

# A Translation of the Nepalese Text of the Suśrutasamhitā

Dominik Wujastyk    Jason Birch    Andrey Klebanov  
Lisa A. Brooks    Paras Mehta    Madhusudan Rimal  
Deepro Chakraborty    Harshal Bhatt    Jane Allred  
et alii

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## **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 of the whole *Suśrutasaṃhitā* commonly end with the statement, “here ends the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* together with the *Uttaratantra*,” we can presume that an older version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, sans *Uttaratantra*, ended with the present chapter. Added to this, the beginning of the next section of the work, the *Uttaratantra*, reads,

It being declared in the preceding 120 chapters, from here on, in the latter section, I shall explain the meanings in detail, fully.<sup>728</sup>  
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. In fact, it is mostly impossible. This is partly, at least, because historical entomology is non-existent as a discipline. Furthermore, entomology as a science in South Asia is dramatically

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<sup>728</sup> Note that this is not the reading of the vulgate, which says that the *Uttaratantra* will explain everything that was *not* completely explained before.

undeveloped when compared, for example, with botany.<sup>729</sup> 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.<sup>730</sup>

Thus, even pre-modern Sanskrit authors were not expert regarding the identities of the insects discussed in the *Suśrutasamhitā*.<sup>731</sup>

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 *Suśrutasamhitā*. The names mentioned from passages 25 onwards are mostly recognizable and do appear elsewhere Sanskrit literature.<sup>732</sup> 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.<sup>733</sup>

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 attainments to discuss the mention of various insects in ancient Sanskrit

<sup>729</sup> 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.

<sup>730</sup> 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

<sup>731</sup> MW includes 191 insect names, almost none of which are identified.

<sup>732</sup> E.g., T. R. Mitra 2005.

<sup>733</sup> HIML: IA, 296–299.

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.<sup>734</sup> 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.<sup>735</sup>

### Wind

- |     |                         |                                  |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5-6 | 1. Tick-navel,          | 10. Revolver, and                |
|     | 2. Beaked,              | 11. Sheep-insect,                |
|     | 3. Horned, and          | 12. Myna-face, and               |
|     | 4. Hundred-kulimbhakas, | 13. Legume-insect,               |
|     | 5. Cricket,             | 14. Hundred-creeper,             |
|     | 6. Fiery,               | 15. Stripy,                      |
|     | 7. Little-voice,        | 16. Spotted,                     |
|     | 8. Vicitingas, and      | 17. Speckle-head. <sup>736</sup> |
|     | 9. Lentil insects.      |                                  |

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.

### Fire

8cd-11ab

<sup>734</sup> P. V. Sharma (1999-2001: 3, 78) omitted "snakes'" making it sound as if insects are just born of any semen, etc.

<sup>735</sup> The insects named in the following lists are all unidentifiable at the present time. The English translations are based mostly on the etymologies of the Sanskrit names. Future ethno-linguistic studies of insect-names in South Asia may solve some cases.

<sup>736</sup> 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."

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Pitcher-like,       | 15. Lotus-insect,              |
| 2. Shining-like-grain, | 16. Drummer,                   |
| 3. Celestial, and      | 17. Mosquito,                  |
| 4. Warding off,        | 18. Centipede,                 |
| 5. Leaf-scorpion,      | 19. Five-venom,                |
| 6. Noseless,           | 20. Cook-fish insect,          |
| 7. Devout,             | 21. Black-beak,                |
| 8. Droplet,            | 22. She-ass insect.            |
| 9. Bee,                | These are the insects, as well |
| 10. Outsider.          | as the                         |
| 11. Picciṭās,          | 23. Worm-dish,                 |
| 12. Pot-turd,          | and the other one that is      |
| 13. Maggot,            | known as the                   |
| 14. Enemy-liquor,      | 24. Slimy.                     |

11cd–12ab These are the twenty-four insects that have the character of fire. The diseases of people bitten by one of these are caused by bile.

### Phlegm

- |         |                     |                    |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 12–15ab | 1. Vaiśvambhara,    | 8. Kiṭibha,        |
|         | 2. Pañcaśukla,      | 9. Aṭakī,          |
|         | 3. Pañcakṛṣṇa,      | 10. Sucīmukha,     |
|         | 4. Kokila-insect,   | 11. Kṛṣṇagodhā,    |
|         | 5. Śairyaka-insect, | 12. Kuṣṭha-insect, |
|         | 6. Pravalāka,       | 13. Kaṣāyavāsika,  |
|         | 7. Bhaṭābha,        |                    |

These are the thirteen watery (*saumya*) insects that irritate the phlegm. The diseases of people bitten by one of these are caused by phlegm.

### All three humours

- |           |               |                    |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|
| 15cd-17ab | 1. Tuṅgīnāsa, | 7. Maṇḍalapuṣpaka, |
|           | 2. Valabhika, | 8. Tuṇḍavakra,     |
|           | 3. Tolaka,    | 9. Sarṣapaka,      |
|           | 4. Nāhana,    | 10. Spoṭaka,       |
|           | 5. Koṇṭāgīrī, | 11. Śambuka,       |
|           | 6. Krimikara, | 12. Fiery insect,  |

These are the twelve terrible ones that are born of all three humours.

