

A Translation of the Nepalese Text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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Introduction

What follows is a draft translation of selected chapters of the *Compendium of Suśruta* (*Suśrutasaṃhitā*). This differs from former translations, being based on the text that survives in the oldest known manuscripts of the work.¹ These old manuscripts are located in Nepal, so we refer to this as “the Nepalese version” of the work, although future research may show that this old version was more widely known.²

The Nepalese Version

The Nepalese version has been reconstructed on the basis of three manuscripts from Kathmandu,

1. MS Kathmandu KL 699 (siglum K),
2. MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079 (N), and
3. MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333 (H).

The first of these MSS is the oldest, dated to CE 878.³ It covers most of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, but lacks the *Nidānasthāna* and the *Śārīrasthāna* (see Fig. 1). The second is undated but is datable on palaeographical grounds to the twelfth or thirteenth centuries.⁴ It contains the *Sūtrasthāna* and *Nidānasthāna* but breaks off shortly afterwards. The third manuscript, H, is the most complete, supporting the text of the whole of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. It is dated CE 1513.⁵ The text of manuscript H follows K very closely but

¹ See Wujastyk et al. 2023 for an introduction to the Nepalese text and Wujastyk et al. 2021– for background on the Suśruta Project, 2021–2024.

² For more discussion of this issue, see Wujastyk et al. 2023: Introduction and ch. 2.

³ Klebanov 2021a: 15.

⁴ Klebanov 2021a: 17–18.

⁵ I follow the arguments of Klebanov (2021a: 21–26) on the interpretation of the colophon although, as he pointed out, some interpret the date as CE 1573.

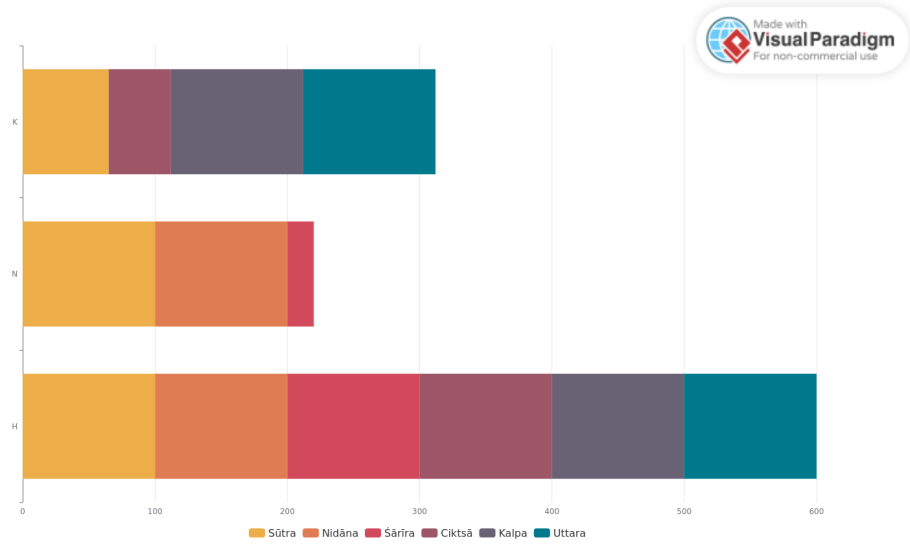


Figure 1: Coverage of the text by MSS K, N and H.

is probably not a direct apograph.⁶ I conjecture that it was either copied from an intermediary that followed K very closely or from a ancestor of K.⁷

The vulgate

The version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* that we refer to as “the vulgate” is the version of the text that circulates in print today in multiple editions. The most careful and authoritative edition is that of Y. T. Ācārya and N. R. Ācārya (Su1938).⁸ It is telling that this edition includes the commentary of Ḍalhaṇa (b. ca. 1175) and, for the *Nidānasthāna*, also that of Gayadāsa (fl. ca. 1000). These important authors commented on a text that is, broadly

⁶ Chakraborty 2022.

⁷ “...as neither my own research ... nor the study undertaken in Harimoto ... could determine any linear connection between any of the Nepalese manuscripts of the SS, one may assume that [there exists] an older common ancestor of both of the manuscripts K and H.” (Klebanov 2021b: 21).

⁸ This and the following issues have been discussed by Wujastyk et al. (2023: 2 and ch. 3).

speaking, what we call “the vulgate.” But they both mentioned quite often that the manuscripts they were consulting contained other versions of the text and in a high number of cases, these variations match the Nepalese version.⁹ It is possible that Gayadāsa and Ḍalhaṇa, through their commentarial work on the text, participated in shaping “the vulgate.”

The scholar Rudolph Hoernle was also aware of this cleavage in the transmission-history of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. But with the more limited materials available to him at the turn of the twentieth century he drew the line a little differently. He referred to the text of the *Śārīrasthāna* of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, transmitted in the printed editions of his day, as “the Traditional Recension.”

The recension which is found in Jīvānanda’s and all other prints,¹⁰ and which, in the sequel, will be referred to as the Traditional Recension, has in its favour not only all available manuscripts, but also all ancient commentaries on the Compendium of Suśruta, Or, shortly, the Traditional Recension is supported by the whole body of existing witnesses.¹¹

However, Hoernle was unfortunately not aware of the Nepalese manuscripts of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, which at the time he was writing were in Nepalese libraries that had not yet been explored by scholars of the time. The contrast that Hoernle was drawing was between the Traditional Recension and the *Śārīrasthāna* of the *Carakasamhitā* as printed by the influential Bengali scholar, Kavirāja Gaṅgādhara Ray (1798–1885).¹²

9 E.g., see the discussion in footnote ?? below.

10 Hoernle listed four, S. M. Gupta 1835–36; Su 1889; Govindjī et al. 1901; Vīrasvāmi n.d.

11 Hoernle 1907: 68.

12 Ray 1868–70. Hoernle’s evaluation of this edition was not entirely kind: “I have not been able to discover for it any authority whatsoever. ... it is probably that the recension of Gaṅgādhara is a reconstruction of his own to meet those of the difficulties which he had noticed” (Hoernle 1907: 70). For a full account of the genesis of this edition, see Pecchia 2022.

The Translation

The translation follows the methods of rigorous philological care and modern principles of translation theory.¹³ Major differences in sense from the vulgate text are marked **in this manner**, but the differences are so pervasive and fine-grained that most have not been explicitly marked.

The text-historical state of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* bears many resemblances to other early textual transmissions in South Asia. The situation was articulated particularly clearly for the case of Pāli by von Hinüber (1978), in the opening of his chapter,

...we cannot go back beyond the council of Aluviḥāra (Ālokaviḥāra) under Vaṭṭagāmaṇī Abhaya (29–17 B.C.) where the Pāli canon was written down for the first time in Ceylon. This is the very starting point of our tradition handed down to us by the monks of the Mahāvihāra. About recensions of the Pāli canon different from the Mahāvihāra tradition and deviating from its wording... we scarcely have any knowledge at all.

Similarly, the manuscript evidence for the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* that is available today allows us to reconstruct a version of the work after it was consolidated into a text of five parts with a sixth or “later” (*uttara*) and somewhat different part already appended to the first five. The prehistory of the work before this form is tantalizingly unknown to us. That the work was assembled from diverse sources and that many hands were involved is without doubt. The oldest surviving manuscript, MS Kathmandu KL 699, gives us physical evidence for the state of the text in the ninth century. We have little insight into the formational processes affecting the text before that time. But what we can see plainly is that the text was edited pervasively after that time, being influenced especially by the commentators Jejjāṭa, Candrāṭa, Gayadāsa and Cakrapāṇidatta and the editor Candrāṭa. However, a clear picture of how these later editorial processes took place will only be possible as a result of further research into a wider manuscript base.

¹³ See Wujastyk 2003b: intro. and Wujastyk 2021: 81–83 for an overview.

Part 1. Sūtrasthāna

Part 2. Nidānasthāna

Part 3. Śārīrasthāna

Part 4. Cikitsāsthāna

Part 5. Kalpasthāna

Kalpasthāna 8: Poisonous insects

Introduction

This is the last chapter of the *Kalpasthāna*. Since the chapter-colophons of the Nepalese manuscripts commonly end with the statement, “here ends the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* together with the Uttaratāntra,” we can presume that an older version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, sans Uttaratāntra, ended with the present chapter. Added to this, the beginning of the next section of the work, the Uttaratāntra, reads,

It being declared in the preceding 120 chapters, from here on, in the latter section, I shall explain the meanings in detail, fully.⁶⁹⁰
Now, I shall explain the treatise called “the latter” where diseases in their diversity are fully revealed.

It is often the case with evolving works that new chapters are added at the start or, especially, at the end of a work. This has been true since the *Ṛgveda*. The *Kalpasthāna* has a different character from the rest of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, for example eschewing theoretical considerations in many situations. It may therefore itself have once been an addition to an even earlier medical work consisting of four main divisions.

Insect names

It is more than usually difficult to equate the Sanskrit names of insects with contemporary creatures. This is partly, at least, because historical entomology is non-existent as a discipline. Furthermore, entomology as a science

⁶⁹⁰ Note that this is not the reading of the vulgate, which says that the Uttaratāntra will explain everything that was *not* completely explained before.

in South Asia is dramatically undeveloped when compared, for example, with botany.⁶⁹¹ There are few general surveys of insects in India and virtually none that record historical names or literary references. In the twelfth century, Ḍalhaṇa made the following remark about the commentators who lived before his time:

These different types of insects are not described by commentators like Suvīra, Nandin, Varāha, Jejjjaṭa and Gayadāsa, so they have to be identified from the people of different localities.⁶⁹²

Thus, even pre-modern Sanskrit authors were not expert regarding the identities of the insects discussed in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.⁶⁹³

In general the names listed in passages 5–14 are the least recognizable. Most seem never to appear elsewhere in Sanskrit literature or even elsewhere in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. The names mentioned from passages 25 onwards are mostly recognizable and do appear elsewhere Sanskrit literature.⁶⁹⁴ This chapter therefore gives the appearance of having two distinct parts. First, there is a taxonomy arranged according to humoral characteristics, containing otherwise unknown insect names. Second follows a concatenated treatise with more recognizable ordinary-language nomenclature coupled with creature-by-creature nosology and therapy.

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.⁶⁹⁵

The early history of entomology in India was fragmented until the study of Maxwell-Lefroy (1909) who provided a comprehensive and well illustrated reference compendium. Dover (1922) gave an overview of the early years of the field, though he admitted that, "I have not the linguistic

691 Desmond (1992) devoted a book of 368 pages to the early history of Indian botany; Dover (1922: 338–345) described the history of Indian entomology in seven pages.

692 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.8.4 (Su 1938: 586): एते कीटकभेदा नानादेशीयलोकादवगन्तव्याः, यतः सुवीरनन्दि-वराहजेज्जटगयदासादिभिः टीकाकारैर्न व्याख्याताः. (Varāha is called Vārāha by Ḍalhaṇa on 2.13.3 (Su 1938: 318).) Cf. Meulenbeld (HIML: IA, 387–388) on Suvīra and *mutatis mutandis* on the other commentators

693 MW includes 191 insect names, almost none of which are identified.

694 E.g., Mitra 2005.

695 HIML: IA, 296–299.

attainments to discuss the mention of various insects in ancient Sanskrit works.” Entomological studies focussed on south India include those of Baingrigge Fletcher (1914) and Ramakrishna Ayyar (1963). Meulenbeld (HIML: IB, 402) provided short bibliographies on Indian scorpions (note 214) and on spiders (note 222). Some insects were included by Ball (1888) in his study of the Indian flora and fauna known to classical Greek authors. Kaur and L. Singh (2018) provided a unique but very brief historical sketch of some arthropod references in Sanskrit literature.

Translation

- 1 And now I shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) about insects.

Taxonomy of insects

- 3 Insects originate from snakes' semen, feces, urine, the rot of corpses, and eggs.⁶⁹⁶ Their characters are traditionally divided into **three**: wind, fire, and water.
- 4 Yet others hold the opinion that they are connected with the characters of all of the humours. And those insects are also very fierce and all of them are divided into four groups.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 5–6 | 1. Tick-navel ?,
2. Beaked,
3. Horned, and
4. Hundred-kulimbhakas,
5. Cricket (?),
6. Fiery,
7. Little-voice,
8. Vicitīngas, and
9. Lentil insects. | 10. Āvarttaka-insect, and
11. Sheep-insect,
12. Myna-face, and
13. Legume-insect,
14. Hundred-creeper,
15. Stripy,
16. Spotted,
17. Speckle-head. ⁶⁹⁷ |
|-----|---|---|

7cd–8ab These eighteen insects, being of airy character, irritate the wind. The diseases of people bitten by one of these are caused by wind.

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 8cd–11ab | 1. Pitcher-like,
2. Shining-like-grain,
3. Celestial, and
4. Warding off,
5. Leaf-scorpion,
6. Noseless,
7. Devout,
8. Droplet,
9. Bee,
10. Outsider. | 11. Picciṭās,
12. Pot-turd,
13. Maggot (?),
14. Enemy-liquor,
15. Lotus-insect,
16. Drummer,
17. Mosquito,
18. Centipede,
19. Five-venom,
20. Cook-fish insect, |
|----------|--|--|

⁶⁹⁶ Sharma (1999–2001: 3, 78) omitted “snakes’” making it sound as if insects are just born of any semen, etc.

⁶⁹⁷ The list is deficient in the Nepalese version. The vulgate text has another half-verse here listing two more names, शतबाहु “hundred-arm” and रक्तराजि “red-stripe.” It does not include the Nepalese version’s अल्पवाच “little voice.”

- | | |
|--|---|
| 21. Black-beak,
22. She-ass insect.
These are the insects, as well
as the | 23. Worm-dish,
and the other one that is
known as the
24. Slimy. |
|--|---|

5.8.11cd These are the twenty-four insects that have the character of fire.

Symptoms

17cd–24 xx

Taxonomy according to symptoms and prognosis

25–27 xx
 28 iguana
 29 ⁶⁹⁸
 30–41 xx

Therapies

42–56abcd xx

Taxonomy of scorpions

56ef–66 xx

Therapies for scorpion-sting

67–74 xx

Symptoms of spider poisoning

75–89 xx

Origin story for spiders

90–93 xx

⁶⁹⁸ See n. 210, p. 82.



Figure 4: Husain, Shaykh, Shaykh Ali and Shaykh Hatim, “Asavari Ragini: Cropped Image of Scorpions” (Husain et al. [1591](#)). Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.

Taxonomy of spiders

94–100ab xx

Specific symptoms and treatment for spider poisoning

100cd–120 XX

Untreatable spider poisons

121–127 xx

Curable and incurable

128–129 xx

Therapies for spider poisoning

130–134 xx

General therapies for poisoning

135–139 xx

End of the Suśrutasamhitā

140–143 xx

Part 6. Uttarat Tantra

Editions and Abbreviations

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- CDIAL Turner, R. L. (1966–85), *A Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages* (2nd edn., London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0197135501, [URL](#); v. 2: *Indexes* by D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1969), v. 3: *Phonetic Analysis* by R. L. and D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1971), v. 4: *Addenda and Corrigenda* ed. J. C. Wright (SOAS, London, 1985). Online database at <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/soas/>.
- DED₂ Burrow, Thomas, and Emeneau, Murray B. (1984), *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* (2nd edn., Oxford: Clarendon Press), [ARK](#), [URL](#).
- EWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1992–2001), *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.
- KEWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1953–72), *Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen; a Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag).

