# A Translation of the New Edition of the Suśrutasaṃhitā

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## Contents

The manuscripts and editions used in the vulgate editions by Yā-	
davaśarman Trivikrama Ācārya	5
The sources of the 1915 edition	5
The sources of the 1931 edition	5
The sources of the 1938 edition	6
Evaluation	7
The 1939 edition	8
The sources for the Bhānumatī	8
The sources for the Suśrutasaṃhitā	10
Evaluation	10
Features of the manuscript transmission	12
Palaeographical features	12
Chart of characters	12
Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 1	13
Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 2	20
Literature	20
Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 13: On Leeches	21
Literature	21
Previous scholarship	21
Translation	21
Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 16	28
Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 28	36
Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 1	37
Literature	37
Manuscript notes	38
Translation	39
[Threats to the king]	39

Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 2	48
Introduction	48
Translation	48
The effects of poisons	53
Symptoms of tuber poisoning	54
Slow-acting poison	56
The stages of toxic shock	57
Remedies for the stages of slow poisoning	58
The invincible ghee	60
Curing the 'slow-acting' poison	60
Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 3	61
Introduction	61
Translation	61
The origin of poison	65
Patients beyond help	67
Kalpasthāna, adhyāya 4	69
Introduction	69
Literature	69
Translation	7 <sup>C</sup>
Uttaratantra, adhyāya 16 (17 in the vulgate)	72
Literature	72
Translation	72
[Complications]	81
[Characteristics of the probe]	82
[Complications]	82
Uttaratantra, adhyāya 38	85
Introductory remarks	85
Translation	
Editions and Abbreviations	90
Index of Manuscripts	94
References	Q/I

Glossary	116
Materia Medica Reference Works	116
Glossary and Index of Medical Substances On digital critical editions	<b>118</b> 129

## 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>

<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 snakebite (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 *Suśrutasaṇhitā*'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.

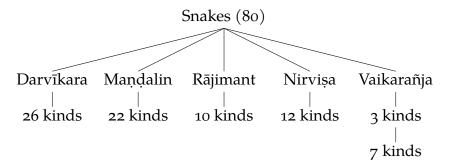


Figure 2: The taxonomy of snakes in the vulgate, 5.4.9–13ab (Su 1938: 571).

#### **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>
- 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>

<sup>251</sup> The Sarvāṅgasundarī, commenting on 1.16.17 (Ah 1939: 246), glossed कल्प as प्रयोग.

<sup>252</sup> The expression "successive shocks" translates वेग, which is 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).

<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.

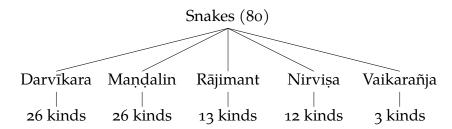


Figure 3: The taxonomy of snakes in the Nepalese version.

- 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>
  - "Of those hooded snakes there are twenty and six. And the same number of Maṇḍalins are known. There are thirteen Rājīmants.
  - "According to tradition there are twelve Niriviṣas and three Vaikarañjas.
- "If they are trodden on or provoked, angry or determined to bite, 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."
  - The physician can tell he has been serpented (sarpita) as follows. There are one, two or more depressed locations (pada) of the teeth. And it makes a swelling.<sup>255</sup> They have a line of puncture-marks ( $cu\tilde{n}cu$ ),<sup>256</sup> making them abnormal. They are shrivelled and have swellings.

<sup>254</sup> 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*.

<sup>255</sup> Ungrammatical phrase.

<sup>256</sup> The usual dictionary lexeme is चेश्रु "beak, billl," not चुश्रु, but the Nepalese manuscripts are clear.

### **Editions and Abbreviations**

Ah 1939 Kuṃṭe, Aṇṇā Moreśvara, Navare, Kṛṣṇaśāstrī, and Parādkar, Hariśāstrī (1939) (eds.), श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम्, श्रीमद्रुणदत्त्तविरचितया सर्वाङ्गसुन्दराख्यया व्याख्यया, हेमाद्रिप्रणीतया आयुर्वेद्रसायनाह्वया टीकया च समुल्लस्तितम् = The Astāngahṛidaya (6th edn., Muṃbayyām: Nirṇayasāgara Press), 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 श्रीमद्द्र-द्धवाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasaṅgraha with Indu's Commentary] (Puṇe: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7.