## Symptoms

- 17cd, 20–24 For someone bitten by one of these, the information about the stages of toxic shock (*vega*) is the same as with snakes.<sup>737</sup>  
 The following are found in the area of a bite, or in a body permeated (*ākula*) with poison: an eruption of blisters, swelling, lumps and circles, ringworm (*dardru*),<sup>738</sup> small ear-like growths (*karṇikā*), spreading rashes (*visarpa*), and dark, rough patches of skin (*kiṭibha*).<sup>739</sup>

## Taxonomy according to symptoms and prognosis

- 25–27 xx  
 28 *iguana*  
 29 <sup>740</sup>  
 30–41 xx

## Therapies

- 42–56abcd xx

## Taxonomy of scorpions

- 56ef–66 xx

<sup>737</sup> Two verses appear at this point in the vulgate that are not in the Nepalese version. They introduce a categorization of insect poisons into severe versus mild, a scheme that the Nepalese version does not reference.

<sup>738</sup> More usually ददु, a skin disease like कुष्ठ, i.e., leprosy or vitiligo, caused by an excess of bile and phlegm (*Mahākośa*: 390), although the form दर्दु is mentioned in the *Uṇādisūtra* commentary by Śvetavanavāsin (fl. tenth to fifteenth century), “दर्दुः कुष्ठभेदः” (I.88). Translated here as “ringworm” because that is prominent amongst the NIA usages of the lexeme and derivatives (CDIAL: 1, #6142).

<sup>739</sup> These symptoms are the same as those listed at 5.7.8 (*Su* 1938: 582) as being caused by rat poisoning, and similar to the list at 1.11.7 (*Su* 1938: 46). See footnote 672, p. 199.

<sup>740</sup> See n. 233, p. 90.



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

### **Therapies for scorpion-sting**

67–74 xx

### **Symptoms of spider poisoning**

75–89 xx

### **Origin story for spiders**

90–93 xx

### **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

- Ah 1939      Kuṇṭe, Anṇā Moreśvara, Navare, Kṛṣṇaśāstrī, and Parādkar, Hariśāstrī (1939) (eds.), श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम्, श्रीमदरुणदत्तविरचितया सर्वाङ्गसुन्दराख्यया व्याख्यया, हेमाद्रिप्रणीतया आयुर्वेदरसायनाह्वया टीकया च समुल्लसितम् = *The Astāṅgahṛidaya* (6th edn., Mumbayyām: Nirṇayasāgara Press), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t3tt6967d>.
- AHS 1940      Müss, C. N. Nārāyaṇan (1940) (ed.), श्रीमद्वाहटाचार्यप्रणीतम् अष्टाङ्गहृदयम् | श्रीदासपण्डितविरचितया हृदयबोधिकाख्यया व्याख्यया समलङ्कृतम् (Śrīcitṛāyurveda-granthamālā, 4; Trivandrum: Rājakīyamudrāśālā), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s23qzpqc61j>.
- Apte      Apte, Vaman Shivaram (1992), *The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary* (Kyoto: Rinsen Book Company), ISBN: 4-653-00038-7; Reprinted from **gode-apte**.
- Arthaśāstra*      Kangle, R. P. (1960), *The Kauṭīliya Arthaśāstra* (University of Bombay Studies Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali, 1; Bombay: University of Bombay), accessed 23/09/2021.
- As 1980      Āṭhavale, Ananta Dāmodara (1980) (ed.), अष्टाङ्गसङ्ग्रहः श्रीमद्वाग्भटविरचितः इन्दुव्याख्यासहितः [= *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgasaṅgraha with Indu's Commentary*] (Pune: M. A. Āṭhavale, Śrīmad Ātreya Prakāśanam), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s25bwqsd0n7>.
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# Materia Medica

## 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: <a href="https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t6356w32f">https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t6356w32f</a> ; 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: <a href="https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s2bh76qc88s">https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s2bh76qc88s</a> .
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: <b>chop-1969</b> .
Chopra IDG	Chopra, R. N., Chopra, I. C., et al. (1958), <i>Chopra's Indigenous Drugs of India</i> (2nd edn., Calcutta: Dhur & Sons), ARK: <a href="https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t9673t140">https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t9673t140</a> .

- CIPP Pillay, V. V. (2010), "Common Indian Poisonous Plants," in D. A. Warrell, T. M. Cox, and J. D. Firth (eds.), *Oxford Textbook of Medicine* (5th edn., Oxford University Press), 1371–5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/med/9780199204854.003.090302>.
- Dutt Dutt, Uday Chand (1922), *The Materia Medica of the Hindus...with a Glossary of Indian Plants by George King. Revised Edition...by Binod Lall Sen and Ashutosh Sen and Pulin Krishna Sen* (Krishnadas Sanskrit Studies; 3rd edn., Calcutta: Madan Gopal Dass for the Adi-Ayurveda Machine Press), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t59c7tg9z>; Reprinted Varanasi: Chowkhamba Saraswatibhavan, 1980.
- 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: <https://tinyurl.com/dymock1890>, 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: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t25b8q97g>.
- 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 Chunekar, K. C. (1972), *Glossary of Vegetable Drugs in Brhatrayi* (Varanasi: Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s2cvp72x58j>.
- 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: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t52h05616>.
- IGP Griffiths, Mark (1994), *The New Royal Horticultural Society Index of Garden Plants* (London: Macmillan), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t2q61gn9z>.
- 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: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-18659-2>, ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t2p67054f>.
- Issar Issar, T. P. (1994), *Blossoms of Bangalore* (Bangalore: T. P. Issar).
- IW Israel, Samuel, et al. (1988), *Indian Wildlife: Sri Lanka Nepal* (Insight Guides; Singapore etc.: APA Publications), ISBN: 9780245545238, ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s2p9d5pqd1w>.
- K & B Kirtikar, K. R., Basu, B. D., and an I.C.S (1987), *Indian Medicinal Plants*, 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: <https://bit.ly/MissouriPlantfinder>.
- NEH Bown, Deni (2001), *New Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses* (2nd edn., London, New York etc.: Dorling Kindersly).
- NK Nadkarni, K. M. (1982), *Dr. K. M. Nadkarni's Indian Materia Medica, with Ayurvedic, Unani-tibbi, Siddha, Allopathic, Homeopathic, Naturopathic & Home Remedies, Appendices & Indexes ... in Two Volumes*, ed. A. K. Nadkarni, 2 vols. (3 ed., revised and enlarged by A. K. Nadkarni, Bombay: Popular Prakashan), ISBN: 8171541429, URL: <https://tinyurl.com/Nadkarni1982>; First published in 1954.

