

A Translation of the New Edition of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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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	70
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	87
Editions and Abbreviations	90
Index of Manuscripts	94
References	94

Glossary	116
Materia Medica Reference Works	116
Glossary and Index of Medical Substances	118
On digital critical editions	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 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.²⁴⁷ There also exists a herpetological literature from colonial India as well as more recent studies of snakes in the context of religious life.²⁴⁸

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

²⁴⁷ HIML: IA, 292–294.

²⁴⁸ 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.

²⁴⁹ Harimoto 2011: 101–104.

²⁵⁰ 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.²⁵¹
- 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”.²⁵²
- 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.”²⁵³
- 9cd–10 “There are eighty kinds of snakes and they are divided in five ways: Darvīkaras, Maṇḍalins, Rājimants, and Nirviṣās. And Vaikarañjas that are traditionally of three kinds.²⁵⁴
- 11 “Twenty hooded snakes are known, six Maṇḍalins, and the same number of Rājimants. Nirviṣas and Karañjas are

²⁵¹ *Sarvāṅgasundarī* on 1.16.17 kalpa = prayoga.

²⁵² 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.

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.

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

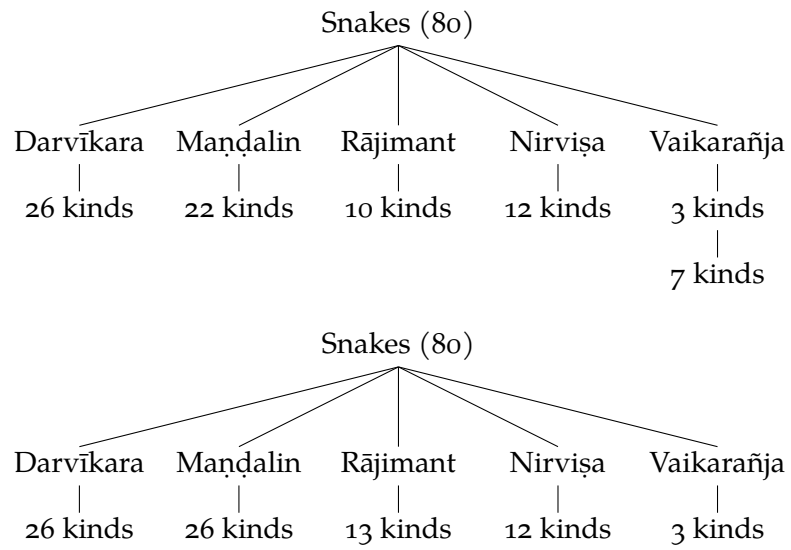


Figure 2: Top: the taxonomy of snakes in 5.4.9–13ab (Su 1938: 571).
Bottom: the taxonomy of snakes in the Nepalese version.

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.
- 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 श्रीमद्द्ववाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasan̄graha with Indu's Commentary*] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7.
- AyMahā Jośī, Veṇīmādhavaśāstrī, and Jośī, Nārāyaṇa Harī (1968), आयुर्वेदीय महाकोशः अर्थात् आयुर्वेदीय शब्दकोशः संस्कृत-संस्कृत (Mumbai: Mahārāṣṭra Rājya Sāhitya āṇi Saṁskṛti Maṁḍala), 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; 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-saṁhitā. 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*.
- MN₁ 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).
- MN₃ 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 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	<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), ark:/13960/t1nh6j09c ; 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 Dalhaṇāchārya</i> (Mumbayyām: Nirṇaya-sāgaramudrāyantrālaye), ark:/13960/t3sv0mt50 , accessed 29/07/2020; HIML: IB, 312 edition *v.
Su 1931	Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1931) (ed.), सुश्रुतसंहिता, वैद्यवरश्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया समुल्लसिता, महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता, सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पस्थानोत्तरतन्त्रात्मकः. आचार्योपाद्वेन त्रिविक्रमात्मजेन यादवशर्मणा संशोधिता = <i>The Sushrutasamhitā of Sushruta with the Nibandhasangraha Commentary of Shree Dalhaṇāchārya</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 1938² 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.

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

Thanjavur TMSSML 10773: 90

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*Proceedings of the International Workshop on Priorities in the Study of Indian
Medicine* (Groningen: Forsten), 277–310.
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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*_{rev}: 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*_{rev}: 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_{rev}**: 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 (*vidāṅga*) *Embelia ribes*, Burm. f. See **ADPS**: 507, **AVS**: v. 2, 368, **NK**: v. 1, #929, **Potter_{rev}**: 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_{rev}: 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_{rev}: 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_{rev}: 168, 49
- 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 *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_{rev}: 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_{rev}: 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_{Comm}: 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*) → *āḍityavallī*,
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_{rev}: 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