AyMahā Jośī, Veṇīmādhavaśāstrī, and Jośī, Nārāyaṇa Harī (1968), आ-युर्वेदीय महाकोशः अर्थात् आयुर्वेदीय शब्दकोशः संस्कृत–संस्कृत (Muṃbaī: Mahārāṣṭra Rājya Sāhityta āṇi Saṃskṛti Maṃḍaḷa), ark:/ 13960/t22c41g8t.

Bhela 1921 Mookerjee, Ashutosh, and Ananta Krishna Shastri, Vedantabisharad (1921) (eds.), *The Bhela Samhita. Sanskrit Text* (Calcutta: University of Calcutta), ark:/13960/t3sv3157j; Based on two copies made of the Thanjavur codex unicus (MS Thanjavur TMSSML 10773, Burnell 1880: 63–4, P. P. S. Sastri 1933: #11085).

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, श्रीचकपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संविलता (3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirnaya Sagara Press), 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/s2kbk5zcrg9.

KEWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1953–72), Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen; a Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag).

KL Kaiser Library.

MN1 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1920) (ed.), महामतिश्रीमाधवकरप्रणीतं माधवनिदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्थदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया
मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्यया, श्रीवाचस्पतिवैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्याया
विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लिसितम् = Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara
with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita
& Shrīkanthadatta and Ātankadarpaṇa by Vāchaspati Vaidya
(1st edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/
t9z08jn5j.

MN3 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1932) (ed.), महामतिश्रीमाधवकरप्रणीतं माधविनदानम् श्रीविजयरक्षित-श्रीकण्थदत्ताभ्यां विरचितया
मधुकोशाख्यव्याख्यया, श्रीवाचस्पतिवैद्यविरचितया आतङ्कदर्पणव्याख्याया
विशिष्टांशेन च समुल्लसितम् = Mādhavanidāna by Mādhavakara
with the Two Commentaries, Madhukosha by Vijayarakshita
& Shrīkanthadatta and Ātankadarpaṇa by Vāchaspati Vaidya
(3rd edn., Bombay: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/
t66452x0h; Reprinted Varanasi: Chowkhambha, 1986.

MW

Monier-Williams, Monier, Leumann, E., Cappeller, C., et al. (1899), *A Sanskrit–English Dictionary Etymologically and Philologically Arranged, New Edition* (Oxford: Clarendon Press); 1970 reprint.

**NAK** 

National Archives of Kathmandu.

**NCC** 

Raghavan, V., et al. (1949–), New Catalogus Catalogorum, an Alphabetical Register of Sanskrit and Allied Works and Authors, 39 vols. (Madras University Sanskrit Series; Madras: University of Madras); v.1: revised edition, 1968. Searchable at https://vmlt.in/ncc/.

**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.

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

Su 1931

Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1931) (ed.), सुश्रु-तसंहिता, वैद्यवरश्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया समुल्लिसता, महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता, सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पस्थानोत्तरतन्त्रात्मकः. आचार्योपाह्वेन त्रिविकमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = The Sushrutasaṃhitā of Sushruta with the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shree Dalhaṇāchārya (2nd edn., Mumbayyāṃ: 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 निवन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचिन्द्रकाख्यपञ्जिकाव्याख्यया च समुष्ठसिता 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 निवन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीग्यदासाचार्यविरचितया 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.), सृश्रुतसंहितायाः सूत्रस्थानम्, श्रीचकपाणिदत्तविरचितया भानुमतीव्याख्याया समेतम् = Sushrut-sañhitā (sūtra Sthān) with Bhānumatī Commentary by Chakrapāṇi Datta with Introduction by Gaṇanāth Sen (Śrīsvāmi Lakṣmīrāma Nidhi Granthamālā = Shrī Swāmī Lakshmī 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 (मू-लमात्रा). पाठान्तर-परिशिष्टादिभिः संवलिता = the Suśrutasaṃhitā 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 Pāthaśālā.