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- 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.
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Index of Manuscripts

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Kathmandu NAK 1-1079: [11](#)

Kathmandu NAK 5-333: [11](#)

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Abbreviations

ADPS	Sivarajan, V. V., and Balachandran, Indira (1994), <i>Ayurvedic Drugs and Their Plant Sources</i> (New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta: Oxford & IBH Publishing).
AVS	Warrier, P. K., Nambiar, V. P. K., and Ramankutty, C. (1994–96) (eds.), <i>Indian Medicinal Plants: A Compendium of 500 Species</i> . Vaidyaratnam P. S. Varier's Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakal (Madras: Orient Longman).
BIA	Prater, S. H. (1993), <i>The Book of Indian Animals</i> (3rd edn., Bombay, Delhi, etc.: Oxford University Press), ARK ; 4th impression of 3rd corrected 1980 edition.
Chevillard	Chevallier, Andrew (2000), <i>The Encyclopedia of Herbal Medicine</i> , ed. Penny Warren et al. (1st edn., New York: Dorling Kindersley), ISBN: 9780751303148, ARK .
Chopra	Chopra, R. N., Nayar, S. L., and Chopra, I. C. (1956), <i>Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants</i> (3rd reprint, 1992, New Delhi: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research); vol. 2: R. N. Chopra, I. C. Chopra, and Varma (Chopra_{sup}).
Chopra IDG	Chopra, R. N., Chopra, I. C., Handa, K. L., et al. (1958), <i>Chopra's Indigenous Drugs of India</i> (2nd edn., Calcutta: Dhur & Sons), ARK .
Chopra _{sup}	Chopra, R. N., Chopra, I. C., and Varma, B. S. (1969), <i>Supplement to Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants</i> (Reprint 1986, New Delhi: National Institute of Science Communication), ISBN: 8185038872.

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- Dymock Dymock, William, Warden, C. J. H., and Hooper, David (1890), *Pharmacographia Indica: A History of the Principal Drugs of Vegetable Origin Met with in British India* (London, Bombay, Calcutta: Kegan Paul), [URL](#), accessed 16/03/2023.
- GJM₁ Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1974a), "Sanskrit Names of Plants and their Botanical Equivalents," in id., *The Mādhavanidāna and Its Chief Commentary: Chapters 1–10. Introduction, Translation, and Notes* (Leiden: Brill), chap. Appendix Four, 520–611, [ARK](#).
- GJM₂ Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1988), "G. J. Meulenbeld's Additions to his "Sanskrit Names of Plants and their Botanical Equivalents"," in Rahul Peter Das, *Das Wissen von der Lebensspanne der Bäume: Surapālas Vṛkṣāyurveda* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag), chap. Appendix 1, 425–65, ISBN: 9783515046633; Supplement to [GJM₁](#).
- GVDB Singh, Thakur Balwant, and Chuneekar, K. C. (1972), *Glossary of Vegetable Drugs in Brhatṭrayī* (Varanasi: Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office), [ARK](#).
- HK Hilgenberg, Luise, and Kirfel, Willibald (1941), *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgahrdayasaṃhitā, ein altindisches Lehrbuch der Heilkunde, aus dem Sanskrit ins Deutsche übertragen mit Einleitung, Anmerkungen und Indices* (Leiden: Brill), [ARK](#).
- IGP Griffiths, Mark (1994), *The New Royal Horticultural Society Index of Garden Plants* (London: Macmillan), [ARK](#).
- IHR Khare, C. P. (2004), *Indian Herbal Remedies: Rational Western Therapy, Ayurvedic and Other Traditional Usage, Botany* (Berlin and Heidelberg: Springer), ISBN: 978-3-642-62229-8. [DOI](#), [ARK](#).

Issar	Issar, T. P. (1994), <i>Blossoms of Bangalore</i> (Bangalore: T. P. Issar).
IW	Israel, Samuel, et al. (1988), <i>Indian Wildlife: Sri Lanka Nepal</i> (Insight Guides; Singapore etc.: APA Publications), ISBN: 9780245545238, ARK .
K & B	Kirtikar, K. R., Basu, B. D., and an I.C.S (1987), <i>Indian Medicinal Plants</i> , ed. E. Blatter, J. F. Caius, and K. S. Mhaskar, 8 vols. (2nd edn., Dehradun: International Book Distributors); First published in Allahabad, 1918.
MBG	Missouri Botanical Garden (2024), "Missouri Botanical Garden: Plant Finder," Missouri Botanical Garden, URL .
NEH	Bown, Deni (2001), <i>New Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses</i> (2nd edn., London, New York etc.: Dorling Kindersly).
NK	Nadkarni, K. M. (1982), <i>Dr. K. M. Nadkarni's Indian Materia Medica, with Ayurvedic, Unani-tibbi, Siddha, Allopathic, Homeopathic, Naturopathic & Home Remedies, Appendices & Indexes ... in Two Volumes</i> , ed. A. K. Nadkarni, 2 vols. (3 ed., revised and enlarged by A. K. Nadkarni, Bombay: Popular Prakashan), ISBN: 8171541429, URL ; First published in 1954.
Peter	Peter, K. V. (2012) (ed.), <i>Handbook of Herbs and Spices</i> (Food Science, Technology and Nutrition, 228; 2nd edn., Oxford, Cambridge, Philadelphia, New Delhi: Woodhead Publishing), ISBN: 9780857090393.
Potter _{rev}	Wren, R. C., Williamson, Elizabeth M., and Evans, Fred J. (1994), <i>Potter's New Cyclopaedia of Botanical Drugs and Preparations</i> (Saffron Walden: C. W. Daniel Company Ltd.); Reprint of revised 1988 edition.
POWO	Kew Gardens (2024), "Plants of the World," Royal Botanic Gardens, URL .
Reptiles	Daniel, J. C. (1983), <i>The Book of Indian Reptiles</i> (Bombay: Oxford University Press).
Trees	Bole, P. V., and Vaghani, Yogini (1986), <i>Field Guide to the Common Trees of India</i> (Bombay, Delhi, Oxford, etc.: World Wildlife Fund – India and Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0-19-561595-6; 4th reprint.

Watt_{Comm} Watt, George (1908), *The Commercial Products of India, Being an Abridgement of "the Dictionary of the Economic Products of India"* (London: John Murray), [ARK](#).

Flora

- aconite leaf (?) (*viṣapatrikā*) Unknown. Cf. perhaps, [Indian aconite](#) (*viṣā*) (but that is feminine). Cf. [GVDB](#): 373, "unidentified": 139
- agarwood (*aguru*) *Aquilaria malaccensis* Lam., [GVDB](#): 3: 98, 99, 200
- 'alas, alas' (?) (*hālāhala*) unknown. See Cf. *Soḍhalanighantu* p.43 (sub *bola*) = *stomaka* = [Indian aconite](#) (*vatsanābha*): 140, 142
- Alexandrian laurel (*punnāga*) *Calophyllum inophyllum*, L. See [AVS](#): 1, 338, [NK](#): 1, #425: 181, 200
- amaranth (*taṇḍulīya*) see [amaranth](#) (*taṇḍulīyaka*): 182
- amaranth (*taṇḍulīyaka*) *Amaranthus spinosus* L. See [GVDB](#): 174, [Dutt](#): 321, [NK](#): 1, #144, [Potter_{rev}](#): 15. Cf. [AVS](#): 1, 121. Amaranth (etym. amṛta!) is a large family, many originally endemic to S. America. *A. hypochondriacus* L. is sometimes identified with *taṇḍulīyaka*, but *A. spinosus* L. is better known and attested in S. Asia in the first millennium BCE ([Saraswat 1991](#)): 131, 189, 193, 198, 292
- Arabian jasmine (*trṇaśūnya*) see [Arabian jasmine](#) (*mallikā*), [GVDB](#): 190 MW: 453 says *Jasminium sambac*. [GVDB](#): 190 also suggest [screwpine](#) (*ketaka*): 292
- Arabian jasmine (*mallikā*) *Jasminum sambac* (L.) Aiton, [GVDB](#): 300: 292
- Arabian jasmine (*trṇaśūlya*) probably an alternative pronunciation for [Arabian jasmine](#) (*trṇaśūnya*), [GVDB](#): 190: 200
- arjun (*arjuna*) *Terminalia arjuna*, Bedd. See [HK](#): 738: 44, 78, 197
- Asoka tree (*aśoka*) *Saraca indica* Linn., [GVDB](#): 26: 99, 101, 182, 200, 214, 308
- atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*) *Aconitum heterophyllum*, Wall. ex Royle. See [AVS](#): 1, 42, [NK](#): 1, #39: 140, 142
- axlewood (*dhava*) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. See [AVS](#): 1, 163 f, [Chopra](#): 20: 44, 77, 152, 197, 200
- bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) *Bambusa bambos*, Druce. See [NK](#): 1, #307: 131
- banyan (*nyagrodha*) *Ficus benghalensis*, L., [GVDB](#): 356, [HK](#): 748: 292
- banyan (*vaṭa*) see [banyan](#) (*nyagrodha*): 78, 81
- barley (*yava*) *Hordeum vulgare*, L. See [HK](#): 752: 109
- barley ash (*yavakṣāra*) The preparation method is described at [GVDB](#): 327: 112, 292
- barley ash (*yavanāla*) see [barley ash](#) (*yavakṣāra*), [GVDB](#): 327: 190
- bayberry (*kaṭphala*) *M. esculenta* Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don, which is native to the Himalaya, from Kashmir to Assam, as well as S. China and SE Asia. *Nageia nagi* (Thunb.) Kuntze (syn of *Myrica nagi* Thunb.), as suggested by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 66), is native to East Asia, not India: 182
- bearded premna (*vasuka*) *Premna barbata* Wall. (← *vasuhaṭṭa*), according to [Cakrapāṇidatta](#). See the discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 362–363), where other candidate species such as *Osmanthus*,

- Calotropis, and Trianthema are discussed. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 363) note that when *vasuka* is mentioned with *vasira*, two varieties of salt are often meant (see *vasukavasirā*). See also NK: #1299 who identifies it with *Indigofera enneaphylla*, Linn. (Birdsville Indigo), apparently without controversy: 78
- beautyberry (*śyāmā*) *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: 1, 334, NK: 1, #420: 104, 129, 131, 183
- beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) see *beggarweed* (*śālaparṇī*), GVDB: 1, mentioning that the pair of these refers to *beggarweed* and ??: 147, 192
- beggarweed (*sthirā*) see *beggarweed* (*śālaparṇī*), GVDB: 458: 192
- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) see *beggarweed* (*śālaparṇī*): 53, 109, 303
- beggarweed (*śālaparṇī*) *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. See Dymock: 1, 428, GJM1: 602, NK: 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing: 293
- beleric myrobalan (*bibhītaka*) *Terminalia bellirica* Roxb. One of the components of the three myrobalans (*triphalā*) GVDB: 274, 196: 311
- Bengal quince (*bilva*) *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. See AVS: 1, 62, Chevillard: 161, NK: 1, #62, i(MW: 732a): 77, 99, 101, 106, 183, 293, 298, 310
- big poison (?) (*mahāviṣa*) unknown.: 140, 142
- big thorn apple (?) (*mahākarambha*) Perhaps *Datura metel*, L.?. See thorn apple (*karambha*): 139
- bitter gourd (*paṭolī*) see pointed gourd (*paṭola*), cite[233]gvdb: 182
- bitumen (*adrija*) → *śilājīṭ*. A tar-like, black, resinous rock exudate. See Mahākośa: 1, 21: 163
- black Bengal quince (*kṛṣṇaśrīphalikā*) GVDB: 412, on *śrīphala*, synonym of Bengal quince (*bilva*) fruit: 299
- black creeper (*kālānusārī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani* Roemer & Schultes. Probably a synonym for *kṛṣṇasārīvā* (GVDB: 94–95). *I. frutescens* has dark, rust-colored stems, so has been preferred here. However, *Cryptolepis grandiflora*, Wight, also has black stems. Synonym of *kālānusārīṇī*, *kālānusārīvā*. *kālānusārīya* may be a synonym of *tagara*, itself hard to identify: 181, 293
- black creeper (*pālindī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer & Schultes. See AVS: 3, 141, 145, 203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434. Ḍalhaṇa on SS 5.1.82 identified *pālindī* with *trivṛt* (*turpeth*) and T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 246) supported this as a usual identification: 131, 134, 147, 182
- black nightshade (*kākamācī*) *Solanum nigrum*, Linn., GVDB: 86–87. May also be the less poisonous *S. dulcamara*, “bittersweet nightshade,” K & B: 1, 889–892: 192, 199, 296
- black pepper (*marica*) *Piper nigrum*, L. See ADPS: 294, NK: 1, #1929. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 341): 110, 198, 214, 298, 311
- black sarsaparilla (*kālānusārīvā*) see Indian sarsaparilla (*sārīvā*); see also black creeper (*kālānusārī*). Problems about identifying this plant are discussed at GVDB: 94–95 and GVDB: 429–431: 200
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420: 130, 293
- blackboard tree (*saptaparna*) see blackboard tree (*saptachada*): 198
- blackbuck (*harīṇa*) *Antelope cervicapra*, L. See BIA: 270 IW: 95, 165, et passim: 134
- blue water-lily (*utpala*) *Nymphaea stellata*, Willd. See GJM1: 528, IGP 790; Dutt: 110, NK: 1, #1726: 35, 129, 147,

- 200, 214, 215, 297
- bluebell barleria (*kuravaka*) see **bluebell barleria** (*kuruvaka*) : 183
- bluebell barleria (*kuruvaka*) Or *kurubaka*.
T. B. Singh and Chunekar (GVDB: 108) notes that this is sometimes listed as a type of rice, as at *Suśrutasamhitā* 1.46.8 (Su 1938: 215). Further discussion at GVDB: 447–448, sub **bluebell barleria** (*saireyaka*), where *kurubaka* is said to be identifiable with *baka* and *būka*.
T. B. Singh and Chunekar (GVDB) finally propose a red-flowering *Rhododendron*, admitting that this is a novel suggestion : 139, 294
- bluebell barleria (*sahā*) see **bluebell barleria** (*sahācara*), GVDB: 428 : 108, 191
- bluebell barleria (*sahācara*) see **bluebell barleria** (*saireyaka*), GVDB: 427 : 294
- bluebell barleria (*saireyaka*) A *Barleria*, perhaps *B. cristata* L. that is particularly well-known in South India. Four kinds are distinguished in *ayurveda*, based on the colour of their flowers. See substantive discussion at GVDB: 444–449 : 294
- bread flower (*āsphota*) GVDB: 41 argue for *Vallisneria spiralis* (Roth ex Roem. & Schult.) Kuntze. This has the right distribution in S. Asia POWO: s.v. : 193
- bull's head (*gokṣura*) *Tribulus terrestris* L. GVDB: 144–145, 193. A component of **lesser five roots** : 294
- bull's head (*trikaṇṭaka*) → **bull's head** (*gokṣura*) GVDB: 193. A component of **lesser five roots** : 303
- bulrush (*kaṣeru*) "Two species, *Scirpus kysoor* Roxb., and *S. grossus* Linn. f., are used" GVDB: 85. Also *kaṣeruka* and *kaseru* : 104, 105, 108
- calabash gourd (*kūṣmāṇḍa*) → *puṣpaphala*. *Beninkasa hispida*, (Thunb.) Cogn. See AVS: 2, 1127; cf. AVS: 1, 261 : 298
- camphor (*karpūra*) → *śītaśiva*.
Cinnamomum camphora, (L.) Sieb. See IGP 253 : 294
- camphor (*śītaśiva*) rarely mentioned. Taken as **rock salt** (*saindhava*) or **shami tree** (*śamī*), etc., by some authors, GVDB: 402. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.18 (Su 1938: 581) glossed it as **camphor** (*karpūra*), but noticed other interpretations : 200
- cardamom (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton. See AVS: 2, 360, NK: 1, #924, Potter_{rev}: 66 : 98, 99, 147, 153, 181, 182, 190, 200, 294
- cardamom (*kṣudrailā*) see **cardamom** (*elā*), GVDB: 128. This expression, "small cardamom" is only used at *Suśrutasamhitā* Kalpasthāna 6.17 : 200
- carray cheddie (*viśvadevā*) → *gāṅgerukī* *Canthium parviflorum*, Lam. See AVS: 1, 366 f. Or *Sida rhombifolia* Linn. (GVDB: 372, 444 ff. et passim) : 81
- castor oil tree (*gandharvahasta*) see **castor-oil** (*eraṇḍa*). GVDB: 135, K & B: 3, 2277 : 49, 101
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: 1, #2145, Chopra: 214 : 54, 294
- castor-oil tree (*vardhamāna*) see **castor-oil** (*eraṇḍa*), GVDB: 361 : 198
- catechu (*khadira*) *Senegalia catechu* (L.f.) P. J. Hurter & Mabb = *Acacia catechu* Willd. GVDB: 129–130 : 78
- 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 rūpyam, sutāraḥ pāradaḥ*, "tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury." : 152
- chaff (*kāṇḍana*) The word *kāṇḍana* is not found in dictionaries; *kaṇḍana* is threshing, separating the chaff from the grain in a mortar. Cf. Hemādri's *Caturvargacintāmaṇi* (PWK: 2, 8) (Śiromaṇi 1873: 1, 138: 21, citing the *Vāyupurāṇa*) : 37, 309
- champak (*campaka*) *Magnolia champaca*