- Peter Peter, K. V. (2012) (ed.), *Handbook of Herbs and Spices* (Food Science, Technology and Nutrition, 228; 2nd edn., Oxford, Cambridge, Philadelphia, New Delhi: Woodhead Publishing), ISBN: 9780857090393.
- Potter Wren, R. C. (1956), *Potter's New Cyclopaedia of Botanical Drugs and Preparations*, ed. R. W. Wren (7th edn., Rustington, Sussex: Health Science Press), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t14n65c9g>.
- Potter<sub>rev</sub> Wren, R. C., Williamson, Elizabeth M., and Evans, Fred J. (1994), *Potter's New Cyclopaedia of Botanical Drugs and Preparations* (Saffron Walden: C. W. Daniel Company Ltd.); Reprint of revised 1988 edition.
- POWO Kew Gardens (2024), "Plants of the World," Royal Botanic Gardens, URL: <https://powo.science.kew.org>.
- Reptiles Daniel, J. C. (1983), *The Book of Indian Reptiles* (Bombay: Oxford University Press).
- Trees Bole, P. V., and Vaghani, Yogini (1986), *Field Guide to the Common Trees of India* (Bombay, Delhi, Oxford, etc.: World Wildlife Fund – India and Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0-19-561595-6; 4th reprint.
- Watt<sub>Comm</sub> Watt, George (1908), *The Commercial Products of India, Being an Abridgement of "the Dictionary of the Economic Products of India"* (London: John Murray), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t8cg7dm79>.
- Watt<sub>Dict</sub> Watt, George (1889–96), *A Dictionary of the Economic Products of India* (Calcutta: Dept. Revenue and Agriculture, Government of India), URL: <https://tinyurl.com/watt1889>, accessed 28/04/2021.

## Flora

- aconite leaf (?) (*viṣapatrikā*) Unknown. Cf. perhaps, **Indian aconite** (*viṣā*) (but that is feminine). Cf. **GVDB**: 373, “unidentified” : 149
- agarwood (*aguru*) *Aquilaria malaccensis* Lam., **GVDB**: 3 : 106, 107, 210
- ‘alas, alas’ (?) (*hālāhala*) unknown. See Cf. *Soḍhalanighantu* p.43 (sub *bola*) = *stomaka* = **Indian aconite** (*vatsanābha*) : 150, 152
- Alexandrian laurel (*punnāga*) *Calophyllum inophyllum*, L. See **AVS**: 1, 338, **NK**: 1, #425 : 191, 210
- amaranth (*tanḍulīya*) see **amaranth** (*tanḍulīyaka*) : 192
- amaranth (*tanḍulīyaka*) *Amaranthus spinosus* L. See **GVDB**: 174, **Dutt**: 321, **NK**: 1, #144, **Potter**<sub>rev</sub>: 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 *tanḍulīyaka*, but *A. spinosus* L. is better known and attested in S. Asia in the first millennium BCE (Saraswat 1991) : 141, 199, 203, 208, 335
- Arabian jasmin (*trṇaśūnya*) see **Arabian jasmine** (*mallikā*), **GVDB**: 190 **MW**: 453 says *Jasminium sambac*. **GVDB**: 190 also suggest **screwpine** (*ketaka*) : 335
- Arabian jasmine (*mallikā*) *Jasminum sambac* (L.) Aiton, **GVDB**: 300 : 335
- Arabian jasmine (*trṇaśūlya*) probably an alternative pronunciation for **Arabian jasmine** (*trṇaśūnya*), **GVDB**: 190 : 210
- arjun (*arjuna*) *Terminalia arjuna*, Bedd. See **HK**: 738 : 50, 86, 207
- Asoka tree (*aśoka*) *Saraca indica* Linn., **GVDB**: 26 : 107, 109, 192, 210, 224, 351
- atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*) *Aconitum heterophyllum*, Wall. ex Royle. See **AVS**: 1, 42, **NK**: 1, #39 : 150, 152
- axlewood (*dhava*) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. See **AVS**: 1, 163 f, **Chopra**: 20 : 50, 85, 162, 207, 210
- bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) *Bambusa bambos*, Druce. See **NK**: 1, #307 : 141
- banyan (*nyagrodha*) *Ficus benghalensis*, L., **GVDB**: 356, **HK**: 748 : 335
- banyan (*vaṭa*) see **banyan** (*nyagrodha*) : 86, 89
- barley (*yava*) *Hordeum vulgare*, L. See **HK**: 752 : 117
- barley ash (*yavakṣāra*) The preparation method is described at **GVDB**: 327 : 120, 335
- barley ash (*yavanāla*) see **barley ash** (*yavakṣāra*), **GVDB**: 327 : 200
- 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 : 192
- 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 : 85
- beautyberry (*śyāmā*) *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See **AVS**: 1, 334, **NK**: 1, #420 : 112, 139, 141, 193
- beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) see **beggarweed** (*śālaparṇī*), **GVDB**: 1, mentioning that the pair of these refers to **beggarweed** and ?? : 157, 202