## **Index of Manuscripts**

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Thanjavur TMSSML 10773: 90

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## Glossary

cuñcu - without venom: -sarpita: 71 successive shocks - puncture-marks: 71 -vega: 70 71 pada darita -locations: 71 torn -torn: 71 procedure -darita: 71 - *kalpa*: 70 kalpa puncture-marks vega - procedure: 70 - cuñcu: 71 - successive shocks: locations sarpita - pada: 71 - serpented: 71 without venom nirvisa serpented - nirvișa: 71

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**IGP** 

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## Glossary and Index of Medical Substances

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amaranth (tandulīyaka) 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 (venupatrikā) Bambusa
   bambos, Druce. See NK: v. 1, #307, 44
beautyberry (priyangu) \leftarrow \acute{s}y\bar{a}m\bar{a}.
   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 (amśumatī) 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 (vid\bar{a}rigandh\bar{a}) \rightarrow \dot{s}\bar{a}laparn\bar{\imath}.
   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 (p\bar{a}lind\bar{i}) Ichnocarpus
   frutescens, (L.) R.Br. or Cryptolepis
   buchanani, 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 (harina) Antilope 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
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tamala, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees. See

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AVS: v. 2, 84, NK: v. 1, #589, 44, 60
castor oil tree (gandharvahasta) \rightarrow eranda.
  GVDB: 135, K&B: v. 3, 2277, 30
castor-oil (eranda) 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, tārah sutārah was glossed by
  Dalhaṇa on 5.3.14 (Su 1938: 568) as
   follows tāro rūpyam, sutārah pāradah,
   "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 (pṛṣata) Axis axis, Erxleben.
  See BIA: 292, IW: 93, 47
cobra's saffron (n\bar{a}gapuspa) \rightarrow n\bar{a}gakeśara.
  Mesua ferrea, L. See NK: v. 1, #1595,
  GVDB: 220, 60
corky coral tree (pāribhadra) Erythrina
  suberosa Roxb. See GVDB 245, 63
costus (kustha) Saussurea costus, Clarke.
  See NK: v. 1, #2239, 44, 60, 64
country mallow (atibalā) 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 fruitescens R. Rr.
   (GVDB: 429-431), 33, 49, 59, 60, 63
crape jasmine (nata) \rightarrow \text{crape jasmine}
  GVDB: 215, 123, 124
crape jasmine (tagara) Tabernaemontana
  divaricata (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. &
  Schultes. See GJM1: 557, AVS: v. 5, 232.
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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)
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- 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
- cuscus 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. Abhidhānamañjarī), NK: v. 1, #796 ff. Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 292 f, ADPS: 132, 30
- decanted liquor (surāmanda) 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 ( $ras\bar{a}\tilde{n}jana$ )  $\rightarrow a\tilde{n}jana$ . See Indian barberry, 35
- embelia (vidanga) 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 (*subhangurā*) (su)bhangura = bhrnga? Eclipta prostrata (L.) L. See GVDB: 288, 49
- fermented rice-water ( $dh\bar{a}ny\bar{a}mla$ )  $\rightarrow k\bar{a}\tilde{n}j\bar{i}$ ,

- kāñjikā, sauvīra. GVDB: 458, NK: v. 2, appendix VI, #18, 32
- fern (ajaruhā) Nephrodium species GVDB: 7, uncertain. Perhbaps 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 (aśvakarna) Dipterocarpus turbinatus Gaertn. f. See GVDB: 28, Chopra: 100, 63
- giant potato ( $ks\bar{\imath}ravid\bar{a}r\bar{\imath}$ ) possibly  $\rightarrow$ kṣīraśukla. Ipmoea mauritiana, Jacq. See ADPS: 510, AVS: v. 3, 222, AVS: v. 3, 1717 ff, 125–127
- ginger (mahauṣadha) Zingiber officinale, Roscoe. See ADPS: 50, NK: v. 1, #2658, IGP: 1232, 47
- gold (hema) gold, 60
- gold and sarsaparilla (surendragopa) Unknown. Dalhana 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  $(amrt\bar{a}) \rightarrow gud\bar{u}c\bar{\iota}$ . Tinospora cordifolia, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.?. See ADPS: 38, NK: v. 1, #2472, 624, Dastur #229, 44, 59

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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 synonm of
   crape jasmine and crape jasmine
   (GVDB: 354), 64
Himalayan monkshood (ativisā)
   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 (j\bar{\imath}vant\bar{\imath}) \rightarrow
   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 (d\bar{u}rv\bar{a}) (GVDB: 409).
   Identified as Ceratophyllum demersum
   Linn. ("hornwort") by
   AVS: v. 2, 56–57x, 125, 127
hornwort (jalaśūka) \leftarrow jalanīlikā.
   Ceratophyllum demersum, L. See
   AVS: v. 2, 56, IGP: 232. Singh and
   Chunekar (GVDB: 166) suggest horned
   pondweed. Dalhana noted on 1.16.19
   (Su 1938: 79) that some people
   interpret it as a poisonous, hairy,
   air-breathing, underwater creature, 33
Indian barberry (a\tilde{n}jana) \rightarrow ras\bar{a}\tilde{n}jana,
   dāruharidrā. Berberis aristata, DC.
   Dymock: v. 1, 65, NK: v. 1, #335,
   GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, 35, 46, 124
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Indian barberry (dāruharidrā) Berberis