- (L.) Baill. ex Pierre, [GVDB](#): 154 : 200
chebulic myrobalan (*haritakī*) Terminalia
chebula Retz. [GVDB](#): 466 : 107, 130,
200, 311
cherry (*elavālu*) Prunus cerasus, L. See
[GVDB](#): 58 for a thoughtful discussion
[NK](#): 1, #2037 : 147, 200, 295
cherry (*elavālu*) see [cherry](#) (*elavālu*) : 198
chir pine (*sarala*) Pinus roxburghii, Sarg.
[GVDB](#): 423 : 77, 108, 198, 200
cinnamon (*tvac*) Cinnamomum cassia,
Blume. See [NK](#): 1, #579 : 192, 200, 295
cinnamon (*tvac*) see [cinnamon](#) (*tvac*) : 182
cinnamon (*varāṅga*) see [cinnamon](#) (*tvac*),
[GVDB](#): 360 : 198
citron (*mātuluṅga*) Citrus medica, Linn.
[GVDB](#): 276, 306. Also spelled *mātuliṅga*,
mātulaṅga, *mātulāṅga* : 77, 106, 111,
112, 182
cluster fig (*udumbara*) Ficus racemosa, L.
See [ADPS](#): 487 : 197
cobra's saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → nāgakeśara.
Mesua ferrea, L. See [NK](#): 1, #1595,
[GVDB](#): 220 : 147
colocynth (*indravāruṇī*) Citrullus
colocynthis (L.) Schrad., [GVDB](#): 46.
The two varieties of this plant are
discussed by ([ADPS](#): 180–183); the first
is agreed to be colocynth, the second is
debated but is likely to be a
Curcubitaceae : 198, 200, 295
colocynth (*mṛgādanī*) see [colocynth](#)
(*indravāruṇī*) [GVDB](#): 46, 318 : 182
common smilax (*śvadamśtra*) Smilax
aspera L., [GVDB](#): 414 : 77
convolvulus (*lakṣmaṇā*) Sivarajan and
Balachandran ([ADPS](#): 273–275)
suggest Ipomoea marginata (Desr.)
Verdc. or I. obscura (Linn.)
[AVS](#): 3, 237–238 suggests Ipomoea
sepiaria Roxb. (looks like a little boy
(*putraka*), and generates a boy
(*putrajananī*), according to the
Bhāvaprakāśa). Sivarajan and
Balachandran ([ADPS](#): 273–275) firmly
reject Mandragora officinalis which is
European; but possible consideration
could be given to Mandragora
caulescens C.B. Clarke, a variant that is
known in South Asia. Cf.
[GVDB](#): 346–347. [NK](#): #1546, #2323
suggests Mandragora officinalum,
Linn., known as *putrada* : 81
coriander (*dhānyaka*) Coriandrum sativum
L., [GVDB](#): 213 : 295
coriander (*kustumburya*) see [coriander](#)
(*dhānyaka*), [GVDB](#): 113 : 200
corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) Erythrina
suberosa Roxb. See [GVDB](#): 245 : 152, 295
corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) see [corky](#)
[coral tree](#) (*pāribhadra*) : 101, 197
costus (*kuṣṭha*) Dolomiaea costus (Falc.)
Kasana & A. K. Pandey. See [GVDB](#): 112,
[NK](#): 1, #2239. Known to ancient Greek
authors (Ball 1888: 345) : 98, 99, 106,
131, 147, 153, 181, 182, 190, 198, 200
cottony jujube (*kākolī*) Ziziphus
mauritanica, Lam. See [IGP](#): 1233, [NK](#): 1,
#2663; [IGP](#) 1233. Cf. [NK](#): 1, #1170 : 97,
105, 106, 178
country mallow (*atibālā*) Abutilon
indicum, (L.) Sweet, but may be other
kinds of mallow, e.g., Sida rhombifolia,
L.. See [NK](#): 1, #11, [IGP](#): 1080, [NK](#): 1,
#2300, [ADPS](#): 71, 77 : 53, 105, 108, 274
country mallow (*sahadevā*) → *balā*
([GVDB](#): 428). Contains ephedrine :
81, 108
country sarsaparilla (*anantā*) Hemidesmus
indicum, (L.) R. Br. See [ADPS](#): 434,
[AVS](#): 3, 141–145, [NK](#): 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. Rr. ([GVDB](#): 429–431) : 53, 139,
147, 152
crape jasmine (*tagara*) Tabernaemontana
divaricata (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. &
Schultes. See [GJM](#): 557, [AVS](#): 5, 232.

- Synonym of *nata*. 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 or a *Nymphoides* (see [water snowflake \(?\)](#) (*kumudavati*)), but there remain many historical questions about the ancient and regional identities of this plant See, e.g., [AVS](#): 5, 334, 345. See also [IGP](#): 1147, [K & B](#): 1, 796, #758: 98, 99, 106, 131, 147, 181, 200, 299, 313
- crimson trumpet-flower tree (*pāṭalā*) *Stereospermum chelonides*, (L. f.) A. DC. See [GJM](#): 573, [AVS](#): 5, 192 ff, [ADPS](#): 362 f, [AVS](#): 3, 1848 f, [IGP](#) 1120, [Dymock](#): 3, 20 ff: 298, 313
- croton tree (*nāgadantī*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg., [GVDB](#): 222 : 198, 296, 308
- croton tree (*nāgavinnā*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg. [GVDB](#): 222 I have taken this as [croton tree](#) (*nāgadantī*) because of context in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* *Kalpasthāna* 5: 183
- crow (?) (*kāka*2) an unidentified poisonous plant apparently called “crow.” T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 86) note that several drugs named after the crow are unidentifiable. [Black nightshade](#), (*kākamācī*) is toxic, but this is a stretch: 139
- datura* (*dhattūra*) *Datura metel*, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff. [Potter_{rev}](#): 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132 : 50, 296
- datura* (*dhuttūrakā*) see [datura](#) (*dhattūra*) : 194
- deodar (*bhadradāru*) *Cedrus deodara*, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See [AVS](#) 41, [NK](#): 1, #516 : 44, 105, 109, 147, 198
- deodar (*devadāru*) *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Loud. [GVDB](#): 206–207 : 77, 106, 200, 274, 296
- deodar (*suradāru*) see [deodar](#) (*devadāru*) : 181
- devil’s dung (*hiṅgu*) *Ferula foetida* Regel., [GVDB](#): 471–472 : 78, 79, 181
- dried ginger (*nāgara*) → [dried ginger](#) (*śuṇṭhī*) [GVDB](#): 221–222 : 79, 181
- dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See [ADPS](#): 50, [NK](#): 1, #2658, [AVS](#): 5, 435, [IGP](#): 1232 : 104, 296, 311
- dried meat (*vallūra*) [MW](#): 929, [Mahākośa](#): 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](#): 3, 167) : 36
- drum-giver (?) (*lambaradā*) Unknown; cf. [GVDB](#): 348 : 139
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) cf. [Indian barberry](#) (*añjana*) : 44, 54, 300
- embelia (*viḍaṅga*) *Embelia ribes*, Burm. f. See [ADPS](#): 507, [AVS](#): 2, 368, [NK](#): 1, #929, [Potter_{rev}](#): 113 : 44, 77, 99, 147, 181, 182, 198
- emblic myrobalan (*āmālaka*) *Phyllanthus emblica*, L. See [AVS](#): 4, 256 : 78, 107, 108, 214, 311
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭa*) Probably a synonym for *karahāṭa* ([emetic nut](#)), q.v., [GVDB](#): 74 : 296
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭaka*) see [emetic nut](#) (*karaghāṭa*) : 140, 197
- emetic nut (*karahāṭa*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See [GVDB](#): 291–292 and [NK](#): 1, #2091. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 74, 77–78) noted that it may be a synonym for *karaghāṭa*, [emetic nut](#), and pointed rather to *Gardenia turgida* Roxb. on the basis of local knowledge in U. P. : 296
- emetic nut (?) (*karaṭā*) Not in [GVDB](#). Cf. perhaps *karahāṭa* ([emetic nut](#)) : 138
- emetic nut (*madana*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See [NK](#): 1, #2091 : 130, 276
- false daisy (*bhṛṅga*) *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See [GVDB](#): 288 : 77
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (*su*)bhaṅgura =

- bhr̥ṅga? Eclipta prostrata (L.) L. See [GVDB: 288 : 138](#)
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → *kāñjī*, *kāñjikā*, *sauvīra*. [GVDB: 458](#), [NK: 2](#), appendix VI, #18 : [51](#), [52](#)
- 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 : [133](#)
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) Woodfordia fruticosa (L.) Kurz. See [AVS: 5](#), [412](#), [NK: 1](#), #2626. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 344) : [78](#), [130](#)
- five roots (*pañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.66–69 ([Su 1938: 169](#)). There are two *pañcamūlas*, the *laghupañcamūla* (the lesser five roots) and *bṛhatpañcamūla* (greater five roots), with differing properties. Combined they are called *daśamūla* (ten roots). See also [Mahākośa: 1](#), [468 : 77](#)
- flame-of-the-forest (*kiṃśuka*) see [flame-of-the-forest](#) (*palāśa*), [GVDB: 97–98 : 190](#)
- flame-of-the-forest (*palāśa*) Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub. [GVDB: 241](#). *pālāśa* in some sources : [78](#), [101](#), [297](#)
- flax (*atasī*) Linum usitatissimum, L. See [NK#1495 : 105](#)
- foxtail millet (*priyaṅgu*) also *śyāmā*. Setaria italica (L.) P. Beauvois [GVDB: 263–264](#), [GJM1: 576](#). The most widely-grown species of millet in Asia. Some say Callicarpa macrophylla, Vahl. See [AVS: 1](#), [334](#), [NK: 1](#), #420. The fruits of S. italica and C. macrophylla are similar. See also [GVDB: 413](#), where the authors suggest that *priyaṅgu* is meant by *gondī* or *gondanī* and may have originally been called *gundrabīja* : [44](#), [147](#), [153](#), [181](#), [182](#), [214](#), [297](#)
- foxtail millet (*priyaṅgū*) see [foxtail millet](#) (*priyaṅgu*) : [200](#)
- fragrant lotus (*saugandhika*) A type of [white water-lily](#) (*kumuda*) or [blue water-lily](#) (*utpala*), [GVDB: 457 : 35](#)
- fruit of the marking-nut (*āruṣkara*) see [marking-nut tree](#) (*aruṣkara*). “āruṣkara = aruṣkara phala” [ADPS: 23](#); see also [MW: 151 : 182](#)
- gajpipul (*gajapippalī*) [GVDB: 469](#), [132](#), syn. *hastipippalī*. A controversial plant, but the conjecture of T. B. Singh and Chuneekar that Scindapsus officinalis (Roxb.) Schott is the more ancient identity is accepted here : [297](#), [316](#)
- gajpipul (*hastipippalī*) see [gajpipul](#) (*gajapippalī*), [GVDB: 469](#), [132 : 198](#)
- galangal (*galaṅgala*) Alpinia galanga (L.) Sw. Identified with [grey orchid](#) in Kerala ([ADPS: 398](#)). The name is borrowed from Chinese, perhaps via Persian or Arabic ([Peter: 2](#), [304](#)), and the name does not occur in early āyurvedic literature ([GVDB](#)) : [298](#)
- galls (?) (*karkaṭa*) almost impossible to identify with certainty, [GVDB: 78–80](#). Perhaps Rhus succedanea, L. See [NK: 1](#), #2136 : [140](#)
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) Dipterocarpus turbinatus Gaertn. f. See [GVDB: 28](#), [Chopra: 100 : 152](#), [197](#), [200](#)
- giant potato (*kṣīravidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. Ipomoea mauritiana, Jacq. See [ADPS: 510](#), [AVS: 3](#), [222](#), [AVS: 3](#), [1717 ff : 105](#), [301](#), [305](#), [306](#), [308](#)
- ginger (*mahaṣadha*) Zingiber officinale, Roscoe. See [ADPS: 50](#), [NK: 1](#), #2658, [IGP: 1232 : 134](#)
- gold (*hema*) gold : [147](#)
- 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](#)” : [153](#)

- golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) see [golden shower tree](#) (*āragvadha*) : 152
- golden shower tree (*rājavr̥kṣa*) see [golden shower tree](#) (*āragvadha*) : 77
- golden shower tree (*āragvadha*) Cassia fistula L. [GVDB](#): 37–38, [ADPS](#): 48, [AVS](#): 2, 11 ff, [AVS](#): 2, 854, [IGP](#): 215. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 343). The plant has many synonyms : 107, 180, 190, 192, 298
- gourd (*alābu*) Lagenaria siceraria Standl. [GVDB](#): 25. Some say Lagenaria vulgaris, Seringe ([NK](#): 1, #1419) but this is not appropriate for blood-letting : 31, 32, 130, 178
- gourd (*vallija*) see [gourd](#) (*vallija*) : 140
- gourd (*vallija*) This is a guess. According to some lexical sources, syn. for [black pepper](#) (*marica*) ([MW](#): 929). See [NK](#): 1, #1929. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 362) note that *vallīphala* may be [calabash gourd](#) (*kūṣmāṇḍa*), which I follow. The related [spiny bitter gourd](#) has poisonous seeds, but not flowers. Commenting on *Bṛhatsaṃhitā* 8.13ab and 16.24ab, Bhaṭṭotpala glossed it as *mudgādi*, “mung beans etc.” : 298
- grapes (*drākṣā*) Vitis vinifera L. [GVDB](#): 208–209 : 182
- greater five roots (*br̥hatpañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.68–69 (Su 1938: 169). Consists of [Bengal quince](#), [migraine tree](#), [Indian trumpet tree](#), [crimson trumpet-flower tree](#), and [white teak](#) : 297, 302, 311
- green gram (*māṣa*) Vigna radiata (L.) R. Wilcz. See [ADPS](#): 296, [IGP](#) 1204 : 44, 105, 275
- grey orchid (*rāsnā*) Vanda tessellata (Roxb.) Hook. ex G.Don, usually. But Pluchea lanceolata, Oliver & Hiern, is a more common identification in Punjab and Gujarat ([GVDB](#): 337–338); *Alpinia galanga* (L.) Sw. is more common in Kerala ([ADPS](#): 398; [Peter](#): 2, 303–318), though this is usually identified with [galangal](#). As all authorities note, the identification of this plant is debated. Sivarajan and Balachandran ([ADPS](#): 398–401) note that sources describe it as having leaves like cardamom and sweet-smelling roots and that “there is great confusion with regard to the identity of the drug.” : 77, 104, 106, 181, 297
- gummy gardenia (*pr̥thvīkā*) ← *hīṅupatrikā*, *Gardenia gummifera* L.f., [GVDB](#): 257, q.v. for discussion : 182, 200
- hairy bergenia (*pāṣāṇabheda*) *Bergenia ligulata* (Wall.) Engl. [GVDB](#): 246–247 : 78
- hairy-fruited eggplant (*br̥hatī*) *Solanum lasiocarpum* Dunal. (syn. *S. ferox*, L. & *S. indicum* L.), [GVDB](#): 277–278, who discuss the two kinds of *br̥hatī*, which may be large and small eggplants (*Solanum melongena* L.). See also [ADPS](#): 100, [NK](#): 1, #2329, [AVS](#): 5, 151, [IHR](#): 429–430 : 101, 107, 146, 147, 190, 192, 303
- halfa grass (*darbha*) *Demostachya bipinnata* Stapf. [GVDB](#): 201. Synonym of *kuśa* : 80, 105
- halfa grass (*kuśa*) *Desmostachya bipinnata*, (L.) Stapf. [GVDB](#): 111, [AVS](#): 2, 326 : 105, 175, 198
- hare foot uraria (*kroṣṭakamekhalā*) see [hare foot uraria](#) (*pr̥śniparnī*) *Mahākośa*: 1, 246. *kroṣṭaka* can mean “jackal” *śṛgāla*, as in *śṛgālavinna*, “a kind of *pr̥śnaparnī*” *Mahākośa*: 1, 839 : 182
- hare foot uraria (*pr̥thakparṇī*) → [hare foot uraria](#) (*pr̥śniparnī*) and [rajmahal hemp](#) (*mūrvā*) [GVDB](#): 257. A component of [lesser five roots](#) : 107, 303
- hare foot uraria (*pr̥śniparnī*) → *sahā?* *Uraria lagopoides*, DC. and *U. picta* Desv. See [GVDB](#): 257–258, [GJM1](#): 577, [Dymock](#): 1, 426, [AVS](#): 1, 750 ff, [NK](#): 1, #2542; [ADPS](#): 382, [AVS](#): 2, 319 and

