THE YUGA OF THE YAVANAJATAKA DAVID PINGREE'S TEXT AND TRANSLATION REVIEWED

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INTRODUCTION

The Yavanajātaka written by Sphujidhvaja Yavaneśvara in the third century A.D. was edited and translated into English by Prof. David Pingree in 1978. The last chapter (ch. 79) of this work is called Horāvidhi and deals with luni-solar astronomy on the basis of a period of 165 years called yuga and the synodic motion of the planets. The text is marred by faulty editing, the incorrect readings being adopted and the correct ones given in the apparatus criticus, with the result that the translation is incorrect at places and the meaning really intended by the author is lost.

The object of the present paper is to study this chapter so as to bring out the meaning really intended by the author. The paper will be confined to the study of the yuga of the Yavanajātaka and its various constituents. In the process the relevant passages and their translation as given by Prof. Pingree will be reviewed and modified.

1. TIME-MEASURES

Verses 28-29 of Chap. 79 of the Yavanajātaka give a table of time-measures. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: त्रयः पलाः स्युः कुडवोञ्ष्टमश्च तत्राहिकाख्यं विदुरेकषष्टिम् । ताः षष्टिलिप्तापि च नाडिकाख्या भवन्ति षष्टिर्धीनेशा क्रमेण ॥२८॥

कला निमेषाष्टशता दशोना विदुः <u>कलास्त्रिशंत्र [च]</u> नाहिका तु । द्विनाहिकस्तु प्रयितो मुहूर्तो मानप्रमाणादिविधिप्रसिद्धौ ॥२९॥

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Trayaḥ palāḥ syuḥ kuḍavo 'sṭamaśca tannāḍikākhyam vidurekaṣaṣṭim {
Tāḥ ṣaṣṭiliptāpi ca nāḍikākhyā bhavanti ṣaṣṭirdyuniśā krameṇa {| 28 || Kalā nimeṣāṣṭaśatā daśonā viduḥ kalāstriṃśa [ca| nāḍikā tu |
Dvināḍikastu prathito muhūrto mānapramānādividhiprasiddhau {| 29 || )
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Translation: A kuḍava is 3½ palas, and 61 kuḍavas equal 1 nāḍikā. The nāḍikās are also each divided into 60 liptās ("minutes"); there are 60 nāḍikās in a nychthemeron. One kalā equals 790 (?) nimeṣas, one nāḍikā 30 kalās, and one muhūrta 2 nāḍikās in the accomplishment of the rules relating to measures and standards.

Remarks:

(1) We find that according to this translation one $n\bar{a}dik\bar{a}$ is equal to 30 $kal\bar{a}s$, whereas in the formulation of the rules stated in vss. 11, 12 and 13 one $muh\bar{u}rta$ ("a period of $2 n\bar{a}dik\bar{a}s$ ") is taken equal to $20 kal\bar{a}s$, and in verse 31 also one $kal\bar{a}$ has been used in the sense of 1/10 of a $n\bar{a}dik\bar{a}$ or 1/20 of a $muh\bar{u}rta$. This discrepancy is due to the adoption of the incorrect reading " $kal\bar{a}strim\acute{s}a$ |ca|" (in vs. 29b) in place of the correct reading " $kal\bar{a}st\bar{a}$ daśa" which has been given in the apparatus criticus. Restoring the correct reading in place of the incorrect one, we find that the text gives the following table:

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      3½ palas
      = 1 kuḍava

      61 kuḍavas
      = 1 nāḍikā

      60 liptās
      = 1 nāḍikā

      60 nāḍikās
      = 1 nychthemeron

      790 nimeṣas
      = 1 kalā

      10 kalās
      = 1 nāḍikā

      2 nādikās
      = 1 muhūrta (or ksana).
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Likewise

20 kalās = 1 muhūrta

30 muhūrtas = 1 nychthemeron.

It is these two relations that have been used in verses 11, 12 and 13. The same relations were given by Suśruta¹ and Parāśara.²

(2) It is noteworthy that according to the Vedāhga Jyautiṣa³ too,

$$3\frac{1}{8}$$
 palas = 1 kuḍava
and 61 kuḍavas = 1 nāḍikā.