aristata, DC. See Dymock: v. 1, 65,

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NK: v. 1, #685, GJM1: 562, IGP 141,
   59,60
Indian barberry (k\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}yaka) \rightarrow d\bar{a}ruharidr\bar{a},
  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 roscoea,
  and plants like asthma plant and Gulf
  sandmat (GVDB: 237-238). Also
   "curds" when not a plant, 33, 126
Indian kudzu (vid\bar{a}r\bar{i}) \rightarrow payasy\bar{a}. 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 =
  Ipmoea mauritiana, Jacq, 33
Indian madder (mañjisthā) 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 (s\bar{a}riv\bar{a}) \rightarrow anant\bar{a}.
  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
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Cryptolepis buchanani, Roemer &

Schultes AVS: v. 3, 141, 3.145, 3.203,

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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,
lac (lākṣā) Kerria lacca (Kerr.). See
   GJM1: 445, NK: v. 2, #32. Watt
   (Watt_{Comm}: 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 yastīmadhuka, 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 Chunekar
   (GVDB: 351–352) notes that there are
   two varieties, S. racemosa, qualified as
   śāvara, and S. crataegoides Buch.-Ham.
   for pattikā 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 (kos\bar{\imath}tak\bar{\imath}) = kos\bar{\imath}tak\bar{\imath}. 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 (kośavat\bar{\imath}) = koṣ\bar{\imath}tak\bar{\imath}, luffa, 59
mango (āmra) Mangifera indica Linn.
   GVDB: 37, 43
marking-nut tree (bhallātaka) Semecarpus
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anacarium, L. See NK: v. 1, #2269,

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AVS: v. 5, 98, 46
medhshingi (vijayā2) Dolichandrone
  falcata (DC.) The Sauśrutanighanţu
  gives a number of synonyms for vijayā
   (Suvedī and Tīvārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143).
  But one of them, visānī (also
  meṣaśrṅgī), 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. Dalhana identifies
  suvarcikā with svarjikṣāra 4.8.50
   (Su 1938: 441), 60
neem tree (nimba) Azadirachta indica A.
  Juss. GVDB: 226, 30
nutgrass (kuruvinda) Unknown. Dalhana
  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
  Chunekar (GVDB: 108) added that it
  could be a variety of rice, sastika dhānya,
nutgrass (mustā) Cyperus rotundus, L.
  See ADPS: 316, AVS: v. 2, 296, NK: v. 1,
  #782, 126
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panacea twiner  $(arkapusp\bar{\imath}) \rightarrow arkaparn\bar{\imath}$ ,

