugar (*sitā*) *Ḍalhaṇa* makes this equation  
 at 1.37.25 (Su 1938: 162), 60  
 sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → *ādityavallī*,  
*sūryamukhī*, *Helianthus annuus* Linn.  
 GVDB: 35, 443, 59  
 sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet  
 plants are enumerated at  
*Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.42.11. See also  
 GVDB: 127, 33  
 sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*)  
*Nerium oleander*, L. See ADPS: 223,  
 NK: v. 1, #1709, 49  
 Tellicherry bark (*kuṭaja*) *Holarrhena*  
*pubescens* Wall. ex G. Don, with  
*Wrightia tinctoria* and *W. arborea*  
 considered GVDB: 101–102,  
 ADPS: 267–270, 124  
 thorn apple (*karambha*) *Datura metel*, L.  
 See AVS: v. 2, 305 (cf.  
*Abhidhānamāñjarī*), NK: v. 1, #796 ff.  
 Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 292 f, ADPS: 132, 50  
 three heating spices (*tryūṣaṇa*) *śunṭhī*  
 (Dried ginger) *Zingiber officinale*,  
 Roscoe. ADPS: 50, NK: v. 1, #2658,  
 AVS: v. 5, 435, IGP 1232, pippalī (long  
 pepper) *Piper longum*, L. ADPS: 374,  
 NK: v. 1, #1928, and marica (black  
 pepper) *Piper nigrum*, L. ADPS: 294,  
 NK: v. 1, #1929, 59  
 three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva*  
*magna* (Lour.) DC. See AVS: v. 2, 202;  
 cf. NK: v. 1, #696, 46  
 tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) *G. arboreum* L.  
 ADPS: 231. Pace the identifications of  
 Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 92, 247),  
 since *G. barbadense* L. is native to  
 South America and *G. herbaceum* L.  
 which is native to Africa, 30  
 tree cotton (*picu*) See *kārpāsa*, 32, 35  
 turmeric (*haridrā*) *Curcuma longa* Linn.  
 GVDB: 465, 59, 64  
 turmeric (*rajanī*) *Curcuma longa*, L.  
 ADPS: 169, AVS: v. 2, 259, NK: v. 1,  
 #750, 26, 60  
 velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) *Cissampelos pariera*, L.  
 See ADPS: 366, NK: v. 1, #592,  
 GJM1: 573, AVS: v. 1, 95; cf.  
 AVS: v. 2, 277, 59  
 velvet-mite (*indragopa*) *Kerria lacca*  
 (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978, 42  
 verbena (*phañjī*) *Clerodendrum serratum*,  
 L. See AVS: v. 2, 121, ADPS: 87, 45  
 watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) MW: 183, 43  
 weaver's beam tree (*muṣkaka*) *Schrebera*  
*swietenoides*, Roxb. See AVS: v. 5, 88,  
 Lord, NK: v. 1, #2246, 63  
 white calotropis (*alarka*) *Calotropis*  
*procera*, (Ait.) R. Br. See NK: v. 1, #428,  
 Chopra: 46b, Chopra IDG: 305–308, 33  
 white clitoria (*śvetā*) → *giryāhvā*. *Clitoria*  
*ternatea*, L. See AVS: v. 2, 129, NK: v. 1,  
 #621, 44  
 white cutch tree (*somavalka*) *Acacia*  
*polyacantha*, Willd. See AVS: v. 1, 30,  
 IGP 7, GJM1: 602, AVS: v. 2, 935; pace  
 NK: v. 1, #1038, 45, 63  
 white siris (*kiñihī*) *Albizia procera*,  
 (Roxb.) Benth. See GVDB 98, NK: v. 1,  
 #93, 59  
 white water-lily (*kumuda*) *Nymphaea*

- alba, Linn. [GVDB](#): 105, [25](#)
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) → *nandana*?  
 Asparagus racemosus, Willd. See  
[ADPS](#): 441, [AVS](#): v. 1, 218, [NK](#): v. 1,  
 #264, [IGP](#): 103, [AVS](#): v. 4, 2499 ff,  
[Dymock](#): v. 3, 482 ff, [45](#)
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhalātaka*,  
*lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*,  
[GVDB](#): 4. Uncertain, [59](#)
- wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*,  
 L., [59](#)
- wild sugarcane stalks (*kāṇḍa*) → *śara*,  
*muñja* *Saccharum munja* Roxb.  
[GVDB](#): 90, 391, [26](#)
- Withania* (*aśvagandhā*) *Withania*  
*somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See [AVS](#): v. 5,  
 409 f, [Dymock](#): v. 2, 566 f., Chevallier  
 150, [33](#)
- wood apple (*kapittha*) *Limonia acidissima*,  
 L. See [AVS](#): v. 3, 327, [NK](#): v. 1, #1021,  
[44](#), [46](#)
- woodrose (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatopha curcas*, L.  
[AVS](#): v. 3, 261, [NK](#): v. 1, #1374.  
[GVDB](#): 317; [ADPS](#): 23–25 discuss this  
 issue well, [44](#)
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*)  
*Solanum virginianum*, L. See  
[ADPS](#): 100, [NK](#): v. 1, #2329,  
[AVS](#): v. 5, 164, [59](#), [60](#)

## Todo list

■ Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8. . . . .	40
■ I'm still unhappy about this verse. . . . .	43
■ Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate. . . . .	43
■ fn about sadyas+ . . . . .	43
■ Bear's bile instead of deer's bile. . . . .	44
■ punarṇṇavā in the N & K MSS . . . . .	45
■ śrita for śṛta . . . . .	45
■ explain more . . . . .	45
■ Medical difference from Sharma. . . . .	46
■ example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text. . . .	46
■ 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. . . . .	46
■ √ vyadh not √ vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative. . . . .	46
■ opposite of the vulgate Same as 1.8.89 (As 1980: 79). . . . .	47
■ -> ativiṣa . . . . .	55
■ Look up the ca. reference. . . . .	55
■ Come back to the issue of "kalpa". Look up passages in the Kośa. . . . .	61
■ write footnote: don't repeat ativiṣā; vulgate similar to H. . . . .	64
■ material corresponds to SS.1.45.205ab, where it describes how alcohol affects the body. . . . .	67
■ kalpa? . . . . .	70
■ ? . . . . .	70
■ where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm. . . .	72
■ maṣi burned charcoal. Find refs. . . . .	73
■ find ref. . . . .	78
■ Check out these refs. . . . .	79
■ meaning of kalpa . . . . .	79
■ or a dual? . . . . .	83