- AVS: 4, 366 are confusing. Also called *pr̥thakparṇī*. A component of **lesser five roots**: 104, 105, 298
- heart-leaf sida (*balā*) *Sida cordifolia*, Linn. See ADPS: 71, NK: 1, #2297: 53, 105, 108, 110, 147, 274
- heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*. *Tinospora cordifolia*, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.? See ADPS: 38, NK: 1, #2472, 624, Dastur #229: 131, 146, 192
- heart-leaved moonseed (*guḍūcī*) *Tinospora cordifolia*, (Thunb.) Miers. ADPS: 38, NK: 1, #2472 & #624, Dastur #229, GVDB: 141–142. Also identified as *Cocculus cordifolius* DC. by Nadkarni (NK) and others (see also the **Tropicos botanical database**): 77, 106
- heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*) *Tinospora cordifolia* (Thunb.) Miers. GVDB: 456. Likely, but uncertain: 131
- heart-leaved moonseed creeper (*amṛtavallī*) See *amṛtā*: 274
- hedge caper (*hiṃsrā*) *Capparis sepiaria* L., GVDB: 471, IHR: 124, K & B: 1, 109: 299
- hedge caper (*kākādanī*) synonym of **hedge caper** (*hiṃsrā*), GVDB: 88, 471, IHR: 124, K & B: 1, 109. This name is not used in the *Carakasamhitā*. At 5.7.31 (Su 1938: 583), Ḍalhaṇa glossed *kākādanī* as **black Bengal quince** (*kṛṣṇaśrīphalikā*). GVDB: vi, 471 note that they have identified *kākādanī* as *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L. “balloonvine”: 192
- henna (*madayantikā*) *Lawsonia inermis*, L. See AVS: 3, 303, NK: 1, #1448, Potter_{rev}: 151: 132
- hibiscus (?) (*ambaṣṭhā*) possibly *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.? T. B. Singh and Chunekar (GVDB: 18–19) discuss the confusions surrounding the identity of this plant, and especially between this plant and **velvet-leaf** (*pāṭhā*); they must be different items. T. B. Singh and Chunekar propose that *ambaṣṭhā* is either the fruit of *Hibiscus* or the galls of a *Quercus* or *Tamarix* species. According to Meulenbeld 1974b: 599, *vanakārpāsī* is more likely a name for a **hibiscus**: 183
- Himalayan birch (*bhūja*) see **Himalayan birch** (*bhūrja*): 198
- Himalayan birch (*bhūrja*) *Betula utilis* D. Don, GVDB: 287: 299
- Himalayan mayapple (*vakra*) *Podophyllum hexandrum*, Royle (NK: #1971), K & B: 1, 68. But perhaps a synonym of **crape jasmine** (*tagara, nata* q.v. (GVDB: 354)): 153, 181, 182, 192
- Himalayan yew (*sthaṇṇeya*) see **Himalayan yew** (*sthaṇṇeyaka*): 200
- Himalayan yew (*sthaṇṇeyaka*) T. B. Singh and Chunekar (GVDB: 458–459) suggested *Taxus baccata* L., but that tree is endemic to the Mediterranean and not South Asia. Poudel et al. 2013 show that *T. contorta* Griff., *T. mairei* (Lemée & Lév.) and *T. wallichiana* Zucc. are distributed in the Hindu Kush - Himalaya region. The Nepalese name *Thuṇeraka* is etymologically cognate with the Sanskrit name. *T. contorta* is of medicinal importance, so its common name is used here: 181, 299
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*, L. See ADPS: 387, AVS: 1, 281, NK: 1, #363: 107, 132, 146, 183, 299
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) see **hogweed** (*punarnavā*): 191
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) see **hogweed** (*punarnavā*): 194
- hogweed (*varṣābhū*) see **hogweed** (*varṣābhū*): 191
- hogweed (*varṣābhū*) see **hogweed** (*punarnavā*). According to GVDB: 361, it is *Trianthema portulacastrum* L., but this is mainly known from Africa and the new world. The name is often considered a synonym for **hogweed** (*punarnavā*): 299

- Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) → *sūryavallī*? Holostemma ada-kodien, Schultes. See [ADPS](#): 195, [AVS](#): 3, 167, 169, [NK](#): 1, #1242: 108, 306
- holy basil (*surasa*) *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, Linn. [GVDB](#): 438–439: 183
- honey (*kṣaudra*) Eight varieties of honey are described in the *Suśrutasamhitā* ([NK](#): 2, Appendix 192). *Kṣaudra* is the product of a small bee of tawny colour, called *kṣudra*: 113, 134, 214, 215
- horned pondweed (*śaivāla*) also *śaivāla*, *śevāra*. *Zannichellia palustris* L. The uncertainties of this identification are discussed by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 409). Sometimes identified with [scutch grass](#) (*dūrvā*) ([GVDB](#): 409). Identified as *Ceratophyllum demersum* Linn. (“hornwort”) by [AVS](#): 2, 56–57x: 106, 300, 307
- hornwort (*jalaśūka*) → *jalanīlikā*. *Ceratophyllum demersum*, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 56, [IGP](#): 232. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([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: 53
- horse gram (*kaulattha*) See [horse gram](#) (*kulattha*): 176
- horse gram (*kulattha*) *Macrotyloma uniflorum* (Lam.) Verdcourt, syn. *Dolichos biflorus*, L., *D. uniflorus*, Lam., [GVDB](#): 109, [POWO](#): sub *Macrotyloma uniflorum*: 109, 110, 180, 201, 300
- horseradish tree (*madhukaśigru*) *Moringa oleifera* Lam., [GVDB](#): 398–399. See [horseradish tree](#) (*śigru*): 197
- horseradish tree (*murugī*) see [horseradish tree](#) (*śigru*) ([GVDB](#): 311): 182
- horseradish tree (*śigru*) *Moringa oleifera* Lam. See [IGP](#): 759, [GJM1](#): 603, [Dymock](#): 1, 396, [GVDB](#): 398–399: 106, 107, 300
- hyacinth beans (*niṣpāva*) *Lablab purpureus* (L.) Sweet (1826) [GVDB](#): 228: 95
- Indian aconite (*ativīṣā*) *Aconitum ferox*, Wall. ex Ser., or perhaps *A. heterophyllum* Wall. ex Royle, [GVDB](#): 12, [NK](#): 1, #39. Also called “atis roots” or just *viṣā*. *A. ferox* is also called aconite, monkshood, wolfsbane, etc. *A. ferox* is extremely poisonous. See also [Indian aconite](#) (*vatsanābha*). It grows especially in mountainous Sikkim: 96, 132, 134, 153, 198, 200, 300
- Indian aconite (*vatsanābha*) *Aconitum ferox*, Wall. ex Ser. Cf. [AVS](#): 1, 47 (*A. Napellus*, L., which is European and now taxonomically separated from *A. ferox*), [NK](#): 1, #42, [Potter_{rev}](#): 4 f. *A. chasmanthum* Stapf ex Holmes according to [GVDB](#): 357, but that is distributed in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tibet, Mongolia and Siberia. “*vatsanābha*” occurs in only once in the *Carakasamhitā* and thrice in the *Suśrutasamhitā* (Ca4.23.11571, Su5.2. 5, 6, 12564): 140, 141, 292, 300
- Indian aconite (*viṣā*) see [Indian aconite](#) (*ativīṣā*), [GVDB](#): 12, 373: 292, 307
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) see [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*) Cf. [elixir salve](#) (*rasañjana*): 54, 133, 296
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis holstii* Engl., [Dymock](#): 1, 65, [NK](#): 1, #335, #685, [GJM1](#): 562, [IGP](#): 141, [GVDB](#): 203: 146, 147, 300, 311
- Indian barberry (*dārvī*) see [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*): 215
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) see [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*): 131
- Indian bat tree (*śuṅgā*) → *parkaṭṭvṛkṣa* according to *Śabdāsindhu*: 1058; idem also suggests *vaṭavṛkṣa*, i.e., *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. and *āmṛātaka*, *Spondias pinnata* (L.f.) Kurz. (native to S.E Asia but naturalized in S. Asia). Contrasted with *vaṭa* at *Suśrutasamhitā*

- 3.2.32. Cf. MW: 1081.: 81
- Indian bdellium-tree (*guggula*) See [Indian bdellium-tree](#) (*guggulu*): 181
- Indian bdellium-tree (*guggulu*)
Commiphora wightii (Arn.) Bhandari (GVDB: 140). This is a flowering shrub or small tree that produces a fragrant resin commonly called *guggulu*. The name sometimes refers to the plant and sometimes to the resin. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 340): 113, 301
- Indian beech (*naktamāla*) Pongamia pinnata, (L.) Pierre. See AVS: 4, 339, NK: 1, #2003: 44, 101
- Indian cherry (*śelu*) Cordia myxa, L. non Forssk. See GJM1: 529 (2), IGP: 291b, cf. AVS: 3, 1677 f; cf. AVS: 2, 180 (C. dichotoma, Forst.f.), NK: 1, #672 (C. latifolia, Roxb.). See [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*): 107, 146
- Indian cherry (*śelū*) see [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*), GVDB: 408: 200
- Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakā*) see [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*): 197
- Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakī*) Cordia dichotoma G. Forst., AVS: 2, 180–183. See POWO: C. dichotoma; Cordia myxa L., according to T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 413–414), although they also suggest C. dichotoma (synonym of C. wallichii G. Don.) and C. rothii (synonym of Cordia sinensis Lam.): 182, 301
- Indian dill (*śatapuspā*) Anethum graveolens L. May also be Foeniculum vulgare Mill. See GVDB: 388 for discussion: 108, 200
- Indian elm (*cirabilva*) Holoptelea integrifolia (Roxb.) Planch. GVDB: 158, who also say that *pūtika* is a synonym; but that must be different than *pūtikā*: 301
- Indian elm (*ciribilva*) see [Indian elm](#) (*cirabilva*): 197
- Indian frankincense (*agamṛttikā*) see [Indian frankincense](#) (*śallakī*), according to Ḍalhaṇa's comment on *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.7.29. A variant form of [Indian frankincense](#) (*agavṛttikā*): 192
- Indian frankincense (*agavṛttikā*) see ?? (*nagavṛttikā*), GVDB: 3, 392: 301
- Indian frankincense (*gajavṛttikā*) Boswellia serrata Roxb.; equated with [Indian frankincense](#) (*śallakī*) by some, GVDB: 392. See also ?? (*nagavṛttikā*): 182
- Indian frankincense (*śallakī*) Boswellia serrata Roxb., GVDB: 392: 192, 301
- Indian fumitory (*parpaṭa*) the ancient plant is probably impossible to identify, and many alternatives are used today, including especially Fumaria species (GVDB: 239–240). I have chosen Fumaria indica (Hausskn.) Pugsley, which can be poisonous: 301
- Indian fumitory (*reṇu*) see [Indian fumitory](#) (*parpaṭa*), GVDB: 339. To be distinguished from [pollen \(?\)](#) (*reṇukā*): 139
- 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: 53, 106, 306
- Indian jujube (*sauvīraka*) Zizphus jujuba Mill., GVDB: 458, MBG: sub jujuba: 105, 176
- Indian kudzu (*vidārī*) → *payasyā*. Pueraria tuberosa (Willd.) DC. See ADPS: 510, AVS: 1, 792 f, AVS: 4, 391; not Dymock: 1, 424 f. See GJM2: 444, 451, AVS: 1, 187, but AVS: 3, 1719 = Ipomoea mauritiana, Jacq: 53, 77
- Indian laurel (*plakṣa*) Ficus microcarpa, L. f. See ADPS: 377: 198
- Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) Rubia cordifolia, L. See IGP, Chopra: 215,

- GVDB: 289: 49, 147, 181, 182, 191, 198
 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): 33
 Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*) Brassica juncea, Czern. & Coss. See AVS: 1, 301, NK: 1, #378, GVDB: 426–427: 36, 140, 198, 304
 Indian pennywort (*maṇḍūkapaṇṇī*) Centella asiatica (L.) Urban. See GVDB: 290, ADPS: 289–291: 183
 Indian sarsaparilla (*sugandhikā*) see Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*) GVDB: 430, 436: 182, 200
 Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*) → *anantā*. The *śveta* variety is Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br. ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–145, NK: 1, #1210, GVDB: 430; and the black form, black creeper, *pāṇḍī*. Ichnocarpus frutescens, (L.) R.Br. or Cryptolepis buchanani, Roemer & Schultes AVS: 3, 141, 145, 203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 429–430: 147, 293, 297, 302
 Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*) Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br. See Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*). ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–145, NK: 1, #1210, GVDB: 430: 302
 Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*) Rauvolfia serpentina, (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. See NK: 1, #2099, ADPS: 439, GVDB: 425; cf. SS 5.5.76–78: 183, 302
 Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*) common spelling in Nepalese MSS for Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*), q.v.: 192
 Indian symphorema (*ananta*) Not in GVDB but MW: 25 says "*sinduvāra*" on no authority (see Indian symphorema: 198
 Indian symphorema (*sinduvāra*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 435) settles on Symphorema polyandrum Wight as the identity of this plant. Other authors choose Vitex negundo Linn. See further NK: 1, #2603 (cf. use of leaves), IGP: 1210a, MW: 1088b. Discussion by GVDB: 433–435: 181, 183, 191, 200, 302
 Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*) Oroxylum indicum (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. GVDB: 172–173. A component of greater five roots: 302
 Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) → Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*). Oroxylum indicum (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. GVDB: 172–173. A component of greater five roots: 298
 Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) see Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*), GVDB: 172–173: 198
 indigo (*nīlinī*) Indigofera tinctoria, L. See NK: 1, #1309. GVDB: 229–230 propose that this may differ from indigo (*nīlī*), and be rather the Ipomoea hederacea Jacq., "ivy-leaved morning glory." But that plant is native to the Americas, as are most Ipomoea species. I. tinctoria was known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 343): 192, 302
 indigo (*nīlā*) see indigo (*nīlinī*). Although T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 229) refer to an unidentified creeper mentioned in Carakasamhitā Ci.1-4.7, the use in the Nepalese Suśrutasaṃhitā 5.6.24 is likely to refer to indigo (*nīlī*): 191
 indigo (*nīlī*) see indigo (*nīlinī*): 200, 302
 Indrajao (*indrayava*) see *vrkṣaka* (Indrajao) Holarrhena pubescens Wall. ex G.Don 1837 GVDB: 376, 45 and 84: 96
 Indrajao (*vrkṣaka*) → *indrayava*, *indrabīja*,