But there

$$1 \quad n\vec{a}dik\vec{a} = 10 \frac{1}{20} \quad kal\vec{a}s.$$

It seems that Sphujidhvaja Yavaneśvara has taken

to avoid fractions, or he has followed Suśruta or Paraśara.

2. TITHIS IN THE YUGA

Verse 6 gives the number of *tithis* in the *yuga* ("a period of 165 years"). Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: क्रमेण चन्द्रः क्षयवृद्धिलक्ष्य-स्तिथिश्चतुर्मानविधानबीजः । षद्भंच<u>काग्ने द्विश्वते</u> सहस्रं तेषां युगे <u>बिन्दु</u>युतानि षट् च ॥६॥

> Krameņa candraḥ kṣayavṛddhilakṣyastithiścaturmānavidhānabijaḥ [Ṣatpañcakāgre dviśate sahasraṃ teṣām yuga binduyutāni ṣat ca [[6 [[)

Translation: The Moon is to be characterized by waning and waxing in order. The *tithi* possesses the seed of the principles of the four (systems of time-) measurement. There are 60,265 (days) in a yuga.

¹ See Suśruta Samhita, Sutrasthana, ch. vi. 4.

² See Brhat Samhita with Bhattotpala's Commentary, Sudhakara Dvivedi's edition, p.24, lines 3-5.

³ See Yajuşa Jyautişa, vs. 24.

Remarks:

The last sentence of this translation is wrong. The number 60,265 as well as its designation as "days" both are incorrect. The word <u>satpancaka</u> means 6×5 i.e. 30, not 65; and the word "tesām" refers to tithis, not to civil days. Moreover, the number of civil days in a <u>yuga</u> is 60,272, not 60,265. See below.

The second half of the text really gives the number of *tithis* in the *yuga*, not the number of civil days in the *yuga* as supposed by Pingree. The error is due to faulty editing of the text. The adoption of the incorrect readings " $^{\circ}k\bar{a}gre$ dviśate" and "bindu" in place of the correct readings " $^{\circ}k\bar{a}gr\bar{a}$ dviśatī" and "viddhya", respectively has spoiled the text. It is noteworthy that the correct readings are given in the apparatus.

The correct reading of the text is:

क्रमेण चन्द्रसयवृद्धिलक्ष्य-स्तिषिशचतुर्मानविद्यानबीजः । षट्पंचकाग्रा द्विसती सहस्रं तेषां युगे विद्ययुतानि षट् च ॥६॥

Krameṇa candrakṣayavṛddhilakṣyastithiścaturmānavidhānabījaḥ | Ṣatpañcakāgrā dviśatī sahasraṃ tesām yuge viddhyayutāni ṣaṭ ca | | 6 | |

meaning: "The tithi, which is the indicator of the gradual waning or waxing of the Moon, is the seed of the principles of the four (systems of time-) measurement. Know that there are 60000 plus 1000 plus 200 and 6×5 (i.e. 61,230) of them (in a yuga)."

That is,

one yuga = 61230 tithis (or 2041 synodic months, as stated in vss. 9 and 20c-d)

3. CIVIL DAYS IN THE YUGA

Verse 7 gives the number of civil days in the yuga. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: त्रिंजन्मुह्तं दिनरात्रमुक्तं सूर्योदयात् कालनुपास्तदाहुः । तेषां अते दे <u>त्रिज्ञदेककाप्रे</u> <u>षट खायुतान्यर्कयुगं क्वन्ति</u> ॥७॥ Trimsanmuhūrtam dinarātramuktam sūryodayāt kālabudhāstadāhuḥ [Teṣām sate dve trisadekakāgre sat khāyutānyarkayugam vadanti [[7 []

Translation: A nychthemeron is said to consist of 30 muhūrtas; experts on time say that it begins with sunrise. They say that a yuga of the Sun consists of 61,230 (tithis).

Remarks:

The second sentence of this translation, though mathematically correct, is not the correct translation of the second half of the text. The number 61330 and its designation as "tithis" both are wrong. The word "trisat" means 300, not 30; and it is difficult to interpret "ekakāgre sat khāyutani" as meaning 61000. Also, the word "tesām" refers to nychthemera or civil days, not to tithis.