- beggarweed (*sthirā*) see [beggarweed](#) (*śālaparnī*), [GVDB](#): 458: 202
- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) see [beggarweed](#) (*śālaparnī*): 59, 117, 346
- beggarweed (*śālaparnī*) *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. See [Dymock](#): 1, 428, [GJM1](#): 602, [NK](#): 1, #1192; [ADPS](#): 382, 414 and [AVS](#): 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing: 335, 336
- beleric myrobalan (*bibhītaka*) *Terminalia bellirica* Roxb. One of the components of the [three myrobalans](#) (*triphalā*) [GVDB](#): 274, 196: 354
- Bengal quince (*bilva*) *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. See [AVS](#): 1, 62, [Chevallard](#): 161, [NK](#): 1, #62, i([MW](#): 732a): 85, 107, 109, 114, 193, 336, 341, 352
- big poison (?) (*mahāviṣa*) unknown.: 150, 152
- big thorn apple (?) (*mahākarambha*) Perhaps *Datura metel*, L.?. See [thorn apple](#) (*karambha*): 149
- bitter gourd (*paṭolī*) see [pointed gourd](#) (*paṭola*), cite[233]gvdB: 192
- bitumen (*adrija*) → *śilājī*. A tar-like, black, resinous rock exudate. See [Mahākośa](#): 1, 21: 173
- black Bengal quince (*kṛṣṇaśrīphalikā*) [GVDB](#): 412, on *śrīphala*, synonym of [Bengal quince](#) (*bilva*) fruit: 342
- black creeper (*kālānusārī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br. or *Cryptolepis buehneri* 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: 191, 336
- black creeper (*pālindī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buehneri*, 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: 141, 144, 157, 192
- black nightshade (*kākamācī*) *Solanum nigrum*, Linn., [GVDB](#): 86–87. May also be the less poisonous *S. dulcamara*, “bittersweet nightshade,” [K & B](#): 1, 889–892: 202, 209, 339
- black pepper (*marica*) *Piper nigrum*, L. See [ADPS](#): 294, [NK](#): 1, #1929. Known to ancient Greek authors ([Ball 1888](#): 341): 118, 208, 224, 341, 354
- 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: 210
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. [GVDB](#): 420: 140, 336
- blackboard tree (*saptaparnā*) see [blackboard tree](#) (*saptachada*): 208
- blackbuck (*hariṇa*) *Antelope cervicapra*, L. See [BIA](#): 270 [IW](#): 95, 165, *et passim*: 144
- blue water-lily (*utpala*) *Nymphaea stellata*, Willd. See [GJM1](#): 528, [IGP](#) 790; [Dutt](#): 110, [NK](#): 1, #1726: 41, 139, 157, 210, 224, 225, 340
- bluebell barleria (*kuravaka*) see [bluebell barleria \(\*kuruvaka\*\): 193](#)
- bluebell barleria (*kuruvaka*) Or *kurubaka*. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 108) notes that this is sometimes listed as a type of rice, as at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 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 Chuneekar ([GVDB](#)) finally propose a red-flowering *Rhododendron*, admitting that this is a novel suggestion: 149, 336
- bluebell barleria (*sahā*) see [bluebell](#)

- barleria** (*sahācara*), GVDB: 428 : 116, 201  
 bluebell barleria (*sahācara*) see **bluebell**  
**barleria** (*saireyaka*), GVDB: 427 : 336  
 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 : 336, 337
- 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. : 203
- bull's head (*gokṣura*) *Tribulus terrestris* L. GVDB: 144–145, 193. A component of **lesser five roots** : 337
- bull's head (*trikaṇṭaka*) → **bull's head** (*gokṣura*) GVDB: 193. A component of **lesser five roots** : 346
- bulrush (*kaśeru*) "Two species, *Scirpus kysoor* Roxb., and *S. grossus* Linn. f., are used" GVDB: 85. Also *kaśeruka* and *kaseru* : 112, 113, 116
- calabash gourd (*kūṣmāṇḍa*) → *puṣpaphala*. *Beninkasa hispida*, (Thunb.) Cogn. See AVS: 2, 1127; cf. AVS: 1, 261 : 341
- camphor (*karpūra*) → *śītaśiva*. *Cinnamomum camphora*, (L.) Sieb. See IGP 253 : 337
- 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 : 210
- cardamom (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton. See AVS: 2, 360, NK: 1, #924, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 66 : 106, 107, 157, 163, 191, 192, 200, 210, 337
- cardamom (*kṣudrailā*) see **cardamom** (*elā*), GVDB: 128. This expression, "small cardamom" is only used at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* Kalpasthāna 6.17 : 210
- carry cheddie (*viśvadevā*) → *gāṅgerukī* *Canthium parviflorum*, Lam. See AVS: 1, 366 f. Or *Sida rhombifolia* Linn. (GVDB: 372, 444 ff. et passim) : 89
- castor oil tree (*gandharvahaṣṭa*) see **castor-oil** (*eraṇḍa*). GVDB: 135, K & B: 3, 2277 : 55, 109
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: 1, #2145, Chopra: 214 : 60, 337
- castor-oil tree (*vardhamāna*) see **castor-oil** (*eraṇḍa*), GVDB: 361 : 208
- catechu (*khadira*) *Senegalia catechu* (L.f.) P. J. Hurter & Mabb = *Acacia catechu* Willd. GVDB: 129–130 : 86
- 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." : 162
- 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*) : 43, 351
- champak (*campaka*) *Magnolia champaca* (L.) Baill. ex Pierre, GVDB: 154 : 210
- chebulic myrobalan (*harītakī*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. GVDB: 466 : 115, 140, 210, 354
- cherry (*elavālu*) *Prunus cerasus*, L. See GVDB: 58 for a thoughtful discussion NK: 1, #2037 : 157, 210, 337
- cherry (*elavāluka*) see **cherry** (*elavālu*) : 208
- chir pine (*sarala*) *Pinus roxburghii*, Sarg. GVDB: 423 : 85, 116, 208, 210
- cinnamon (*tvac*) *Cinnamomum cassia*, Blume. See NK: 1, #579 : 202, 210, 337
- cinnamon (*tvac*) see **cinnamon** (*tvac*) : 192
- cinnamon (*varāṅga*) see **cinnamon** (*tvac*), GVDB: 360 : 208
- citron (*mātulūṅga*) *Citrus medica*, Linn.