- kaliṅga*, and *kuṭaja*. *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G.Don 1837
 GVDB: 376, 45 and 84 : 79, 274, 302
 itchytree (*nicula*) *Barringtonia acutangula* (L.) Gaertn., GVDB: 224 : 198
 jambul (*jambū*) *Syzygium cumini*, (L.) Skeels. See ADPS: 188, NK: 1, #967, Potter_{rev}: 168, Wujastyk 2003a : 130, 214
 jequirity (*guñjā*) *Abrus precatorius*, L. See AVS: 1, 10, NK: 1, #6, Potter_{rev}: 168. See further jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) : 138, 139
 jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) see jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) : 141, 303
 jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) possibly *Abrus precatorius*, L. Cf. RRS 21.14. See AVS: 1, 10, NK: 1, #6, Potter_{rev}: 168. The Nepalese witnesses agree on the feminine form, *kālakūṭā*, while the more normal gender is masculine. The etymology of the name *kāla-kūṭa*, “black-top,” fits with the striking appearance of jequirity seeds. GVDB: 93 does not attempt to identify the plant. The *Rasaratnasamuccaya* of pseudo-Vāgbhaṭa (21.14) says that the *kālakūṭa* poison is similar to “crow’s beak” (*kākacañcu*), which is a more certain name for jequirity. Another hypothesis for the name, which could be translated “time/death-peak” might connect it with Sandakphu mountain, whose name is Lepcha for “the height of the poisonous plant” because of the abundance of *Aconitum ferox* on the mountain : 140, 303
 kutki (*kaṭukā*) *Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth. (GVDB: 64–65) : 96, 113, 303, 305
 kutki (*kaṭurohaṇī*) → kutki (*kaṭukā*), GVDB: 66, 64–65 : 181
 kutki (*kaṭurohiṇī*) see kutki (*kaṭukā*), GVDB: 66, 64–65 : 200
 leadwort (*agniśikhā*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *rosea*?), L. See NK: 1, #1966, 1967 : 303
 leadwort (*citraka*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *indica*?), L. See RĀ. 6.124, ADPS: 119, NK: 1, #1966, 1967 : 44, 78, 96, 101, 112, 181
 leadwort (*pālaka*) → *citraka*. *Plumbago zeylanica* (*indica? rosea?*), L. See Rā. 6.124, ADPS: 1, 119, NK: 1, #1966, 1967 : 140, 141
 leadwort (*vidyutśikhā*) see leadwort (*agniśikhā*) : 138
 lemon grass (*uśirabheda*) → *lāmajja*. *Cymbopogon jwarancusa* (Jones ex Roxb.) Schult. See NK: 1, #176 : 312
 lesser five roots (*laghupañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.66–67 (Su 1938: 169). Consists of bull’s head, hairy-fruited eggplant, yellow-berried nightshade, hare foot *uraria*, and beggarweed : 294, 297–299, 311, 315
 liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L.? GVDB: 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant : 138
 liquorice (*madhuka*) also *yaṣṭi* (*ka/kā*), *yaṣṭīmadhuka*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L. AVS: 3, 84, NK: 1, #1136, GVDB: 329 f. : 53, 77, 104–109, 111, 134, 145, 147, 181, 197, 200, 215, 303
 liquorice (*yaṣṭī*) see liquorice (*madhuka*) : 182
 liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) see liquorice (*madhuka*) : 54
 lodh tree (*lodhra*) *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb. See GJM1: 597, ADPS: 279 f, NK: 1, #2420. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 351–352) notes that there are two varieties, *S. racemosa*, qualified as *śāvara*, and *S. crataegoides* Buch.-Ham. for *paṭṭikā lodhra* : 44, 147, 181, 215
 long pepper (*kṛṣṇā*) see long pepper (*pippalī*) : 214
 long pepper (*māgadha*) see long pepper (*pippalī*) : 133
 long pepper (*pippali*) see long pepper (*pippalī*) : 181
 long pepper (*pippalī*) *Piper longum*, L. See ADPS: 374, NK: 1, #1928,

- GVDB: 249–250, but cf. AVS: 3, 245: 77, 78, 101, 107, 108, 112, 113, 134, 147, 198, 201, 214, 274, 303, 304, 311
- long pepper root (*pippalīmūla*) see long pepper (*pippalī*): 198
- long-stamen Wendlandia (?) (*prapaunḍarīka*) See the substantial discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 261). They note that it is used mainly in eye troubles and frequently with liquorice, than which it is has been said to be thicker, and sweet in taste. A candidate they suggest is *Wendlandia heynei* (Schult.) Santapau & Merchant (formerly *W. exserta*), native to India; I have accepted that provisionally: 140, 181, 200, 304
- long-stamen Wendlandia (?) (*tilaka*) see long-stamen Wendlandia (?) (*prapaunḍarīka*), GVDB: 183–184. Sometimes thought to be a synonym of *viburnum* (*tilvaka*), q.v., but this is probably erroneous: 200, 312
- lotus (*nalina*) see sacred lotus (*kamala*), GVDB: 218: 214, 215
- lotus stalk (*mṛṇālā*) “Leaf stalk of sacred lotus” GVDB: 318: 106
- luffa (*jālinī*) see luffa (*koṣātakī*), GVDB: 168: 140, 190
- luffa (*koṣavatī*) see luffa (*koṣātakī*): 146
- luffa (*koṣātakī*) *Luffa cylindrica*, (L.) M. J. Roem. or *L. acutangula*, (L.) Roxb. ADPS: 252–253, NK: 1, #1514 etc. “*Koṣātakī* appears to be used in a general way for all the fruit drugs of the family Cucurbitaceae which have a net-like structure of fibres in the pulp. It thus includes nearly all *Luffa* species...” GVDB: 121: 304
- mahua (*madhūka*) *Madhuca longifolia*, (J. Koenig) J. F. Macbride. See AVS: 3, 362 f. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 339–340): 77, 218–220
- maidenhair fern (*haṃsāhvayā*) *Adiantum lunulatum* Burm f. GVDB: 463: 274
- malabathrum (*patra*) *Cinnamomum tamala*, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees. See AVS: 2, 84, NK: 1, #589. Other common names include Indian bay leaf etc., but the plant has an ancient history in the classical world as “malabathrum.” See Ball 1888: 341, who also suggests that the chief source of the plant in India is Assam. See also Wikipedia. Kokoszko and Rzeźnicka (2018: 581) discuss the abbreviations “leaf” (φύλλα, *folium*) in the Mediterranean world that parallels the Sanskrit usage. Kokoszko and Rzeźnicka 2018: 584 note that Dioscorides (fl. 1st cent. CE) stated that malabathrum came from India, although Dioscorides’ description of malabathrum is of a plant like a *Nymphoides indica* (L.) Kuntze, not a tree (Osbaldeston and Wood 2000: 17): 98, 99, 106, 131, 147, 189, 190, 200
- Malay beechwood (*śrīparṇī*) → *kāśmarī*. *Gmelina arborea* Linn., GVDB: 412, 96–97: 77
- maloo creeper (*aśmantaka*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 27) note that this is the name of two different drugs, *Piliostigma malabaricum* (Roxb.) Benth. or *Phanera vahlii*. (Wight & Arn., 1834) Benth. (non-lactiferous), and *Ficus cordifolia* Roxb. (lactiferous). I have selected *P. vahlii* in this context because of its abundance in S. Asia and its Himalayan and Nepalese distribution: 183, 197
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. GVDB: 37: 130, 183, 198, 214
- mangosteen (*amla*) *Garcinia pedunculata* Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham. See GVDB: 20–21: 180
- marking nut tree (?) (*sārṣapa*) this would normally mean “connected with mustard,” (*Indian mustard* (*sarṣapa*)) and excessive consumption of mustard oil can be harmful. However, the

- Sauśrutanighaṇṭu* (156) gives *rakṣoghṇā* as a synonym for *sarṣapā*. This can be *Semecarpus anacardium*, L.f., which has some poisonous parts (“the black fruit is toxic and produces a severe allergic reaction if it is consumed or its resin comes in contact with the skin” Semalty et al. 2010): 141
- marking-nut tree (*aruṣkara*) see [marking-nut tree](#) (*bhallātaka*): 139, 297
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacardium*, L. See NK: 1, #2269, AVS: 5, 98, ADPS: 85–86, GVDB: 23, 283: 101, 133, 305
- marsh barbel (*ikṣuraka*) *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schumach.) Heine (syn. *Asteracantha longifolia* (L.) Nees.), GVDB: 42–43: 198
- medhshingi (*vijayā*-2) *Dolichandrone falcata* (Wall. ex DC.) Seem. The *Sauśrutanighaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣāśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann (GVDB: 373 f; ADPS: 518, a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (NK: #862): 139
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See AVS 1927, ADPS: 21, NK: 1, #2025, AVS: 4, 348; GJM1: 523: = *P. integrifolia/serratifolia*, L.: 146, 298
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. GVDB: 126: see [purple roscoe](#) and [giant potato](#): 53, 308
- monkey (?) (*markaṭa*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 299) said of *markaṭa*, “an unidentified vegetable poison.” Cf. Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: v.36 for synonyms that lead to the non-toxic jujube tree: 142
- muddy (?) (*kardama*) unknown.: 140, 142
- mulberry (*kramuka*) probably the [mulberry](#) (*tūda*); see discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 122): 182
- mulberry (*tūda*) *Morus indica* L., GVDB: 189: 305
- mung beans (*mudga*) *Phaseolus radiatus* L. GVDB: 310–311: 105, 108, 220
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo* Linn. GVDB: 308: 131
- munj grass (*nārācaka*) *Saccharum bengalense*, Retz.?. See NK: 1, #2184: 140
- musk mallow (*latākastūrikā*) *Abelmoschus moschatus* Medik., GVDB: 348: 305
- musk mallow (*ullaka*) [kutki](#) (*kaṭukā*) or [musk mallow](#) (*latākastūrikā*), according to GVDB: 54; I have chosen the latter identity since *A. moschatus* can cause phototoxic dermatitis (Diedrich et al. 2024: 621): 305
- musk mallow (*ullika*) see [musk mallow](#) (*ullaka*): 139
- myrobalan (*abhayā*) *Terminalia chebula*, Retz. See ADPS: 172, NK: 1, #2451, Potter_{rev}: 214: 96, 146, 153
- myrobalans (*pathyā*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. See NK: 1, #2451: 214
- natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. NK: 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with *svarjikṣāra* 4.8.50 (Su 1938: 441): 112, 147, 181
- neem (*picumarda*) see [neem tree](#) (*nimba*), GVDB: 247–248: 197
- neem tree (*nimba*) *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss., GVDB: 226: 50, 274, 305
- 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. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 108) added that it could be a variety of rice, *ṣaṣṭika dhānya*: 153
- nutgrass (*mustaka*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See ADPS: 316, AVS: 2, 296, NK: 1, #782: 140, 142

- nutgrass (*mustā*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See [ADPS](#): 316, [AVS](#): 2, 296, [NK](#): 1, #782 : 305
- odal oil plant (*īṅgudi*) see [odal oil plant](#) : 189
- odal oil plant (*īṅgudī*) Kirtikar et al. (K & B: 5, 79) also firmly identify *īṅgudī* as *Sarcostigma kleinii* Wight & Arn., a liana well known in the Western Ghats and widely used in āyurveda, including for skin diseases. *Balanites aegyptiaca* (L.) Delile, [GVDB](#): 43 is an African plant and unlikely to be the original āyurvedic *īṅgudi*. : 306
- oleander spurge (*mahāvṛkṣa*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 302-303 : 197
- oleander spurge (*nandā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 215 : 310
- oleander spurge (*snuhā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*) : 101, 140, 191
- oleander spurge (*snuhī*) *Euphorbia neriifolia*, L., or *E. antiquorum*, L. See [ADPS](#): 448, [AVS](#): 2, 388, [AVS](#): 3, 1, [NK](#): 1, #988, [IGP](#): 457b. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 459) discuss the two varieties distinguished by Caraka on the basis of their spines. *Euphorbia* all share the feature of having a poisonous, latex-like sap : 306, 310
- orchid tree (*kovidāra*) *Bauhinia purpurea* Linn. or *B. variegata* Linn. (probably the former), [GVDB](#): 120, [AVS](#): 1, 256–260. The fruit of *kovidāra* is contrasted with the mango in Patañjali's *Mahābhāṣya* (on P1.2.45, varttika 8) : 176
- paddy rice (*śālī*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. [GVDB](#): 395–396 mentioning 33 Sanskrit sub-variety names; [AVS](#): 4, 193 : 37, 308
- painted uraria (*prṣṇaparṇī*) *Uraria picta* (Jacq.) Desv. ex DC. and *U. lagopoides* DC are both to be used for this plant according to [GVDB](#): 257–258. See also [IHR](#): 188–190 : 192
- pale Java tea (*arjaka*) *Orthosiphon pallidus* Royle ex Benth., [GVDB](#): 24, based on Ḍalhaṇa's descriptions, and by Sharma 1982: 127, #60. But *Ocimum basilicum* L., according to [AVS](#): 4, 160 : 200
- panacea twiner (*arkapuṣpī*) → *arkaparṇī*, *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](#): 3, 171. The etymology of the name suggests *Helianthus annuus* Linn., but this plant is native to the Americas : 146, 301
- peas (*hareṇu*) *Pisum sativum*, L. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 419–420, 467–468) note that two plants are usually meant under this name, but there is no agreement on the identity of the second. Synonym of [peas](#) (*satīna*). [GVDB](#): 468 make an argument for *Symphorema polyandrum* Wight : 106, 146, 147, 153, 182, 214, 306, 307
- peas (*hareṇukā*) see [peas](#) (*hareṇu*) : 200
- peas (*satīna*) see [peas](#) (*hareṇu*), [GVDB](#): 419-420 : 306
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) *Ficus religiosa*, L. See [ADPS](#): 63. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 338–339) : 155
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*) *Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R. Br. See [AVS](#): 3, 107, [NK](#): 1, #1173 : 133
- phalsa (*parūṣaka*) *Grewia asiatica* Linn., [GVDB](#): 238 : 78
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*dugdhikā*) synonym of [plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat](#) (*kṣīriṇī*), [GVDB](#): 204–205, 127 : 307
- 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) :

- 301, 306, 307
 plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*yavaphalā*) synonym of [plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat](#) (*dugdhikā*), and [plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat](#) (*kṣīrīṇī*), q.v., [GVDB: 327, 127 : 200](#)
- plumed cockscomb (*indīvara*) Uncertain; possibly *Celosia argentea* Linn. But see the useful discussion in [GVDB: 44–45](#). Possibly another name for [thorn apple](#) (*karambha*), q.v. : [311](#)
- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb., [GVDB: 232–233 : 106, 146, 293](#)
- poison-altar (?) (*viṣavedikā*) Unknown. Possibly, at a guess, [strychnine tree](#) (*viṣamuṣṭika*)? [GVDB: 373](#) Or [Indian aconite](#) (*viṣā*) : [139](#)
- pollen (?) (*reṇukā*) An unidentifiable plant. Perhaps a misreading for [peas](#) (*hareṇu*), although this is a long shot. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 339](#)) suggest, on no authority, the synonyms *vṛkṣaruhā*, *māṃsarohiṇī*, or *durvā*, none of which help : [139, 301](#)
- pomegranate (*dāḍima*) *Punica granatum* Linn. [GVDB: 201–202 : 77, 78, 111, 112, 183, 192](#)
- pondweed (*paripelavā*) Normally a neuter noun. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 238, 264–265, 409](#)) argued that *plava* and *śaivāla* are the same thing, and may be either *Zannichellia palustris*, L., or *Potamogeton pectinatus*, L. : [147](#)
- pondweed (*śevāla*) *Zannichellia palustris* L. See [horned pondweed](#) : [35, 36](#)
- pongame oiltree (*karañja*) see [pongame oiltree](#) (*karañjikā*) : [113, 192](#)
- pongame oiltree (*karañjikā*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 74–76](#)) discuss complications, but probably *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre in *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.6.3 : [198, 307](#)
- powdered ruffle lichen (*śaileya*) *Parmotrema perlatum* (Huds.) M.Choisy (1952), although there are some inconsistencies in groups and synonyms. See [GVDB: 408–409](#), [AVS: 4, 222–225](#). The plant has a notably complex taxonomic history : [200, 307](#)
- powdered ruffle lichen (*śaileyaka*) see [powdered ruffle lichen](#) (*śaileya*) : [181](#)
- prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*) *Achyranthes aspera*, L. See [GVDB: 14, GJM1: 524 f, AVS: 1, 39, ADPS: 44 f, AVS: 3, 2066 f, Dymock: 3, 135 : 49, 53, 105, 199, 307](#)
- prickly chaff-flower (*vasira*) also *vaśīra*. Perhaps *Achyranthes aspera*, L. [GVDB: 362](#) describes several possible identities, including *sūryāvarta*, [prickly chaff-flower](#) and *markaṭatṛṇa*. See also *vasukavasira* ([GVDB: 363](#)) : [78](#)
- prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojihvā*) syn. *gojī*. *Elephantopus scaber*, L. See [AVS: 2, 357](#). T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 145–146](#)) argue that *gojihvā śāka* is *Launaea asplenifolia* (Willd) Hook. f. (creeping *Launaea*), a plant with Himalayan to SE Asian distribution : [307](#)
- prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojī*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 145–146](#)) observe that this plant name is unique to the *Suśrutasamhitā*. Since the usage is similar to that of [prickly-leaved elephant's foot](#) (*gojihvā*), q.v, it is almost certain to be the same plant. : [198](#)
- products of the wood-apple (*kāpitta*) a reading in the Nepalese MSS for [products of the wood-apple](#) (*kāpittha*), q.v. : [193](#)
- products of the wood-apple (*kāpittha*) relating to or derived from the [wood-apple](#) (*kapittha*) : [307](#)
- purging nut (*dravantī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See [AVS: 3, 261, NK: 1, #1374](#). A.k.a.

