

A Translation of the New Edition of the  
*Suśrutasamhitā*

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Draft of 4th May 2023  
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# Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 4

## Introduction

The fourth chapter of the Kalpasthāna of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* addresses the topic of snake bites and snake venom. Unusually for the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, 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 ??.

## 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> HIMAL: 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 *Suśrutasaṃhitā*'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.

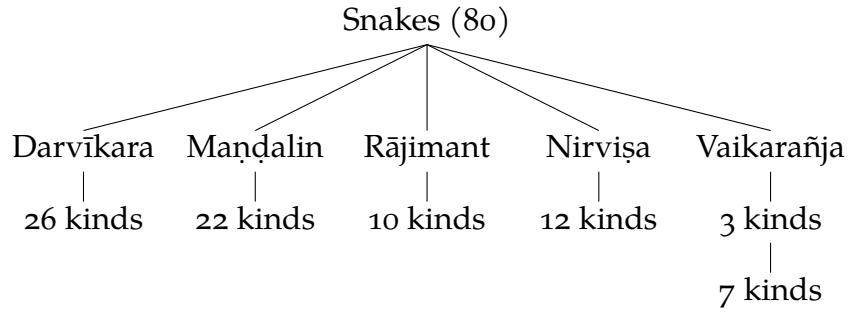


Figure 2: The taxonomy of snakes in the vulgate, 5.4.9–13ab (Su 1938: 571).

## Translation

- 1 Now we shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) 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 successive shocks (*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>

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

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

253 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.

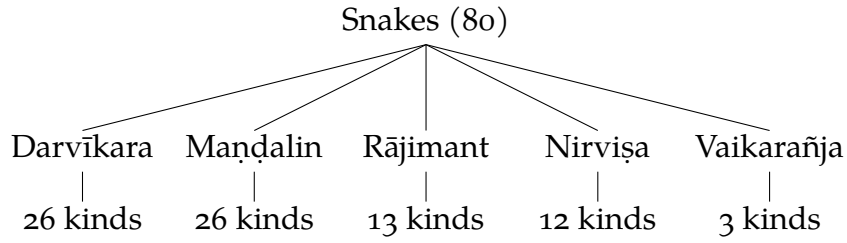


Figure 3: The taxonomy of snakes in the Nepalese version.

- 9cd–10 “There are eighty kinds of snakes and they are divided in five ways: Darvīkaras, Maṇḍalins, Rājimants, and Nirviṣas. And Vaikarañjas that are traditionally of three kinds.<sup>254</sup>
- 11 “Of those, there are twenty and six hooded snakes, and the same number of Maṇḍalins are known. There are thirteen Rājīmants.<sup>255</sup>
- 12 “There are said to be twelve Niriviṣas and, according to tradition, three Vaikarañjas.
- 13–14ef “If they are trodden on, bad or provoked or looking for food, those very angry snakes will bite. And that is said to happen in three ways: serpented (*sarpita*), torn (*darita*) and thirdly without venom (*nirviṣa*). Some experts want to add “hurt by the snake’s body”.<sup>256</sup>
- 15–16 An aroused snake may make one, two or more deep imprints (*pada*) of its teeth with little blood.<sup>257</sup> They have a little row of puncture-marks (*cuñcumālaka*),<sup>258</sup> making them abnormal. They are close together and swollen. The physician can recognize this as “serpented (*sarpita*).”

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

254 Harimoto (2011) translated these names as “hooded,” “spotted,” “striped,” “harmless,” and “hybrid.” Figure 2 shows the taxonomy described in the vulgate text; Figure 3 shows the different and more logical division of the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.

255 The phrasing of this śloka is awkward.

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

257 Note that पद “imprints” is being used in the same sense as in 1.13.19 (Su 1938: 57) when describing the marks on the body where a knife scarifies. See footnote 67.