- GVDB: 276, 306. Also spelled *mātuliṅga*, *mātulaṅga*, *mātulāṅga*: 85, 114, 119, 120, 192
- cluster fig (*udumbara*) *Ficus racemosa*, L. See ADPS: 487: 207
- cobra's saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → *nāgakeśara*. *Mesua ferrea*, L. See NK: 1, #1595, GVDB: 220: 157
- 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*: 208, 210, 338
- colocynth (*mṛgādanī*) see *colocynth* (*indravāruṇī*) GVDB: 46, 318: 192
- common smilax (*śvadamśtra*) *Smilax aspera* L., GVDB: 414: 85
- convolvulus (*lakṣmaṇā*) Sivarajan and Balachandran (ADPS: 273–275) suggest *Ipomoea marginata* (Desr.) Verdc. or *I. obscura* (Linn.) AVS: 3, 237–238 suggests *Ipomoea sepriaria* 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*: 89
- coriander (*dhānyaka*) *Coriandrum sativum* L., GVDB: 213: 338
- coriander (*kustumburya*) see *coriander* (*dhānyaka*), GVDB: 113: 210
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) *Erythrina suberosa* Roxb. See GVDB: 245: 162, 338
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadraka*) see *corky coral tree* (*pāribhadra*): 109, 207
- costus (*kuṣṭha*) *Dolomiaea costus* (Falc.) Kasana & A. K. Pandey. See GVDB: 112, NK: 1, #2239. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 345): 106, 107, 114, 141, 157, 163, 191, 192, 200, 208, 210
- cottony jujube (*kākolī*) *Ziziphus mauritanica*, Lam. See IGP: 1233, NK: 1, #2663; IGP 1233. Cf. NK: 1, #1170: 105, 113, 114, 188
- country mallow (*atibalā*) *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: 59, 113, 116, 282
- country mallow (*sahadevā*) → *balā* (GVDB: 428). Contains ephedrine: 89, 116
- country sarsaparilla (*anantā*) *Hemidesmus indicus*, (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): 59, 149, 157, 162
- crape jasmine (*tagara*) *Tabernaemontana divaricata* (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schultes. See GJM1: 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* (?) (*kumudavatī*)), 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: 106, 107, 114, 141, 157, 191, 210, 342, 355
- crimson trumpet-flower tree (*pāṭalā*) *Stereospermum chelonides*, (L. f.) A.

- DC. See GJM1: 573, AVS: 5, 192 ff, ADPS: 362 f, AVS: 3, 1848 f, IGP 1120, Dymock: 3, 20 ff: 341, 356
- croton tree (*nāgadantī*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg., GVDB: 222: 208, 339, 350
- croton tree (*nāgavinnā*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg. GVDB: 222 I have taken this as croton tree (*nāgadantī*) because of context in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* Kalpasthāna 5: 193
- 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: 149
- datura (*dhattūra*) *Datura metel*, L. See AVS: 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamañjarī*), NK: 1, #796 ff. Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 292 f, ADPS: 132: 56, 339
- datura (*dhuttūrakā*) see datura (*dhattūra*): 204
- deodar (*bhadradāru*) *Cedrus deodara*, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See AVS 41, NK: 1, #516: 50, 113, 117, 157, 208
- deodar (*devadāru*) *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Loud. GVDB: 206–207: 85, 114, 210, 282, 339
- deodar (*suradāru*) see deodar (*devadāru*): 191
- devil’s dung (*hiṅgu*) *Ferula foetida* Regel., GVDB: 471–472: 86, 87, 191
- dried ginger (*nāgara*) → dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*) GVDB: 221–222: 87, 191
- dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See ADPS: 50, NK: 1, #2658, AVS: 5, 435, IGP: 1232: 112, 339, 354
- 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): 42
- drum-giver (?) (*lambaradā*) Unknown; cf. GVDB: 348: 149
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) cf. Indian barberry (*añjana*): 50, 60, 343
- embelia (*viḍaṅga*) *Embelia ribes*, Burm. f. See ADPS: 507, AVS: 2, 368, NK: 1, #929, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 113: 50, 85, 107, 157, 191, 192, 208
- emblic myrobalan (*āmalaka*) *Phyllanthus emblica*, L. See AVS: 4, 256: 85, 115, 116, 224, 354
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭa*) Probably a synonym for *karahāṭa* (emetic nut), q.v., GVDB: 74: 339
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭaka*) see emetic nut (*karaghāṭa*): 150, 207
- 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.: 339
- emetic nut (?) (*karatā*) Not in GVDB. Cf. perhaps *karahāṭa* (emetic nut): 148
- emetic nut (*madana*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See NK: 1, #2091: 140, 284
- false daisy (*bhṛṅga*) *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See GVDB: 288: 85
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (su)bhaṅgura = *bhṛṅga*? *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See GVDB: 288: 148
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → *kāñjī*, *kāñjikā*, *sauvīra*. GVDB: 458, NK: 2, appendix VI, #18: 57, 58
- fern (*ajaruhā*) *Nephrodium* species GVDB: 7, uncertain. Perhaps *Christella dentata* (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy, which is reported to have folk applications against skin diseases in India: 143
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) *Woodfordia fruticosa* (L.) Kurz. See AVS: 5, 412, NK: 1, #2626. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 344): 86, 140