- mūṣikaparṇī* : 308
- purging nut (*mūṣikā*) *Jatropha curcas*, L.
See AVS: 3, 261, NK: 1, #1374 : 133
- purging nut (*putraśreṇī*) Commonly identified as *croton tree* (*nāgadantī*), GVDB: 253 “a variety of red physic nut (*dantī*).” But it appears in a list with *nāgadantī* at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6.3, and Ḍalhaṇa identified it there as *purging nut* (*dravantī*) : 198
- purging nut tree (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. AVS: 3, 261, NK: 1, #1374, GVDB: 317. GVDB: 317; ADPS: 23–25 discuss this issue well : 131, 132
- purple calotropis (*arka*) *Calotropis gigantea*, (L.) R. Br. See ADPS: 52, AVS: 1, 341, NK: 1, #427, Potter_{rev}: 57, Chopra IDG: 305–308 : 44, 53, 101, 176, 194, 197
- purple fleabane (*somarājī*) see *scurfy pea* (*bākucī*), but GVDB: 455–456 note that two areas of therapy (antitoxin, antileucoderma) may point to two plants being used under this name or a different plant with two active ingredients. A particular candidate is *Baccharoides anthelmintica* (L.) Moench. : 200
- purple roscoea (*kṣīrākākolī*) GVDB: 89 notes that many physicians use *Roscoea procera* Wall. in this context. But the identification is uncertain. Possibly connected to *milk-white* or *giant potato* : 105, 301, 305
- pussy willow (*vetasa*) *Salix caprea* L., GVDB: 380–381, q.v. for the argument that this is not the same as *rattan* (*vetra*) : 308
- pussywillow (*vañjula*) see *pussy willow* (*vetasa*); T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 356) note that this is a tree in the *nyagrodha* group and has sometimes been equated with *Asoka tree* (*aśoka*) and sometimes with *sandan* (*tiniśa*) : 106, 198
- radish (*mūlaka*) *Raphanus sativus*, L. See NK: 1, #2098 : 110, 140, 142
- rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrvī*, *Marsdenia tenacissima* (Roxb.) Wight et Arn. Good discussion at GVDB: 314–316, 324 : 146
- rajmahal hemp (*mūrvā*) *Gongronemopsis tenacissima* (Roxb.) S.Reuss, Liede & Meve (= *Marsdenia tenacissima* (Roxb.) Moon), GVDB: 314–316. One of the twenty-two drugs in the group *madanādi*. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar and ADPS: 310–313 discuss the long controversy about the identity of this plant. *Sansevieria roxburghiana* Schult. & Schult.f. (“Indian bowstring hemp”) was preferred by Meulenbeld (GJM1: 590) and the sources he cited, including NK: 1, #2216, K & B: 4, 2457; ADPS: 310 mention this identity as being local to Bengal, but note that the plant is not a creeper : 108, 298
- rattan (*vetra*) *Calamus rotang*, L. See AVS: 1, 330, NK: 1, #413. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 381) prefer *C. tenuis*, Roxb., which is also native to S. and S.E. Asia : 308
- realgar (*manahśilā*) *Arsenii disulphidium* NK: 2, #11 : 214
- red gourd (*bimbī*) *Coccinia indica*, W. & A. See PVS 1994.4.715; NK: 1, #534 : 130
- red ochre (*gairika*) Hellwig 2009: 140–141. NK: 2, #40; the same source, at #6, gives kaoolinum or china clay : 147, 181, 183, 200, 214, 215
- red physic nut (*dantī*) *Baliospermum solanifolium* (Burm.) Suresh, GVDB: 200 : 99, 140, 192, 198, 308
- resin of white dammer tree (*sarjarasa*) GVDB: 424–425. See *white dammer tree* (*sarja*) : 108, 200
- rice grains (*taṇḍula*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. Same as *paddy rice* (*śālī*) GVDB: 174; or just “grains” : 37
- rice-grain chaff (*śālitaṇḍulakāṇḍana*) See

- chaff: 37
- rock salt (*saindhava*) See NK: 2, M#48, Watt_{Comm}: 963–971: 36, 77, 112, 181, 214, 294
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats. See AVS: 2, 285, NK: 1, #177: 147, 181, 200
- royal jasmine (*mālatī*) Jasminium grandiflorum, L. See NK: 1, #1364, ADPS: 285–288: 131, 309
- royal jasmine (*sumanā*) see royal jasmine (*mālatī*), GVDB: 437: 200
- sacred lotus (*kamala*) Nelumbo nucifera, Gaertn., GVDB: 73–74, Dutt: 110, NK: 1, #1698: 304, 309
- sacred lotus (*padma*) see sacred lotus (*kamala*), GVDB: 235–236: 35, 106, 131, 200, 313
- saffron (*bāhlīka*) syn. of saffron (*kuṅkuma*), q.v., GVDB: 273–274: 198
- saffron (*kuṅkuma*) Crocus sativus Linn., GVDB: 100. On the history of confusions between saffron and turmeric, see Cox 2011: 192, 309
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkolla*) Alangium salvifolium (Linn. f.) Wang., GVDB: 5–6. See also AVS: 1, 77; cf. NK: 1, #88: 130, 183, 190, 192, 309
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkoṭha*) see sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkolla*): 197
- sal group of trees (*śālasārādi*) *śālasārādi* is a group (*gaṇa*) of twenty-three trees listed at 1.38.8–9 (Su 1938: 165), Mahākośa: 1, 898: 78
- sal tree (*śālā*) Shorea robusta, Gaertn.f. See AVS: 5, 124: 214
- sandalwood (*candana*) Santalum album, L. See ADPS: 111, NK: 1, #2217. See GVDB: 152–153 for discussion of types, including white and red (Pterocarpus santalinus (L.f.)): 79, 106, 108, 147, 176, 182, 200, 313
- sandan (*tiniśa*) Ougeinia oojeinensis (Roxb.) Hochr. GVDB: 181, q.v. for discussion about whether *tiniśa* and *syandana* are to be separated. If other trees are in the frame for either name, T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB) suggest Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb. (*sidhraka/siddhaka*) and L. flos-reginae Retz. (*jārula* by some). See GVDB: 432: 197, 200, 308
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*. Caesalpinia sappan, L. AVS: 1, 323, K & B: 2, 847 f, GVDB: 234: 44, 54
- scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) Pentapetes phoenicea, L. NK: #1836, GVDB: 268: 132
- scented pavonia (*bālaka*) Pavonia odorata, Willd. See ADPS: 498, NK: 1, #1822: 147
- scented pavonia (*toya*) → *bālaka*? Pavonia odorata, Willd. ADPS: 498, NK: 1, #1822: 200
- scramberry (*tālīsapatra*) see scrambling (*tālīśa*): 200
- scramberry (*tālīśa*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 179, 458–459) discusses the several identifications and regional differences in identifying this plant. Taxus baccata Linn. is a common candidate, as is Flacourtia jangomas (Lour.) Raeusch. (scramberry): 106, 215, 309
- screwpine (*ketaka*) Pandanus tectorius Parkinson ex Du Roi, GVDB: 116: 292
- scurfy pea (*bākucī*) Identified as Cullen corylifolia (L.) Medik. ADPS: 69–70, GVDB: 272: 308
- scutch grass (*dūrvā*) Cynodon dactylon (Linn.) Pers., GVDB: 205: 300, 309
- scutch grass (*granthilā*) see scutch grass (*dūrvā*), Mahākośa: 1, 303, citing the Rājanighaṇṭu. It should be an aromatic in this context. Monier-Williams et al.: 371 said “two kinds of Dūrvā grass and of a kind of Cyperus” on lexical authority, perhaps also the Rājanighaṇṭu where it is listed amongst sweet-smelling plants. Other sources

- identify it as *Cissus quadrangularis*, L., i.e., Veltd grape (Ś. Gupta 1887: 272), or **Bengal quince** (*bilva*) : 200
- sedge (*kuṭannaṭa*) → *plava*, *tagara*, or *śyonāka*, according to commentators (GVDB: 102–103). T. B. Singh and Chuneekar leans towards the *plava*, but that plant too is difficult to identify. Various sources identify *kuṭannaṭa* as *Cyperus rotundus* L., *C. scariosus* R. Br., *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz (= *Bignonia Indica* L.) or even *Cinnamomum verum* J. Presl. The *Cyperus* genus comprises about 700 species of sedges, and I have chosen “sedge” as a generic indication of the likely identity of this plant : 181, 310
- sedge (*kuṭannaṭā*) see **sedge** (*kuṭannaṭa*) : 200
- sesame (*tila*) *Sesamum indicum* L. GVDB: 183. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 344) : 200, 201
- sesame oil (*taila*) *Sesamum indicum* L. GVDB: 183 : 53, 176
- shami tree (*śamī*) *Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Druce GVDB: 390 : 197, 294
- silk-cotton tree (*śālmālī*) *Bombax malabarica*. See **Issar**: 152 : 200
- siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbbeck*, Benth. See **AVS**: 1, 81, **NK**: 1, #91, GVDB: 399–400. Cf. **white siris**: 146, 176, 189–193, 199, 200, 214, 314
- siris seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) *Albizia lebbbeck*, Benth. See **AVS**: 1, 81, **NK**: 1, #91 : 130, 191
- small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*) *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb., GVDB: 432 : 152
- smooth angelica (*coraka*) *Angelica glauca* Edgw. GVDB: 161. Distribution: Afghanistan, Himalaya, western Tibet (**POWO**). Edgeworth even recorded the indigenous name “chura” (Edgeworth 1851: 53) : 183, 198, 310
- smooth angelica (*taskara*) see **smooth angelica** (*coraka*), GVDB: 176 : 200
- snakeroot (*sugandhā*) → *sarpagandhā* *Rauvolfia serpentina* Benth. ex. Kurz. See *sarpagandhā*. But may be *Aristolochia indica* Linn. Has been identified with *nākulī*, or *gandhanākulī*. See (GVDB: 219, 436) : 138
- spikenard (*jaṭā*) see **spikenard** (*jaṭāmāmsī*) : 191, 200
- spikenard (*jaṭāmāmsī*) *Nardostachys jatamansi* (D. Don) DC, GVDB: 163. See also **NK**: 1, #1691. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 343–344) : 310
- spikenard (*māmsī*) see **spikenard** (*jaṭāmāmsī*) : 147, 182, 200
- spikenard (*nalada*) see **spikenard** (*jaṭāmāmsī*) : 128, 182, 200
- spiny bitter gourd (*karkārūka*) *Momordica cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Spreng., (Thunb.) Cogn. See **AVS**: 2, 1135, **IGP** 754 (or *Beninkasa hispida*? **AVS**: 2, 1127; cf. **AVS**: 1, 261). *M. cochinchinensis* has poisonous seeds (**NEH**: 279) : 298
- spurge (?) (*nandanā*) an unknown poisonous plant, a.k.a. (equally obscurely) *udīmānaka*, GVDB: 215 (where it is m.). Perhaps a synonym of **oleander spurge** (*snuhī*), like **oleander spurge** (*nandā*) : 139
- spurge (*saptalā*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 421–422) discuss the four candidates for this plant, three of which are *Euphorbias* : 110, 183
- strychnine tree (*viṣamuṣṭika*) *Strychnos nux vomica* Linn., GVDB: 373 : 307
- sugar (*sitā*) *Ḍalhaṇa* makes this equation at 1.37.25 (**Su** 1938: 162) : 147, 182
- sugar (*śarkara*) *Saccharum officinarum*, Linn. **NK**: #2182 : 134
- sugar cane (*ikṣu*) *Saccharum officinarum*, Linn. **NK**: #2182 : 134
- sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → *ādityavallī*, *sūryamukhī*, *Helianthus annuus* Linn.

- GVDB: 35, 443 : 146
 sweet flag (*vacā*) *Acorus calamus* Linn. See
 GVDB: 352–355 : 105, 112, 198
 sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet
 plants are enumerated at
Suśrutasaṃhitā 1.42.11. See also
 GVDB: 127 : 53
 sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*)
Nerium oleander, L. See ADPS: 223,
 NK: 1, #1709, GVDB: 77, which
 discusses the white and red forms : 138
 teak (*śāka*) *Tectona grandis*, L.f. See
 AVS: 5, 245, (MW: 1061) : 197
 Tellicherry bark (*kuṭāja*) *Holarrhena*
pubescens Wall. ex G.Don, with
Wrightia tinctoria and *W. arborea*
 considered GVDB: 101–102,
 ADPS: 267–270 : 101, 197, 297
 ten roots (*daśamūla*) Described at
Suśrutasaṃhitā 1.38.70–71 (Su 1938: 169)
 as a combination of the lesser five roots
 and the greater five roots : 297
 the three myrobalans (*triphalā*) chebulic
 myrobalan beleric myrobalan and
 emblic myrobalan (*harītakī bibhītaka*
 and *āmalaka*) One of the most-often
 mentioned drugs in the *Bṛhatrayī*
 GVDB: 194–196 : 99, 181, 182, 191,
 192, 293
 the three pungent drugs (*kaṭutrika*) see the
 three pungent drugs (*trikaṭu*) : 193, 200
 the three pungent drugs (*trikaṭu*) dried
 ginger, long pepper, and black pepper
 (*śuṇṭhī*, *pippalī*, and *marica*) GVDB: 193 :
 181, 311
 the three pungent drugs (*vyoṣa*) see the
 three pungent drugs (*trikaṭu*),
 GVDB: 382–383 : 192
 the two types of clitoria (*śvete*) see white
 clitoria (*śvetā*) : 200
 the two types of turmeric (*haridre*) see
 turmeric (*haridrā*) and Indian barberry
 (*dāruharidrā*), GVDB: 465–466 : 200
 thorn apple (*karambha*) *Datura metel*, L.
 See GVDB: 76 for useful discussion.
- Also, AVS: 2, 305 (cf.
Abhidhānamāñjarī), NK: 1, #796 ff.
Potter, *rev*: 292 f, ADPS: 132. Possibly the
 same plant as plumed cockscomb
 (*indīvara*) (GVDB: 76, 44–45) : 139, 140,
 293, 307
 three heating spices (*tryūṣaṇa*) *śuṇṭhī*
 (Dried ginger) *Zingiber officinale*,
Roscoe. ADPS: 50, NK: 1, #2658,
 AVS: 5, 435, IGP 1232, pippalī (long
 pepper) *Piper longum*, L. ADPS: 374,
 NK: 1, #1928, and marica (black
 pepper) *Piper nigrum*, L. ADPS: 294,
 NK: 1, #1929 : 79, 146
 three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva*
magna (Lour.) DC. See AVS: 2, 202; cf.
 NK: 1, #696 : 133, 183, 198, 311
 three-leaved caper (*varuṇaka*) see
 three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) : 200
 toothed-leaf limonia (*surasī*) *Naringi*
crenulata (Roxb.) Nicolson (formerly
Limonia crenulata Roxb.), GVDB: 439 :
 182, 200
 top layer of fermented liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*)
K & B: 2, 502, NK: 2, appendix VI, #49,
McHugh 2021: 39 : 51, 52
 tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) *Gossypium arboreum*
 L. ADPS: 231, *pace* the identifications of
 T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 92,
 247), since *G. barbadense* L. is native to
 South America and *G. herbaceum* L. is
 native to Africa : 50, 311
 tree cotton (*picu*) See tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) :
 52, 54
 tree of heaven (*arala*) probably *Alianthus*
excelsa Roxb., GVDB: 21–22 : 197
 turmeric (*gaurī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. See
 ADPS: 169, AVS: 2, 259, NK: 1, #750 :
 106
 turmeric (*haridrā*) *Curcuma longa* Linn.
 GVDB: 465. On the history of
 confusions between saffron and
 turmeric, see Cox 2011 : 107, 146, 153,
 181, 311
 turmeric (*rajanī*) *Curcuma longa*, L.