The second half of the verse really gives the number of civil days in a yuga, not the number of tithis in a yuga as supposed by Pingree. The error is due to the faulty editing of the text. The adoption of the incorrect readings "triśadekakāgre" and "şaṭ khā" in place of the correct readings "trikrdaṣṭakāgre" and "ṣaṭkhā" respectively has marred the text. It is noteworthy that the correct readings are given in the apparatus.

The correct reading of the text is:

त्रिंशन्मृह्तै दिनरात्रमुक्तं सूर्योदयात् कालबुधास्तदाहुः । तेषां शते द्वे त्रिकृदष्टकाग्रे षट्कायुतान्यर्कयुगं वदन्ति ॥७॥

Triṃśanmuhūrtaṃ dinarātramuktaṃ sūryodayāt kālabudhāstadāhuḥ Teṣāṃ śate dve trikṛdaṣṭakāgre ṣatkāyutānyarkayugam vadanti [[7 [[

meaning: "A nychthemeron (civil day) is said to consist of 30 muhūrtas; experts on time say that it begins with sunrise. They say that a yuga of the Sun consists of 60000 plus 200 plus $3^2 \times 8$ (i.e. 60,272) of them (i.e. civil days)."

That is,

one yuga = 60272 civil days.

The word "trikṛt" means 3² i.e. 9, and the word "trikṛdaṣṭaka" 3²×8 i.e. 72.

Further remarks on vss. 6 and 7:

Pingree is aware of the fact that the second half of vs. 6 should contain the number of tithis in a yuga and the second half of vs. 7 the number of civil days in a yuga, but his text has landed him in trouble and he remarks: "A more logical order might be achieved by interchanging 6c-d with 7c-d." He also complains about Sphujidhvaja Yavaneśvara's way of expressing numbers in verse: "The extreme clumsiness with which Sphujidhvaja expresses numbers is a reflection of the fact that a satisfactory and consistent method of versifying them had not yet been devised in the late third century." But these remarks are uncalled for, as it is all due to the faulty edited text.

4. CIVIL DAYS IN A SOLAR YEAR

Verse 34 gives the number of civil days in a solar year. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: सपंचानिष्टं त्रिज्ञतं दिनानां

<u>धूनं द्विभित्रं</u> तु दिनांज्ञकानाम् ।

त्र्यूनं श्रताधै दिनकृत्समा स्याद्

यया भवौ सविता भनवित ॥३४॥

Sapañcaşaştim triśatam dinānām dyūnam dvibhinnam tu dināmśakānām | Tryūnam śatārdham dinakṛtsamā syād yayā bhavargam savitā bhunakti || 34 ||

Translation: A year of the Sun consists of 365 days and 14; 47 sixtieths (amsas) of a day, in which the Sun traverses the signs.

Remarks:

This translation is incorrect, because "14;47 sixtieths" does not yield the value of the solar year according to Sphujidhvaja. For, according to this translation

one solar year = 6.5;14,47 days,

whereas according to Sphujidhvaja one solar year = 6.5;17.5,27,16 days.

The error is due to the adoption of the incorrect reading "dyūnam dvibhinnam" in place of the correct reading "yugādvibhinnam" given in the apparatus.

The correct reading of the text is:

सपंचषिटं त्रिज्ञतं दिनानां यगाद्विभित्रं त दिनांज्ञकानाम् ।

त्र्यूनं शतार्षं दिनकृत्समा स्याद् यया भवर्गं सविता भूनवित ॥३४॥

Sapancaşaştim trisatam dinanam yugadvibhinnam tu dinamsakanam | Tryunam satardham dinakrtsama syad yaya bhavargam savita bhunakti || 34 ||

meaning: "A yuga of the Sun consists of 365 days and a fraction of a day equal to fifty minus three divided by (the number of years in) a yuga, in which the Sun traverses the signs."

That is,

one solar year =
$$365 + \frac{50-3}{165}$$
 civil days
= $\frac{60272}{165}$ civil days,

This result confirms the statement of vs. 7 that there are 60,272 days in a yuga (consisting of 165 years).