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Tylophora indica (Burm. f.) Merr.
                                              purging nut (mūsikā) Jatropha curcas, L.
  GVDB: 23-24. Maybe identical to
                                                See AVS: v. 3, 261, NK: v. 1, #1374, 46
  Indian ipecac, giant potato and similar
                                              purple calotropis (arka) Calotropis
  sweet, milky plants. See GVDB: 24, 127,
                                                gigantea, (L.) R. Br. See ADPS: 52,
  238, 441, 443 for discussion. For
                                                AVS: v. 1, 341, NK: v. 1, #427,
  discussion in the context of
                                                Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 57, Chopra IDG: 305–308, 33
  Holostemma creeper, see ADPS: 195
                                              purple roscoea (kṣīrakākolī) GVDB: 89
  and AVS: v. 3, 171. The etymology of
                                                notes that many physicians use Roscoea
  the name suggests Helianthus annus
                                                procera Wall. in this context. But the
  Linn., but this plant is native to the
                                                identification is uncertain. Possibly
  Americas, 59, 125
                                                connected to milk-white or giant
peas (harenu) harenu = satīna. Pisum
                                                potato., 125, 126
  sativum, L. Singh and Chunekar
                                              rajmahal hemp (morața) \rightarrow m\bar{u}rv\bar{\iota},
   (GVDB: 419–420, 467–468) notes that
                                                Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) Wight
  two plants are usually meant under this
                                                et Arn. Good discussion at
  name, but there is no agreement on the
                                                GVDB: 314-316, 324, 59
  identity of the second, 59, 60, 64
                                              red chalk (gairika) gairika, 60
peepul tree (aśvattha) Ficus religiosa, L.
                                              red gourd (bimbī) Coccinia indica, W. &
  See ADPS: 63, 67
                                                A. See PVS 1994.4.715; NK: v. 1, #534,
periploca of the woods (mesaśrnga)
  Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br. See
                                              rice (śāli) Oriza sativa, Linn.
  AVS: v. 3, 107, NK: v. 1, #1173, 46
                                                GVDB: 395–396, 26, 127
plants like asthma plant and Gulf
                                              rice grains (tandula) Oriza sativa, Linn.
                                                Same as rice (śāli) GVDB: 174, 26
  sandmat (kṣīrinī) various milky plants,
  perhaps including Euphorbia hirta
                                              rock salt (saindhava) See NK: v. 2, M#48,
  Linn. (asthma plant) and E.
                                                 Watt<sub>Comm</sub>: 963–971, 26
  microphylla Heyne (Gulf sandmat)
                                              rosha grass (dhyāmaka) Cymbopogon
   (GVDB: 127), 125
                                                martinii (Roxb.) Wats. See
pointed gourd (patola) Trichosanthes
                                                 AVS: v. 2, 285, NK: v. 1, #177, 60
  dioica, Roxb. GVDB: 232-233, 59
                                              sacred lotus (padma) Nelumbo nucifera,
poison berry (brhatī) Solanum violaceum,
                                                Gaertn. See NK: v. 1, #1698, 25, 44
  Ortega. See ADPS: 100, NK: v. 1, #2329,
                                              sage-leaved alangium (ankolla) Alangium
                                                salvifolium (Linn. f.) Wang.
  AVS: v. 5, 151, 59, 60
pondweed (paripelavā) Normally a neuter
                                                GVDB: 5-6, 43
  noun. Singh and Chunekar
                                              sandalwood (candana) Santalum album,
   (GVDB: 238, 264-265, 409) argued that
                                                L. See ADPS: 111, NK: v. 1, #2217, 60
  plava and śaivāla are the same thing, and
                                              sappanwood (pattānga) Also pattanga.
  may be either Zannichellia palustris, L.,
                                                Caesalpinia sappan, L. AVS: v. 1, 323,
  or Potamogeton pectinatus, L, 60
                                                 K&B: v. 2, 847 f, GVDB: 234, 35
                                              scarlet mallow (bandhujīva) Pentapetes
pondweed (śevāla) Zannichellia palustris
  L. See horned pondweed, 25
                                                phoenicea, L. NK: #1836, GVDB: 268, 45
prickly chaff-flower (apāmārga)
                                              scented pavonia (bālaka) Pavonia odorata,
  Achyranthes aspera, L. See GJM1: 524 f,
                                                Willd. See ADPS: 498, NK: v. 1, #1822,
  AVS: v. 1, 39, ADPS: 44 f, AVS: v. 3,
   2066 f, Dymock: v. 3, 135, 30, 33
                                              scutch grass (dūrvā) Cynodon dactylon
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(Linn.) Pers. (GVDB: 205), 124
                                                  pepper) Piper longum, L.ADPS: 374,
selu plum (śelu) Cordia myxa, L. non
                                                  NK: v. 1, #1928, and marica (black
                                                  pepper) Piper nigrum, L.ADPS: 294,
   Forssk. See GJM1: 529 (2), IGP: 291b, cf.
                                                  NK: v. 1, #1929, 59
   AVS: v. 3, 1677 f; cf. AVS: v. 2, 180 (C.
   dichotoma, Forst.f.), NK: v. 1, #672 (C.
                                               three-leaved caper (varuna) Crataeva