- ADPS: 169, AVS: 2, 259, NK: 1, #750 :
36, 147, 182, 192
- turpeth (*trṛṣṭ*) → *trṛṣṭā*. Operculina
turpethum (Linn.) Silva Manso =
Ipomoea turpethum R. Br. GVDB: 197 :
99, 134, 181, 276, 293
- turpeth (*trṛṣṭ*) The common spelling in
Nepalese MSS of *trṛṣṭ* : 192
- two kinds of salt (*vasukavasira*) See the
discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar
(GVDB: 362–363), who note that when
vasuka is mentioned together with
vasira, two varieties of salt are often
meant (see *vasukavasirā*) : 77
- unknown fruit poison (*veṇuka*) see
unknown fruit poison (*veṇukā*) : 139
- unknown fruit poison (*veṇukā*) Bambusa
bambos, Druce?. See NK: 1, #307,
GVDB: 380. The Nepalese transmission
has the m. *veṇuka*, not the f. *veṇukā*
T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 380)
note that this is an unknown
fruit-poison : 312
- velvet bean (*svayamguptā*) Mucuna
pruriens (L.) DC., GVDB: 461, who say
that the plant is known in the
Carakasamhitā but not the
Suśrutasaṃhitā : 214, 312
- velvet bean (*ārṣabhī*) see velvet bean
(*ṛṣabhī*) and velvet bean (*svayamguptā*).
Mahākośa: 1, 94, citing the *Rājanighaṇṭu*
3.50, 201 : 190
- velvet bean (*ṛṣabhī*) see velvet bean
(*svayamguptā*), MW: 226, GVDB: 56 :
312
- velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) Cissampelos pariera, L.
See ADPS: 366, NK: 1, #592, GJM1: 573,
AVS: 1, 95; cf. AVS: 2, 277 : 44, 79, 96,
112, 146, 181, 182, 299
- velvet-mite (*indragopa*) Kerria lacca
(Kerr.). Lienhard 1978 : 129
- verbena (*bhārgī*) see verbena (*bhārrīgī*) :
182, 200
- verbena (*bhārrīgī*) → *phañjī*.
Clerodendrum serratum (L.) Moon or
C. serratum; see AVS: 2, 121, ADPS: 87 :
312
- verbena (*phañjī*) Clerodendrum serratum,
L. See AVS: 2, 121, ADPS: 87 : 132
- vetiver (*uśīra*) Chrysopogon zizanioides
(L.) Roberty, also called “khus.” NK: 1,
#180, GVDB: 54 identify it as vetiver :
78, 131, 176, 312
- vetiver and lemon grass (?) (*uśīre*) “the
two uśīras,” perhaps *vetiver* (*uśīra*) and
lemon grass (*uśīrabheda*) : 200
- viburnum (*tilva*) see *viburnum* (*tilvaka*) :
192
- viburnum (*tilvaka*) Viburnum nervosum
D. Don. In their thoughtful article,
T. B. Singh and Chuneekar
(GVDB: 185–186) separate *tilvaka* from
lodhra, a conflation they attribute to
Dṛḍhabala. They identify V. nervosum
because of its use under a similar local
name in Garhwal and Gangotri and
the match with its purging properties
mentioned in ayurvedic literature.
AVS: 5, 219 makes the same separation,
noting that in Kerala the plant *Jatropha*
curcas L. is used. But that is a native of
the new world. Cf. many Viburnum
varieties listed by Griffiths
(IGP: 1200 ff.). POWO confirms that V.
nervosum has an appropriate
Himalayan distribution. *Tilvaka* is also
sometimes wrongly considered to be a
synonym of *long-stamen Wendlandia*
(?) (*tilaka*), GVDB: 185–186 : 99, 198,
304, 312
- viburnum extract (*tailvaka*) see *viburnum*
(*tilvaka*), GVDB: 185, also a ghee
compound of *viburnum* (*tilvaka*) : 214
- ‘Virāṭa’s plant’ (*vairāṭaka*) unknown. See ? :
140, 142
- water snowflake (?) (*kumudavati*) see
water snowflake (?) (*kumudavatī*) : 140
- water snowflake (?) (*kumudavatī*) This is
an unidentifiable plant whose name
means, etymologically, “with lilies.”

- MW:** 292 gives *Nymphoides indica* (L.) Kuntze (formerly *Villarsia indica*) on no authority; I have used the common name of *N. indica* as a possibility, but this is not known to be poisonous; on the contrary, it is used medicinally (Khan et al. 2018). *N. indica* is illustrated on p. 6 of the Voynich manuscript. Khan et al. (2018) assert that this is the same plant as *tagara*, although this is not a widely-held view (see *crape jasmine* (*tagara*)): 139, 296, 312
- watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) **MW:** 183: 130
- weaver's beam tree (*mokṣaka*) see **weaver's beam tree** (*muṣkaka*): 313
- weaver's beam tree (*muṣkaka*) Schrebera swietenoides, Roxb. See **AVS:** 5, 88, Lord, **NK:** 1, #2246, **GVDB:** 242–243: 101, 152, 313
- weaver's beam tree (*pāṭalī*) usually a synonym for **crimson trumpet-flower tree** (*pāṭalā*), but T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (**GVDB:** 242–243) argue that it is **weaver's beam tree** (*mokṣaka*) because some authors distinguish two colours (unlike *pāṭalā*): 101, 197, 200
- weaver's beam tree (*viśalyā*) Schrebera swietenoides Roxb. ← *kuberākṣī*. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (**GVDB:** 371) notes that this name is a synonym for many other plants, including *lāṅgālī*, *indravāruṇī*, *guḍūcī* etc. Ḍalhaṇa identified it with *pāṭalā*, *kāṣṭhapāṭalā*, and *agnīśikhā* tree, all of which may be called *śvetamokṣaka* or *kuberākṣī*: 181
- weevil wort (*tālamūlikā*) **GVDB:** 178–179: 313
- weevil wort (*tālapatrī*) → *tālamūlikā*, **weevil wort**, q.v. **GVDB:** 178: 183
- white babool (*arimeda*) *Acacia leucophloea*, (Roxb.) Willd. See **AVS:** 1, 23: 44, 198
- white calotropis (*alarka*) *Calotropis procera*, (Ait.) R. Br. See **NK:** 1, #428, Chopra: 46b, **Chopra IDG:** 305–308: 53
- white clitoria (*śvetā*) *Clitoria ternatea*, L. See **AVS:** 2, 129, **NK:** 1, #621. **GVDB:** 416–417 notes that there are two types, *kṣudrā* (white, according to Ḍalhaṇa) and *mahā* (blue, according to Ḍalhaṇa). Sometimes given as a synonym for **winged-stem canscora**, but sometimes as a contrasting plant: 131, 182, 191, 194, 199, 311
- white cutch tree (*somavalka*) *Acacia polyacantha*, Willd. See **AVS:** 1, 30, **IGP** 7, **GJM1:** 602, **AVS:** 2, 935; **pace NK:** 1, #1038: 132, 152
- white dammer tree (*sarja*) *Vateria indica*, L. See **NK:** 1, #2571, **AVS:** 5, 349 f, **AVS:** 1, 292 f, **Chopra:** 253a. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (**GVDB:** 424) discussed whether this term might be broadened to any resinous tree and decided against: 44, 77, 308, 313
- white dammer tree (*sarjja*) see **white dammer tree** (*sarja*): 197
- white lotus (*puṇḍarīka*) see **sacred lotus** (*padma*), **GVDB:** 252: 142
- white sandalwood (*bhadraśriya*) *Santalum album* Linn. See **white sandalwood** (*bhadraśrī*): 106, 200
- white sandalwood (*bhadraśrī*) *Santalum album* Linn. see **sandalwood** (*candana*) **GVDB:** 152, 282 and *Carakasamhitā* ci.4.102 (**Ca 1941:** 434) where it is contrasted with *lohitacandana*: 79, 313
- white siris (?) (*kapītana*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (**GVDB:** 72–73) note that this stands for at least two plants, milky and non-milky. For the latter type, they propose *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth., *Thespesia* (hibiscus-like, but not endemic to S. Asia) or *Spondias* (cashew). Six different identifications are made by Monier-Williams et al. (**MW:** 251), without authority: 197
- white siris (*kaṭabhī*) *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth. or *A. lebbeck* (Linn.)

- Benth. **GVDB**: 63–64, **AVS**: 1, 81–84. Cf. Cf. **siris** : 176, 310
- white siris (*kinīhī*) *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth., **GVDB**: 98, which also discusses past confusions; **NK**: 1, #93 : 146, 182
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarī* : 215
- white teak (*kāśmarya*) see **white teak** (*kāśmarī*) : 200
- white teak (*kāśmaryā*) see **white teak** (*kāśmarī*) : 78
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarya*, *kāśmarī*, *madhuparṇī*. *Gmelina arborea*, Roxb. See **GJM1**: 543, **Trees**: 51, **ADPS**: 240, **GVDB**: 96–97 : 106, 108, 298, 314
- white teak (*madhuparṇī*) → *kāśmarī* : 77
- white water-lily (*kumuda*) *Nymphaea alba*, Linn., **GVDB**: 105 : 35, 200, 297
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See further **wild asparagus** (*śatāvarī*) Possibly a syn. for *nandana*. The bark of wild asparagus is toxic : 132
- wild asparagus (*śatāvarī*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See **ADPS**: 441, **AVS**: 1, 218, **NK**: 1, #264, **IGP**: 103, **AVS**: 4, 249 ff, **Dymock**: 3, 482 ff : 104–106, 108, 220, 314
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhallātaka*, *lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*, **GVDB**: 4. Uncertain A plant often cited in *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, but rarely in *Carakasamhitā* (**GVDB**: 4). Ḍalhaṇa glossed it at 5.2.45 (**Su 1938**: 566) as *ajamodā* but noted that others consider it to be *moraṭa*. There is considerable complexity surrounding the identification of *moraṭa*/*mūrvā* itself and related synonyms (**GVDB**: 314–316) : 146, 314
- wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*, L. Sometimes identified with *agnika* (**wild celery**), q.v. : 146, 181
- wild Himalayan cherry (*padmaka*) *Prunus cerasoides* D.Don, **GVDB**: 236, **AVS**: 4, 353–355. **MW**: 585 is wide of the mark : 106–108, 181, 182, 200
- wild spider flower (*ajagandhā*) possibly *Cleome gynandra* L. (syn. *Gynandropis gynandra* L.); possibly also Basil (*Ocimum basilicum* Linn. or Crested Late Summer Mint (*Elsholtzia ciliata* Willd.) (**GVDB**: 6). But *E. ciliata* is not native to South Asia : 112
- wild spider flower (*tailaparnika*) see **wild spider flower** : 200
- wild spider flower (*tilaparnī*) *Cleome gynandra* L., **GVDB**: 184–185, but see the discussion of the other drug plants sometimes intended by this name : 314
- wild sugar cane (*kāṇḍekṣu*) *Saccharum spontaneum* L., **GVDB**: 90 : 77
- winged-stem canscora (*giriḥvā*) see **winged-stem canscora** (*girikarṇikā*) : 182
- winged-stem canscora (*girikarṇikā*) sometimes → *śvetā*, in which case possibly *Clitoria ternatea*, L., see **AVS**: 2, 129, **NK**: 1, #621. Since *śvetā* and *giriḥvā* are cited as separate constituents of one formula (e.g., *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.5.75 (**Su 1938**: 579) they cannot be the same plant. **GVDB**: 138–139 argued for *Symphorema polyandrum* Wight, which they also assigned to *sinduvāra*. When discussing *śaṅkhapuṣpī*, another possible synonym, Sivarajan and Balachandran (**ADPS**: 425–427) also suggest *Canscora alata* (Roth) Wall. (syn of *Canscora decussata* Schultes & Schultes f.) and *Convolvulus pluricaulis* Choisy. The former has a more appropriate distribution and is chosen here : 314
- winged-stem canscora (*giryāhvā*) see **winged-stem canscora** (*girikarṇikā*) : 313
- Withania (*aśvagandhā*) *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See **AVS**: 5, 409 f, **Dymock**: 2, 566 f, 150, **GVDB**: 29,

Chevillard: 152 : 53, 100, 107, 182
 wood-apple (*kapittha*) *Limonia acidissima*,
 L. See AVS: 3, 327, NK: 1, #1021 : 107,
 131, 133, 183, 192, 193, 197, 214, 307
 woody turmeric (*kāleyaka*) *Coscinium*
fenestratum (Goetgh.) Colebr.,
 GVDB: 95. See V. K. Gupta et al.
 2015: 173–175 : 200
 woody-fruited jujube (*gopaghonṭā*)
Ziziphus xylopyra (Retz.) Willd.
 GVDB: 147 → *ghonṭā* : 198

yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*)
Solanum virginianum L. (syn. *Solanum*
surattense Burm. f. and *Solanum*
xanthocarpum, Schrad. & Wendl.)
 GVDB: 68–69. See also IHR: 430. A
 component of lesser five roots : 303, 315
 yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*) see
 yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*),
 ADPS: 100, NK: 1, #2329, AVS: 5, 164 :
 146, 147