5. CIVIL DAYS IN A SOLAR MONTH

Verse 11 defines a civil month and gives the number of civil days etc. in a solar month. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: त्रिंशहिनाः सावनमास आर्क-स्त्र्यग्रैर्विशिष्टा दशिभर्मुहूर्तैः । कलाचतुष्केण च पंचषट्कै-स्त्र्यग्र्यांशकेश्च द्विगुणैश्चतुर्भिः ॥९९॥

Trimśaddināh sāvanamāsa ārkastryagrairviśiṣṭā daśabhirmuhūrtaiḥ | Kalācatuṣkeṇa ca pañcaṣaṭkaistryagryāṃśakaiśca dviguṇaiscaturbhiḥ || 11 ||

Translation: A civil month equals 30 days, a solar month equals (a civil month) plus 13 muhurtas and 4 kalās and 56 thirds and 2 fourths.

Remarks:

Here the text is correct' but the translation incorrect. For, "pañcaṣaṭka" means

¹ Read "rvišisto in place of "rvišistā.

 5×6 i.e. 30, not 56; also "tryagryāmśaka" does not mean third, nor "catur" fourth. Moreover, according to this translation,

one solar month = 30;26,9,52,4 days

whereas, according to Sphujidhvaja,

one solar month = 30;26,25,27,16 days.

The correct translation is:

"A civil month equals 30 days, a solar month is greater (than that) by 10+3 muhurtas, 4 kalas and 2×4 of a kala."

Thus

one solar month = 30 days+13 muhūrtas+
$$4\frac{8}{33}$$

= $\frac{60272}{1980}$ civil days,

1980 because 20 kalas = 1 muhūrta and 30 muhūrtas = 1 civil day.

This result also confirms the statement of vs. 7 that there are 60272 civil days in a yuga.

6. CIVIL DAYS IN A SYNODIC MONTH

Verse 12 gives the number of civil days *etc.* in a synodic month. Pingree's text and translation run thus::

Text: अहनस्तु षट्पंचकमेकहीनं क्षणाष्टकौ द्वौ द्विकलाविहीनौ । कलालवाः सप्त <u>शतं विदिष्टः</u> समासभित्रः शश्चिनः स मासः ॥९२॥

Ahnastusatpañcakamekahīnam kṣaṇāṣṭakau dvau dvikalāvihīnau { Kalālavāḥ sapta śataṃ vidiṣṭaḥ samāsabhinnaḥ śaśinaḥ sa māsaḥ [[12 [[

Translation: A (synodic) month of the Moon, which ends with a conjunction, consists of 29 days and 32 ksanas minus 4 kalās and 107 sixtieths of a kalā.

Remarks:

This translation is based on misinterpretation of the text and does not accord to the teaching of Sphujidhvaja. For, according to this translation,

one synodic month = 30;3,55,34 days,

whereas according to Sphujidhvaja,

one synodic month = 29;31,50,14,24 days.

The error is really due to the adoption of the incorrect readings "ahnastu" "śatam vidistah" and "samāsabhinnah" in place of the correct readings "ahnām tu", "śatī dviṣaṣṭā" and "svamāsabhinnā" respectively which are given in the apparatus.

Thus the correct reading of the text is:

अह्नां तु षट्पंचकमेकहीनं क्षणाष्टकौ द्वौ द्विकलाविहीनौ । कलालवाः सप्तन्नतो द्विषट्टा स्वमासभिन्ना श्रीन्ननः स मासः ॥९२॥

Ahnām tu satpañcakamekahīnam kṣaṇāṣṭakau dvau dvikalāvihīnau | Kalālavāḥ saptaśatī dviṣaṣṭā svamāsabhinnā śaśinaḥ sa māsah || 12 ||

meaning: " $6 \times 5 - 1$ days, 2×8 kṣaṇas (muhūrtas) minus 2 kalās, and a fraction of a kalā equal to 762 divided by (the number of) its own (i.e. synodic) months (in a yuga): this is (the length of) the (synodic) month of the Moon."

That is,

one synodic month = 29 days+(16 muhūrtas minus 2 kalās)+ $\frac{762}{2041}$ kalā.

because there are 2041 synodic months in a yuga, $=\frac{60272}{2041}$ civil days, because 20 kalas = 1 muhūrta and 30 muhūrtas = 1 civil day.

This again confirms that there are 60272 civil days in a yuga.