- five roots (*pañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.66–69 (Su 1938: 169). There are two *pañcamūlas*, the *laghupañcamūla* (the lesser five roots) and *br̥hatpañcamūla* (greater five roots), with differing properties. Combined they are called *daśamūla* (ten roots). See also *Mahākośa*: 1, 468: 85
- flame-of-the-forest (*kimśuka*) see flame-of-the-forest (*palāśa*), GVDB: 97–98: 200
- flame-of-the-forest (*palāśa*) *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub. GVDB: 241. *palāśa* in some sources: 86, 109, 340
- flax (*atasī*) *Linum usitatissimum*, L. See NK#1495: 113
- 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*: 50, 157, 163, 191, 192, 224, 340
- foxtail millet (*priyaṅgū*) see foxtail millet (*priyaṅgu*): 210
- fragrant lotus (*saugandhika*) A type of white water-lily (*kumuda*) or blue water-lily (*utpala*), GVDB: 457: 41
- fruit of the marking-nut (*āruṣkara*) see marking-nut tree (*aruṣkara*). “*āruṣkara* = *aruṣkara phala*” ADPS: 23; see also MW: 151: 192
- 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: 340, 359
- gajpipul (*hastipippalī*) see gajpipul (*gajapippalī*), GVDB: 469, 132: 208
- 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): 341
- galls (?) (*karkaṭa*) almost impossible to identify with certainty, GVDB: 78–80. Perhaps *Rhus succedanea*, L. See NK: 1, #2136: 150
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* Gaertn. f. See GVDB: 28, Chopra: 100: 162, 207, 210
- giant potato (*kṣīravidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq. See ADPS: 510, AVS: 3, 222, AVS: 3, 1717 ff: 113, 344, 348, 349, 351
- ginger (*mahaṣadha*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See ADPS: 50, NK: 1, #2658, IGP: 1232: 144
- gold (*hema*) gold: 157
- gold and sarsaparilla (*surendragopa*) Unknown. Ḍalhana 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”: 163
- golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) see golden shower tree (*āragvadha*): 162
- golden shower tree (*rājavarṣa*) see golden shower tree (*āragvadha*): 85
- 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: 115, 190, 200, 202, 340
- gourd (*alābu*) *Lagenaria siceraria* Standl. GVDB: 25. Some say *Lagenaria vulgaris*, Seringe (NK: 1, #1419) but this is not appropriate for blood-letting: 37, 38, 140, 188



gourd (*vallija*) see [gourd](#) (*vallija*) : 150

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.": [341](#)

grapes (*drākṣā*) *Vitis vinifera* L.

[GVDB](#): 208–209 : [192](#)

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](#) : [340](#), [345](#), [354](#)

green gram (*māṣa*) *Vigna radiata* (L.) R.

Wilcz. See [ADPS](#): 296, [IGP](#) 1204 : [50](#), [113](#), [283](#)

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." : [85](#), [112](#), [114](#), [191](#), [340](#)

gummy gardenia (*pr̥thvīkā*) ←

*hingupatrikā*, *Gardenia gummifera* L.f., [GVDB](#): 257, q.v. for discussion : [192](#), [210](#)

hairy bergenia (*pāṣāṇabheda*) *Bergenia*

*ligulata* (Wall.) Engl. [GVDB](#): 246–247 :

85

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 : [109](#), [115](#), [156](#), [157](#), [200](#), [202](#), [346](#)

halfa grass (*darbha*) *Demostachya*

*bipinnata* Stapf. [GVDB](#): 201. Synonym of *kuśa* : [88](#), [113](#)

halfa grass (*kuśa*) *Desmostachya bipinnata*,

(L.) Stapf. [GVDB](#): 111, [AVS](#): 2, 326 : [113](#), [185](#), [208](#)

hare foot uraria (*kroṣṭakamekhalā*) see [hare](#)

[foot uraria](#) (*pr̥śniparṇī*)

*Mahākośa*: 1, 246. *kroṣṭaka* can mean "jackal" *śṛgāla*, as in *śṛgālavinna*, "a kind of *pr̥śniparṇī*" *Mahākośa*: 1, 839 : [192](#)

hare foot uraria (*pr̥thakparṇī*) → [hare](#) [foot](#)

[uraria](#) (*pr̥śniparṇī*) and [rajmahal hemp](#) (*mūrvā*) [GVDB](#): 257. A component of [lesser five roots](#) : [115](#), [346](#)

hare foot uraria (*pr̥śniparṇī*) → *sahā*?

*Uraria lagopoides*, DC. and *U. picta* Desv. See [GVDB](#): 257–258, [GJM](#)1: 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](#) : [112](#), [113](#), [341](#)

heart-leaf sida (*balā*) *Sida cordifolia*, Linn.

See [ADPS](#): 71, [NK](#): 1, #2297 : [59](#), [113](#), [116](#), [118](#), [157](#), [282](#)

heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*.