258 The usual dictionary lexeme is चञ्चु “beak, bill,” not चुञ्चु as in the Nepalese witnesses.

## 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, Anaṃta Dāmodara (1980) (ed.), अष्टाङ्गसङ्ग्रहः श्रीमद्बृह्मवाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasan̄graha with Indu's Commentary*] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), [ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7](http://ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7).
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- 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://ncc.nyu.edu/ark:/13960/t1nh6j09c">ark:/13960/t1nh6j09c</a> ; HIML: IB, 311, edition b.
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- Mumbayyām: Pāṇḍuraṅga Jāvajī at the Nirṇayasāgara-mudrāyantrālaye), [ark :/ 13960 / t9j41sg94](#), accessed 09/06/2020; [HIML](#): IB, 312 edition \*v.
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- 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

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## Index of Manuscripts

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

Thanjavur TMSSML 10773: 90

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## Glossary

<i>cuñcumālaka</i>	- <i>cuñcumālaka</i> : 71	- <i>sarpita</i> : 71
- little row of		successive shocks
puncture-marks: 71	<i>nirviṣa</i>	- <i>vega</i> : 70
	- without venom:	
<i>darita</i>	71	torn
- torn: 71		- <i>darita</i> : 71
imprints	<i>pada</i>	
- <i>pada</i> : 71	- imprints: 71	<i>vega</i>
	procedure	- successive shocks:
<i>kalpa</i>	- <i>kalpa</i> : 70	70
- procedure: 70	<i>sarpita</i>	
little row of	- serpented: 71	without venom
puncture-marks	serpented	- <i>nirviṣa</i> : 71

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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*) → *śālaparṇī*. *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 (*pālindī*) *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 pāraḍaḥ*, “tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury.”, 64
- chebulic myrobalan (*harītakī*) *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 (*bhadradāru*) *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 (*viḍaṅga*) *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 (*kṣīravidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq. See ADPS: 510, AVS: v. 3, 222, AVS: v. 3, 1717 ff, 125–127
- ginger (*mahaśadha*) *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 (*sarsapa*) *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, pālinḍi.  
*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 (*mālātī*) *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  
 ([Watt<sub>Comm</sub>](#): 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*) = *kośātakī*. *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 (*kośavatī*) = *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 *Sauśrutaniḥṣaṇṭu*  
 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 (*māśaka*) *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* = *saṭīna*. *Pisum*  
*sativum*, L. Singh and Chuneekar  
(GVDB: 419–420, 467–468) notes that  
two plants are usually meant under this  
name, but there is no agreement on the  
identity of the second, 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 (*kṣīrīṇī*) 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 (*br̥hatī*) *Solanum violaceum*,  
Ortega. See ADPS: 100, NK: v. 1, #2329,  
AVS: v. 5, 151, 59, 60
- pondweed (*paripelavā*) Normally a neuter  
noun. Singh and Chuneekar  
(GVDB: 238, 264–265, 409) argued that  
*plava* and *śaivāla* are the same thing, and  
may be either *Zannichellia palustris*, L.,  
or *Potamogeton pectinatus*, L., 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 (*anikolla*) *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
- sisir (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbeck*, Benth. See [AVS](#): v. 1, 81, [NK](#): v. 1, #91, 59
- sisir seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) *Albizia lebbeck*, 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*) *śuṇṭhī* (Dried ginger) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. [ADPS](#): 50, [NK](#): v. 1, #2658, [AVS](#): v. 5, 435, [IGP](#) 1232, pippalī (long pepper) *Piper longum*, L. [ADPS](#): 374, [NK](#): v. 1, #1928, and marica (black pepper) *Piper nigrum*, L. [ADPS](#): 294, [NK](#): v. 1, #1929, 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 (*kiṇihī*) *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
■ punarṇavā 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
■ Or "There are 20 phaṇins and 6 maṇḍalins. The same number are known. There are 13 Rājīmants." Or even, "there are 20 Phaṇins and six of them are Maṇḍalins." Are phaṇins really the same as darvīkaras? . . . . .	71
■ where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm. . . . .	72
■ maṣī burned charcoal. Find refs. . . . .	73
■ find ref. . . . .	78
■ Check out these refs. . . . .	79
■ meaning of kalpa . . . . .	79
■ or a dual? . . . . .	83