Fauna

arala rat (*arala-animal*) a hapax legomenon
 in Sanskrit, probably a Dravidian loan
 word or cognate from forms like Pengo,
 Maṇḍa, Kuwi etc., *orli*, *urli*, etc.,
 DED₂: #994 : 188, 190, 191
 āvarttaka-insect (*āvarttaka*) unidentified
 insect : 206
 bad-marked rat (*kuliṅga*) etymologically,
 “having bad-marks” MW: 286, but
 unidentifiable : 188, 191
 beaked (*tuṇḍikerī*) neologism insect-name
 based on the etymology of *tuṇḍa*.
 Probably *tuṇḍikera* and *tuṇḍicela* are
 variants of the same lexeme. *tuṇḍa* is
 “Nicht überzeugend erklärt” according
 to Mayrhofer (EWA: 1, 653), who refers
 to a possible non-Indo-European origin
 (ibid. v. 3, 249 on *tundikā*, *tundikerī*
 refers to plants only). But Burrow
 1971: 544 derived the term plausibly
 from *√tud* “peck” : 206
 bee (*bhramara*) bee or bumble-bee,
 MW: 769, etc. : 206
 black drongo (*dhūmyāṭa*) *Dicrurus*
adsimilis, Bechstein, Dave 1985: 63, 65,
 199 : 128
 black rat (*kṛṣṇa*) perhaps the widespread
 Black Rat or Common House Rat,
Rattus Rattus L., BIA: 210 : 188, 190
 black-beak (*kṛṣṇatuṇḍa*) unknown insect,

name based on etymology; MW: 307.
 But possibly “black-belly” based on the
 lexeme *tunda*, 1[#5858]CDIAL : 207
 brown rat (*kapila-animal*) name from
 etymology; unidentified; see tawny rat
 (*aruṇa*) : 188, 191
 bull (*vṛṣabha*) MW: 1012, etc. *Bos taurus*,
 Linn. : 128
 celestial (*svarga-insect*) unknown insect,
 name based on etymology : 206
 centipede (*śatapādaka*) the name’s meaning
 is, “hundred-foot” MW: 1049,
 1[#12281]CDIAL : 206
 chital deer (*prṣata*) *Axis axis*, Erxleben.
 BIA: 295–296. In *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.5.71
 (Su 1938: 579) it seems to be specifically
 the musk that is meant. so the reference
 may be to the Musk Deer (*Moschus*
moschiferus L.). But all species
 produce musk, so *prṣata* may also be
 simply Chital or Spotted Deer. See also
 IW: 93 : 128, 134, 182
 chukar partridge (*cakora*) *Alectoris chukar*,
 J. E. Gray, Woodcock 1980: 45,
 distributed from NW India to Nepal
 and Assam : 128
 civet (*mārjāra*) BIA: ch. 4 *et passim*,
 McHugh 2012 : 182
 common crane (*kroñca*) *Grus grus*, Linn.,
 Woodcock 1980: 47, Dave 1985: ch. 62 :

- 128
cone snail (*śambūka*) a bivalve or snail (MW: 1055), but presumably a poisonous one such as the cone-snail : 150
- cook-fish insect (*pākamatsya*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. A kind of fiery insect according to Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.5 (Su 1938: 567) : 150, 206
- cricket (?) (*uccitṅga*) The suggestion “cricket” is from Assamese *usaṅgā* and Bengali *cuiṅgā*, *ucuṅgā*, CDIAL: 1, #1645, although they are not venomous. Unlikely: a crab, MW: 173. The cricket may appear to have a sting, although it does not Maxwell-Lefroy 1909: 102 : 206
- devout (*brahmaṇikā*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 206
- droplet (*bindula*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.8.9 (Su 1938: 586) noted that some people read *viluṭa* instead of *bindula* : 206
- drummer (*duṇḍubhaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. But may be connected with a variant of *tunda*/*tund* “belly” 1[#5858]CDIAL. **tunda-bhaka* might then mean “belly-croaker/puffer” : 206
- enemy-liquor (*arimedaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Perhaps a variant of *ali*- “bee”, 1[#716]CDIAL or *āla* “poison” 1[#1352]CDIAL : 206
- fidgety rat (*capala*) from the etymology of the word. Unidentifiable mouse or rat. It is probably too much of a stretch to connect it with Dravidian forms like Kui *superi* “shrew-mouse”, DED₂: #2675 : 188, 191
- fiery (*agni-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. Marāṭhī *āghī* “a kind of stinging fly” 1[#57]CDIAL : 206
- five-venom (*pañcālaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 206
- fondling rat (*lālana*) based on etymology. An unknown rat or mouse : 188, 189
- gajpipul rat (*vasira-animal*) unknown type of rat or mouse. “*Vasira*,” equated with *gajapippalī* is usually the name of the liana *Scindapsus officinalis* (Roxb.) Schott (GVDB: 132, 362) (see *gajpipul* (*gajapippalī*)). Lianas are known for providing a habitat for many arboreal animals, including rodents. The vulgate *Suśrutasaṃhitā* reads *haṃsira* as the name of this rat : 188, 190
- grey peacock-pheasant (*jīvajīvaka*) *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*, Linn., Dave 1985: 270, 273, 274, 281 : 128
- hill myna (*sārikā*) *Acridotheres tristis* *tristis*, L., etc. See Ali and Ripley 1983: #1006, Dave (1985: 28 ff.), Woodcock (1980: 119) : 128
- horned (*śṛṅgī*) unknown, based on etymology : 206
- house gecko (*grhagoḍikā*) MW: 362, 1[#4324]CDIAL. Hemacandra’s *Abhidhānacintāmaṇi* (4.364) mentions that *grhagodhikā* and *grhagolikā* are synonyms (Rādhākānta Deva 1876: 691a, *sub māṇikyā*) : 150
- house shrew (*chuchundara*) *Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus, 1766), Wikipedia, BIA: 168–169 and plate 38. Probably a Dravidian loan word related to Tamil *cunṭaṇ*, “grey musk shrew,” see DED₂: #2661 and CDIAL: #5053 : 188, 190
- hundred-creeper (*śatakurda*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. *śarāvākurda* “creeping among dishes” (MW: 1057), apparently also the name of a snake : 206
- hundred-kulimbhaka (*śatakulimbhaka*) unknown insect class. Perhaps centipedes : 206
- iguana (*godheraka*) The गौधेरक is described in the *Carakasamhitā* as a four-legged snake born of a Indian monitor lizard

- that is similar to a black snake and has several species (6.23.134 (Ca 1941: 577)). CDIAL: 1, #4286 identifies this as an iguana: 207, 317
- Indian monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802), Reptiles: 58–60, ill.: 53, 134, 316
- Indian peafowl (*mayūra*) *Pavo cristatus*, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 39: 128
- invincible rat (*ajita*) etymological meaning; unidentifiable: 188, 191
- koel (*kokila*) *Eudynamys scolopaceus*, Linn., Wikipedia, Woodcock 1980: 66: 128
- lac (*lākṣā*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). See GJM1: 445, NK: 2, #32, Varshney 2000. Watt (WattComm: 1053–1066) is characteristically informative, and is definite about the antiquity of lac in India: 153, 182, 200
- large Brown rat (*mahākapila*) from the etymology of the name, “large brown,” perhaps a bandicoot: 191
- large gecko (*galagoḍikā*) A poisonous insect, amphibian or reptile described in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.8.29 (Su 1938: 588) as a biting creature that may be white, black, with red stripes or rings or spotted. It is described just after the *iguanas* (*godheraka*) and before centipedes. The name is unstable, e.g., गलगोलिका, गलदोडी, गलगोली. Cf. the remarks on geckos in note 480, p. 150. The similarity of names suggests that a गलगोडिका may be a non-domestic creature that looks similar to a domestic gecko. Cf. other IA parallels at CDIAL: 1, #4324, 4431, which point to a Dravidian origin for the lexeme (DED₂: #1125) and suggests “iguana.” The tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko* (Linnaeus, 1758)) is a large gecko endemic to South Asia having a blue-gray skin with red or orange spots and speckles that may change according to its environment like a chameleon. Tokay geckos, especially males, are aggressive and territorial and can inflict a strong bite. However, many agamids and skinks are also endemic to South Asia, and have markings that could match the description of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. See further IW: 40, 135–136; Deuti 2020: 82
- leaf-scorpion (*patravṛścika*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- legume-insect (*vaidala*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- lentil insect (*masūrika-insect*) usually the name of a lentil or the “lentil disease,” namely smallpox. But here, an insect: 206
- little rat (*cikkira*) likely related to the Tulu “cikkeli, a small variety of mouse,” and other Dravidian works related to Tamil *cikka* “small,” DED₂: #2495. See also CDIAL: #4779 on *cikka* “mouse or muskrat,” from lexical sources, and #4781 *cikkā* “small” from Drav., Burrow 1948: #141: 188, 190
- little-voice (*alpavāca*) unidentified insect; possibly a wrong reading: 206
- lotus-insect (*padmakīṭa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- maggot (?) (*kīra-insect*) unknown insect. See Lahndā, Panjābī, Bengali, Oriya *kīrā*, etc., 1[#3193]CDIAL and similar forms in Bihārī, Maithilī Bhojpurī, etc. Obviously a variant of *kīṭa*: 206
- mole-rat (*kokila-animal*) *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray & Hardwicke). Etymologically, “brown as a Kokila”. CDIAL: #4324 relates *kokila* to *golaka* but it may more likely be a Dravidian loanword from *koko*, *kogi*, *koki*, meaning “small, little, young” DED₂: 2030. This is possibly supported by Kannada *kok* and Telugu *golatta*, *koku* for the mole-rat, reported by Prater (BIA: 205): 188, 191

- mongoose (*nakula*) *Urva edwardsii* or the often sympatric *U. auropunctatus* (small Indian mongoose, usually an eater of smaller creatures than snakes) (BIA: ch. 5), On mongooses and snakes, see IW: 112; BIA: 98–99: 134, 182
- mosquito (*maśaka*) a mosquito, gnat, gadfly or any stinging fly, MW: 793, 1[#9917]CDIAL: 206
- myna-face (*śārikāmukha*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- noseless (*vināsikā*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- outsider (*bāhyaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- parakeet (*śuka*) *Psittacula krameri*, Scopoli (or *P. eupatria* or *cyanoccephala*), See Woodcock 1980: 64: 128, 192
- picciṭā (*picciṭā*) unknown insect; etymologically perhaps similar to *piccaṭa* “squashed flat” (MW: 624): 206
- pigeon rat (*kapota-animal*) a rat “like a pigeon;” presumably of grey colour: 188, 191
- pitcher-like (*kaunḍinya-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- pot-nose wasp (?) (*kumbhīnāsa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. the forms related to *kumbhakārī* “potters’ wife” at 1[#3312]CDIAL, including Assamese *kumārni* “mason-wasp,” Hindī “wasp-like insect which makes a clay nest”: 319
- pot-turd (*kumbhīvarcas*) unknown insect, name based on etymology (on *-varcas*, see *Mahākośa*: 1, 725: 206
- racket-tailed drongo (*bhr̥ṅgarāja*) *Dicrurus paradiseus*, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 123: 128
- rat (*unduru*) Also *undura* or *indūra* in some sources, including the vulgate. A common name for a rat or mouse in many S. Asian languages from Prakrit to contemporary, CDIAL: #2095, Menon 2014, where it is called “house mouse”: 188, 191
- red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadanta*) see red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadaśana*): 191
- red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadaśana*) from the etymology of the word. Shrews in the genus *Sorex* (as well as others in the subfamily *Soricinae*) have red-pigmented teeth. Species in South Asia include Hodgson’s brown-toothed shrew (*Episoriculus caudatus*), the Himalayan water shrew (*Chimarrogale himalayica*), the Assam mole shrew (*Anourosoricini assamensis*) and the Giant mole shrew (*A. schmidi*): 188, 318
- river dolphin (*śiśumāra*) *Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck), BIA: 313–314, plate on p. 289, MW: 1076: 201
- she-ass insect (*gardabhī-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 207
- sheep-insect (*urabhra-insect*) unidentified insect: 206
- shining-like-grain (*kaṇabha*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- slimy (*śleṣmaka-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 207
- sonny rat (*putraka*) unidentified mouse or rat. Perhaps related to Dravidian forms like Pengo *puṭki*, DED₂: #4257 (itself perhaps just a form related to Tamil *poṭi* “little”): 188, 189
- speckle-head (*citraśīrṣaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- spotted (*paruṣa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology, which could be anything from dirty-coloured, stiff, or rough to shaggy: 206
- stripy (*abhirājī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology: 206
- swan (*haṃsa*) *Cygnus olor*, Gmelin, Dave 1985: ch. 84. As Dave says, “a generic term for a large part of the Anatidae family” including Swans, Geese, Ducks and Teals. The term needs to be translated variously according to the

- geographical context of the usage. In the Himalayan region, “swan” is appropriate, but in more southerly peninsular India, “goose” is more likely. The dogmatism of Vogel 1962 is based on mainly southern observations and temple carvings. The discussion by Dave 1985 is nuanced and accurate: 128
- sweet hoof (*nakha*) *Unguis odoratus* or *Onycha*, McHugh 2013, from which I adopt the name “sweet hoof.” See especially McHugh’s very interesting discussion about translating this term, pp. 56 ff. See also MW: 524 (on no authority): 200
- tawny rat (*aruṇa*) from the etymology of the word, perhaps *Rattus norvegicus* (Berkenhout, 1769), which is large, brown and common (it originated in central Asia and (likely) China, not Norway), and perhaps distinguishing it from the “large” ?? : 188, 191, 192, 315
- tick-navel ? (*uṇḍunābha*) unknown. Etymologically, an insect with an *uṇḍu* for a navel. Conjecturally, perhaps *uṇḍu* is a loan from Tamil *antu* “small grey-winged insect found in stored paddy” (DED₂: #150). Possibly remotely related to Dravidian lexemes for “tick,” *uḷuṅgu*, *uḍum*, *urūm*, *uṇṇi*, etc. DED₂: #591, #604. The vulgate of the *Suśrutasamhitā* reads *pot-nose wasp* (?) (*kumbhīnāsa*) “pot-nose” in place of this lexeme, q.v.: 206
- tortoise (*kūrma*) Perhaps *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff), *Reptiles*: 30 and plate, MW: 1076 : 201
- vicitiṅga (*vicitiṅga*) unidentified insect (not in MW): 206
- warding off (*vāraṇī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. *Oṛiyā bāraṇī* “charm against wild animals or noxious insects” 1[#11553]CDIAL: 206
- white rat (*śveta-animal*) from the etymology, perhaps the *Mus musculus*, L., although strictly, they are agouti not white. The whitetailed wood rat (*Madromys blanfordi*, Thomas) is brown but has a distinctive white end to its tail : 188, 191
- worm-dish (*krimisarāvī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. *śarāva* “dish, plate, etc.” (MW: 1057) : 207

Minerals

- ashes (*bhasma*) ashes, corrosive when wet : 140
- cuttle-fish bone (?) (*phenāśma*) Hapax legomenon. Etymologically “foam-stone”. Perhaps cuttlefish bone, or pumice (see Byrski 1981)? Dutt (Dutt: 38–42) conjectured that ‘foam-stone’ may be impure white arsenic obtained by roasting orpiment. : 140
- orpiment (*haritāla*) *Arsenii trisulphidum*. See NK v. 2, p. 20 ff: 140
- vermilion (*rakta*) speculative, based on *Mahākośa*: 1, 667, under *raktadhātu*, citing the *Dhanvantarīyanighaṇṭu* : 140

Glossary

character - *prakṛti*: 206

insect - *kīṭa*: 206

kalpa - procedure: 206

kīṭa - insect: 206


prakṛti - character: 206

procedure - *kalpa*: 206

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■ add refs to Divodāsa as king.	64
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■ to what?	78
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■ The webpage https://hindi.shabd.in/vairagya-shatakam-bhag-acharya-arjun-tiwari/post/117629 says that this verse belongs to the <i>Nītiratna</i> . I could not find this text.	105
■ The provisional edition should be modified accordingly.	107
■ There, Ḍalhaṇa comments that deliberation on <i>avapīḍa</i> had been done earlier when it was mentioned. Find that description to know more details.	109
■ Search for the section where the treatment of <i>ākṣepaka</i> is described.	110
■ Make the first letter of sentence capital.	110
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■ ?	116
■ ?	116
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■ I'm still unhappy about this verse.	130
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■ punarṇṇavā in the N & K MSS	132
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■ The two uses of prāpta are hard to translate. prāptāḥ → kṣipram is an example of the vulgate banalizing the Sanskrit text to make sense of a difficult passage.	133
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■ Include info on hida-2019	159
■ Or "There are 20 phaṇins and 6 maṇḍalins. The same number are known. There are 13 Rājīmats." Or even, "there are 20 Phaṇins and six of them are Maṇḍalins." Are phaṇins really the same as darvīkaras?	161
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■ ri- ṛ-?	165
■ varṇa means "colour" elsewhere?	166
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■ find ref.	220
■ Check out these refs.	220
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