                                                  magna (Lour.) DC. See AVS: v. 2, 202;
   latifolia, Roxb.), 59
                                                  cf. NK: v. 1, #696, 46
sesame oil (taila) Sesamum indicum L.
                                               tree cotton (kārpāsa) G. arboreum L.
   GVDB: 183, 34
                                                  ADPS: 231. Pace the identifications of
siris (śirīṣa) Albizia lebbeck, Benth. See
   AVS: v. 1, 81, NK: v. 1, #91, 59
                                                  Singh and Chunekar (GVDB: 92, 247),
                                                  since G. barbadense L. is native to
siris seeds (śirīsamāṣaka) Albizia lebbeck,
                                                  South America and G. herbaceum L.
   Benth. See AVS: v. 1, 81, NK: v. 1, #91, 43
                                                  which is native to Africa, 30
small-flowered crape myrtle (sidhraka)
                                               tree cotton (picu) See kārpāsa, 32, 35
   Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb. See
                                               turmeric (haridrā) Curcuma longa Linn.
   GVDB: 432, 63
                                                  GVDB: 465, 59, 64
spikenard (māṃsī) Nardostachys
                                               turmeric (rajanī) Curcuma longa, L.
   grandiflora, DC. See NK: v. 1, #1691, 60
                                                  ADPS: 169, AVS: v. 2, 259, NK: v. 1,
spikenard (nalada) \rightarrow māmsī.
                                                  #750, 26, 60
   Nardostachys grandiflora, DC. See
   NK: v. 1, #1691, 41
                                               velvet-leaf (pāṭhā) Cissampelos pariera, L.
sugar (sitā) Dalhaṇa makes this equation
                                                  See ADPS: 366, NK: v. 1, #592,
                                                  GJM1: 573, AVS: v. 1, 95; cf.
   at 1.37.25 (Su 1938: 162), 60
                                                  AVS: v. 2, 277, 59
sunflower (s\bar{u}ryavall\bar{\iota}) \rightarrow \bar{a}dityavall\bar{\iota},
                                               velvet-mite (indragopa) Kerria lacca
   sūryamukhī, Helianthus annūs Linn.
                                                  (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978, 42
   GVDB: 35, 443, 59
sweet plants (madhuravarga) The sweet
                                               verbena (phañjī) Clerodendrum serratum,
                                                  L. See AVS: v. 2, 121, ADPS: 87, 45
   plants are enumerated at
                                               watered buttermilk (udaśvit) MW: 183, 43
   Suśrutasamhitā 1.42.11. See also
                                               weaver's beam tree (muskaka) Schrebera
   GVDB: 127, 33
                                                  swietenioides, Roxb. See AVS: v. 5, 88,
sweet-scented oleander (aśvamāraka)
   Nerium oleander, L. See ADPS: 223,
                                                  Lord, NK: v. 1, #2246, 63
                                               white calotropis (alarka) Calotropis
   NK: v. 1, #1709, 49
                                                  procera, (Ait.) R. Br. See NK: v. 1, #428,
Tellicherry bark (kutaja) Holarrhena
                                                  Chopra: 46b, Chopra IDG: 305–308, 33
   pubescens Wall. ex G.Don, with
                                               white clitoria (\acute{s}vet\bar{a}) \rightarrow giry\bar{a}hv\bar{a}. Clitoria
   Wrightia tinctoria and W. arborea
                                                  ternatea, L. See AVS: v. 2, 129, NK: v. 1,
   considered GVDB: 101-102,
                                                  #621, 44
   ADPS: 267-270, 124
thorn apple (karambha) Datura metel, L.
                                               white cutch tree (somavalka) Acacia
   See AVS: v. 2, 305 (cf.
                                                  polyacantha, Willd. See AVS: v. 1, 30,
                                                  IGP 7, GJM1: 602, AVS: v. 2, 935; pace
   Abhidhānamañjarī), NK: v. 1, #796 ff.
                                                  NK: v. 1, #1038, 45, 63
   Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 292 f, ADPS: 132, 50
three heating spices (tryūṣana) śunthī
                                               white siris (kiṇihī) Albizia procera,
   (Dried ginger) Zingiber officinale,
                                                  (Roxb.) Benth. See GVDB 98, NK: v. 1,
   Roscoe. ADPS: 50, NK: v. 1, #2658,
                                                  #93, 59
   AVS: v. 5, 435, IGP 1232, pippalī (long
                                               white water-lily (kumuda) Nymphaea
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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
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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,
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AVS: v. 5, 164, 59, 60

## **Todo list**

Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8	40			
I'm still unhappy about this verse				
Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe know-				
ing 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 sep-				
arately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text	46			
The two uses of prāpta are hard to translate. prāptā $h \rightarrow k$ ṣipram is				
an example of the vulgate banalizing the Sanskrit text to make				
sense of a difficult passage	46			
$\sqrt{\text{vyadh not }\sqrt{\text{vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears)}}}$ , causative				
optative	46			
opposite of the vulgate Same as 1.8.89 (As 1980: 79)	47			
-> ativișa	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 al-				
cohol affects the body.	67			
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			