7. CIVIL DAYS IN A SIDEREAL MONTH

Verse 13 gives the length of a sidereal month in terms of civil days, etc. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: आर्शस्तु कृत्त्रिर्द्विगुणस्तु कृच्च

सपाः सपार्यं च कलाश्च तिस्रः । कलांक्षकानां च त्रिसप्तकाग्रं

श्रतं विभक्तो दलितैः समासैः ॥१३॥

Ārkṣastu Kṛttrirdviguṇastu kṛcca kṣaṇāḥ kṣaṇārdham ca kalāśca tisraḥ | Kalāṃśakānāṃ ca trisaptakāgraṃ śatam vibhakto dalitaiḥ samāsaih || 13 || Translation: A sidereal month consists of 27 days plus $8\frac{1}{2}$ ksanas and 3 kalās and 137 sixtieths of a kalā: it is separated by half-conjunctions (?).

Remarks:

The first line of the text is corrupt and the translation is arbitrary and wrong. "Trisaptaka" does not mean 37; it means 3×7 or 21. It is difficult to understand how the first line has been interpreted in that way.

According to the above translation,

one sidereal month = 27;17,10,34 days

whereas according to Sphujidhvaja,

one sidereal month = 27;19,18,39 days.

The correct text is:

आर्धीस्त्रकृत्त्रिधुंगणिस्त्रकृच्य क्षणाः क्षणाधं च कलाश्च तिस्रः । कलांश्वकानां च त्रिसप्तकाग्रं शतं विभक्तं दलितैः स्वमासैः ॥९३॥

Ärkṣastrikṛttrirdyugaṇastrikṛcca kṣaṇāḥ kṣaṇārdhaṃ ca kalāśca tisraḥ | Kalāmśakānāṃ ca trisaptakāgram śatam vibhaktaṃ dalitaiḥ svamāsaih || 13 ||

meaning: "A sidereal month consists of $3^2 \times 3$ days, 3^2 ksanas (muhūrtas) plus half a kṣana, 3 kalās plus a fraction of a kalā equal to 121 divided by half (the number) of its own (i.e. sidereal) months (in a yuga)."

That is,

one sidereal month = 27 days +
$$9\frac{1}{2}$$
 muhūrtas + $3\frac{121}{1103}$ kalās.

because there are 2206 sidereal months (or Moon's revolutions) in a yuga,

$$= \frac{60272}{2206}$$
 civil days,

because 20 $kal\bar{a}s = 1$ muhūrta and 30 muhūrtas = 1 civil day.

This is true because there are 60272 civil days and 2206 sidereal months in a yuga.

8. INTERCALARY DAYS IN A SOLAR YEAR

Verse 19(a-c) gives the number of intercalary days in a solar year and the number of intercalary months in a given number of solar years. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: एकादशैकाद[श] भाग<u>युक्त्या</u>

युगाद्गताब्दान् विहतान् विभज्य ।

स्ट्पंचकेनाधिकमासकास्ते

... ॥१९॥

Ekādaśaikāda | śa| bhāgayuktyā yugādgatābdān vihatān vibhajya | Satpañcakenādhikamāsakāste

| 19 |

Translation: The number of years which have passed of the yuga is to be multiplied by 11;11 and divided by 30: (the result is the number of (lapsed) intercalary months.

Remarks:

The text is correct with one exception that there should be "yutya" in place of "yuktyā" in the first line. But the translation is erroneous because the number 11;11 (denoting $11\frac{11}{60}$) is wrong. There are $11\frac{1}{11}$ intercalary days in a solar year, not $11\frac{11}{60}$. The correct translation is:

"The number of years which have passed of the yuga, multiplied by $11\frac{1}{11}$ and divided by 30 gives the number of intercalary months (in that period)."

This is true because there being 1980 solar months and 2041 synodic months in a yuga, there are 61 intercalary months in a yuga. Likewise there are $\frac{61\times30}{165}$ or $11\frac{1}{11}$ intercalary days in a year.