*Tinospora cordifolia*, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.? See [ADPS](#): 38, [NK](#): 1, #2472, 624, [Dastur](#) #229 : [141](#), [156](#), [202](#)

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](#)) : 85, 114
- heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*)  
*Tinospora cordifolia* (Thunb.) Miers.  
 GVDB: 456. Likely, but uncertain : 141
- heart-leaved moonseed creeper  
 (*amṛtavallī*) See *amṛtā* : 282
- hedge caper (*hiṃsrā*) *Capparis sepia* L.,  
 GVDB: 471, IHR: 124, K & B: 1, 109 : 342
- 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 *kādādanī* as [black Bengal quince](#) (*kṛṣṇaśrīphalikā*). GVDB: vi, 471 note that they have identified *kākādanī* as *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L. “balloonvine” : 202
- henna (*madayantikā*) *Lawsonia inermis*, L. See AVS: 3, 303, NK: 1, #1448, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 151 : 142
- hibiscus (?) (*ambaṣṭhā*) possibly *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.? T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (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 Chuneekar 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](#) : 193
- Himalayan birch (*bhūja*) see [Himalayan birch](#) (*bhūrja*) : 208
- Himalayan birch (*bhūrja*) *Betula utilis* D. Don, GVDB: 287 : 342
- 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)) : 163, 191, 192, 202
- Himalayan yew (*sthaṇṇeya*) see [Himalayan yew](#) (*sthaṇṇeyaka*) : 210
- Himalayan yew (*sthaṇṇeyaka*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (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 *Thuneraka* is etymologically cognate with the Sanskrit name. *T. contorta* is of medicinal importance, so its common name is used here : 191, 342
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*, L. See ADPS: 387, AVS: 1, 281, NK: 1, #363 : 115, 142, 156, 193, 342
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) see [hogweed](#) (*punarnavā*) : 201
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) see [hogweed](#) (*punarnavā*) : 204
- hogweed (*varṣābhū*) see [hogweed](#) (*varṣābhū*) : 201
- 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*) : 342
- Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) → *sūryavallī*? *Holostemma ada-kodien*, Schultes. See ADPS: 195, AVS: 3, 167, 169, NK: 1, #1242 : 116, 349
- holy basil (*surasa*) *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, Linn. GVDB: 438–439 : 193
- honey (*kṣaudra*) Eight varieties of honey are described in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (NK: 2, Appendix 192). *Kṣaudra* is the product of a small bee of tawny colour, called *kṣudra* : 121, 144, 224, 225
- 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: 114, 343, 350
- hornwort (*jalaśūka*) → *jalanīlikā*. *Ceratophyllum demersum*, L. See AVS: 2, 56, IGP: 232. T. B. Singh and Chunekar (GVDB: 166) suggest **horned pondweed**. Ḍalhaṇa noted on 1.16.19 (Su 1938: 79) that some people interpret it as a poisonous, hairy, air-breathing, underwater creature: 59
- horse gram (*kaulattha*) See **horse gram** (*kulattha*): 186
- horse gram (*kulattha*) *Macrotyloma uniflorum* (Lam.) Verdcourt, syn. *Dolichos biflorus*, L., *D. uniflorus*, Lam., GVDB: 109, POWO: sub *Macrotyloma uniflorum*: 117, 118, 190, 211, 343
- horseradish tree (*madhukaśigru*) *Moringa oleifera* Lam., GVDB: 398–399. See **horseradish tree** (*śigru*): 207
- horseradish tree (*muruṅgī*) see **horseradish tree** (*śigru*) (GVDB: 311): 192
- horseradish tree (*śigru*) *Moringa oleifera* Lam. See IGP: 759, GJM1: 603, Dymock: 1, 396, GVDB: 398–399: 114, 115, 343
- hyacinth beans (*niṣpāva*) *Lablab purpureus* (L.) Sweet (1826) GVDB: 228: 103
- Indian aconite (*ativiṣā*) *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: 104, 142, 144, 163, 208, 210, 343
- 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<sub>rev</sub>: 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): 150, 151, 335, 343
- Indian aconite (*viṣā*) see **Indian aconite** (*ativiṣā*), GVDB: 12, 373: 335, 350
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) see **Indian barberry** (*dāruharidrā*) Cf. **elixir salve** (*rasañjana*): 60, 143, 339
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis holstii* Engl., Dymock: 1, 65, NK: 1, #335, #685, GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, GVDB: 203: 156, 157, 343, 354
- Indian barberry (*dārvī*) see **Indian barberry** (*dāruharidrā*): 225
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) see **Indian barberry** (*dāruharidrā*): 141
- Indian bat tree (*śuṅgā*) → *parkaṭīvṛkṣa* according to *Śabdasindhu*: 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.: 89
- Indian bdellium-tree (*guggula*) See **Indian bdellium-tree** (*guggulu*): 191
- 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): 121, 343
- Indian beech (*naktamāla*) *Pongamia pinnata*, (L.) Pierre. See AVS: 4, 339, NK: 1, #2003: 50, 109