9. OMITTED TITHIS IN A YUGA

Verse 5 gives length of a *tithi* in terms of civil days, the length of a civil day in terms of *tithis*, and the number of omitted *tithis* in a *yuga*. Pingree's text and translation run thus:

Text: दिनं चतुः षष्टिलवोनमाहुस्तिषिं प्रषट्यन्त्यमहस्तु सर्वम् ।

<u>द्विषष्टिभागं नवतिः</u> सहस्रं

यो त्वतनामपश्रद्धशतम ॥५॥

Dinam catuḥṣaṣṭilavonamāhustithim praṣaṣṭyantyamahastu sarvam [Dviṣaṣṭibhāgam navatiḥ sahasram yuge tvṛtūnāmapaśuddhaśatam [[5 []

Translation: They say that a tithi equals a day minus $\frac{1}{64}$ th, but that every day equals a tithi plus $\frac{1}{60}$ th. In a yuga there are 990 seasons (rtu), (each) consisting of 62 (tithis).

Remarks:

- (1) This translation is incorrect, because
 - (i) if one *tithi* consists of $1 \frac{1}{64}$ civil day, a civil day cannot be equal to $1 + \frac{1}{60}$ tithis; and
 - (ii) if there are 990 seasons in a yuga and 62 tithis in a season, there must be 990×62 or 61380 tithis in a yuga, but according to vs. 6 there are only 61230 tithis in a yuga.
- (2) The text given by Pingree is faulty, because he has adopted the incorrect reading "dvisastibhāgam navatih" in place of the correct reading "trisastibhāgena yutam" and the incorrect reading "tvrtūnāmapaśuddhaśatam" in place of the correct reading "vamānāmapasaptaṣaṭkam". Partially correct readings occur in the apparatus.
- (3) The correct reading of the text is:

दिनं चतुः षष्टिलवोनमाहु-स्तिथिं प्रषष्ट्यन्त्यमहस्तु सर्वम् । त्रिषष्टिभागेन युतं सहस्रं युगेञ्बमानामपसप्तष्ट्कम् ॥५॥

Dinam catuḥṣaṣṭilavonamāhustithim praṣaṣṭyantyamahastu sarvam | Trīṣaṣṭībhāgena yutam sahasram yuge vamānāmapasaptaṣaṭkam || 5 ||

meaning: "They say that a tithi is equal to a day minus $\frac{1}{64}$ of a day, correct upto the sixtieth of a sixtieth (of a day, i.e. up to vighațis), and a day equals a whole tithi plus $\frac{1}{63}$ of a tithi. The number of omitted tithis in a yugu is equal to 1000 minus 42 (i.e. 958)."

This can be easily proved to be true. For, in a yuga

(i) no. of tithis = 61230, and no. of civil days = 60272.

Therefore, one *tithi* =
$$\frac{60272}{61230} = \frac{1}{61230} = \frac{1}{64}$$
 civil day, and one civil day = $\frac{60272}{60272} = 1 + \frac{1}{63}$ tithis.

Both the results are correct upto vighatis.

(ii) no. of omitted tithis = tithis-civil days = 61230-60272 = 958.

10. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, we conclude that the yuga defined in the Yavanajātaka contains:

Solar years = 165

Solar months = $165 \times 12 = 1980$

Solar days = $165 \times 360 = 59400$

Civil days = 60272

Synodic months = 2041

Intercalary months = synodic months - solar months

= 2041 - 1980 = 61 (vide vs. 10)

Synodic days or tithis = $2041 \times 30 = 61230$

Omitted tithis = tithis - civil days

= 61230 - 60272 = 958

Sidereal months (or Moon's revolutions)

= synodic months—Sun's revolutions

= 2041 - 165 = 2206

Risings of asterisms (or Earth's rotations)

= civil days+Sun's revolutions

= 60272 + 165 = 60437

Risings of the Sun = Risings of asterisms—Sun's revolutions (vide vs. 8)

= 60437 - 165 = 60272

Risings of the Moon = Risings of asterisms—Moon's revolutions

= 60437 - 2206 = 58231 (vide vs. 8)

Solar year = 6,5;17,5,27,16 days

Sun's mean daily motion = 0;59,7,55,28 degrees

Synodic month = 29;31,50,14,24 days

Sidereal month = 27;19,18,39 days

According to Surya-siddhanta:

Solar year = 6,5;15,31,3 days

Sun's mean daily motion = 0;59,8,10,10 degrees

Synodic month = 29;31,50 days

Sidereal month = 27;19,18 days.