- 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*): 115, 156
- Indian cherry (*śelū*) see [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*), [GVDB](#): 408: 210
- Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakā*) see [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*): 207
- 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.): 192, 344
- Indian dill (*śatapuspā*) *Anethum graveolens* L. May also be *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill. See [GVDB](#): 388 for discussion: 116, 210
- Indian elm (*ciribilva*) *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch. [GVDB](#): 158, who also say that *pūtika* is a synonym; but that must be different than *pūtikā*: 344
- Indian elm (*ciribilva*) see [Indian elm](#) (*ciribilva*): 207
- Indian frankincense (*agavṛttikā*) see [Indian frankincense](#) (*śallakī*), according to Ḍalhaṇa's comment on *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.7.29. A variant form of [Indian frankincense](#) (*agavṛttikā*): 202
- Indian frankincense (*agavṛttikā*) see ?? (*nagavṛttikā*), [GVDB](#): 3, 392: 344
- Indian frankincense (*gajavṛttikā*) *Boswellia serrata* Roxb.; equated with [Indian frankincense](#) (*śallakī*) by some, [GVDB](#): 392. See also ?? (*nagavṛttikā*): 192
- Indian frankincense (*śallakī*) *Boswellia serrata* Roxb., [GVDB](#): 392: 202, 344
- 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: 344
- Indian fumitory (*reṇu*) see [Indian fumitory](#) (*parpaṭa*), [GVDB](#): 339. To be distinguished from pollen (?) (*reṇukā*): 149
- 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: 59, 114, 349
- Indian jujube (*sauvīraka*) *Zizphus jujuba* Mill., [GVDB](#): 458, [MBG](#): sub jujuba: 113, 186
- 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: 59, 85
- Indian laurel (*plakṣa*) *Ficus microcarpa*, L. f. See [ADPS](#): 377: 208
- Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) *Rubia cordifolia*, L. See [IGP](#), [Chopra](#): 215, [GVDB](#): 289: 55, 157, 191, 192, 201, 208
- 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): 39
- Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*) *Brassica juncea*,

- Czern. & Coss. See [AVS](#): 1, 301, [NK](#): 1, #378, [GVDB](#): 426–427 : 42, 150, 208, 347
- Indian pennywort (*maṇḍūkapaṇī*) Centella asiatica (L.) Urban. See [GVDB](#): 290, [ADPS](#): 289–291 : 193
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sugandhikā*) see [Indian sarsaparilla](#) (*śvetasārivā*) [GVDB](#): 430, 436 : 192, 210
- 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, *pālindī*.  
Ichnocarpus frutescens, (L.) R.Br. or Cryptolepis buchanani, Roemer & Schultes [AVS](#): 3, 141, 145, 203, [NK](#): 1, #1283, 1210, [ADPS](#): 429–430 : 157, 336, 340, 345
- Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*)  
Hemidesmus indicus, (L.) R. Br. See [Indian sarsaparilla](#) (*sārivā*). [ADPS](#): 434, [AVS](#): 3, 141–145, [NK](#): 1, #1210, [GVDB](#): 430 : 345
- Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*) Rauvolfia serpentina, (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. See [NK](#): 1, #2099, [ADPS](#): 439, [GVDB](#): 425; cf. SS 5.5.76–78 : 193, 345
- Indian snakeroot (*sarvagandhā*) common spelling in Nepalese MSS for [Indian snakeroot](#) (*sarpagandhā*), q.v. : 202
- Indian symphorema (*ananta*) Not in [GVDB](#) but [MW](#): 25 says "*sinduvāra*" on no authority (see [Indian symphorema](#) : 208)
- 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 : 191, 193, 201, 210, 345
- Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*) Oroxylum indicum (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. [GVDB](#): 172–173. A component of greater five roots : 345
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) → [Indian trumpet tree](#) (*śyonāka*). Oroxylum indicum (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. [GVDB](#): 172–173. A component of greater five roots : 341
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) see [Indian trumpet tree](#) (*śyonāka*), [GVDB](#): 172–173 : 208
- 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) : 202, 345
- 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*) : 201
- indigo (*nīlī*) see [indigo](#) (*nīlinī*) : 210, 345
- Indrajao (*indrayava*) see *vr̥kṣaka* ([Indrajao](#)) Holarrhena pubescens Wall. ex G. Don 1837 [GVDB](#): 376, 45 and 84 : 104
- Indrajao (*vr̥kṣaka*) → *indrayava*, *indrabīja*, *kaliṅga*, and *kuṭaja*. Holarrhena pubescens Wall. ex G. Don 1837 [GVDB](#): 376, 45 and 84 : 87, 282, 345
- itchytrees (*nicula*) Barringtonia acutangula (L.) Gaertn., [GVDB](#): 224 : 208
- jambul (*jambū*) Syzygium cumini, (L.) Skeels. See [ADPS](#): 188, [NK](#): 1, #967, [Potter<sub>rev</sub>](#): 168, Wujastyk 2003a : 140, 225
- jequirity (*guñjā*) Abrus precatorius, L. See [AVS](#): 1, 10, [NK](#): 1, #6, [Potter<sub>rev</sub>](#): 168. See further [jequirity](#) (*kālakūṭa*) : 148, 149
- jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) see [jequirity](#) (*kālakūṭa*) : 151, 345
- jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) possibly Abrus



- precatorius, L. Cf. RRS 21.14. See [AVS](#): 1, 10, [NK](#): 1, #6, [Potter<sub>rev</sub>](#): 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 : [150](#), [345](#)
- kutki (*kaṭukā*) *Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth. ([GVDB](#): 64–65) : [104](#), [121](#), [346](#), [348](#)
- kutki (*kaṭurohaṇī*) → [kutki](#) (*kaṭukā*), [GVDB](#): 66, 64–65 : [191](#)
- kutki (*kaṭurohiṇī*) see [kutki](#) (*kaṭukā*), [GVDB](#): 66, 64–65 : [210](#)
- leadwort (*agniśikhā*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *rosea*?), L. See [NK](#): 1, #1966, 1967 : [346](#)
- leadwort (*citraka*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *indica*?), L. See [RĀ](#). 6.124, [ADPS](#): 119, [NK](#): 1, #1966, 1967 : [50](#), [86](#), [104](#), [109](#), [120](#), [191](#)
- leadwort (*pālaka*) → *citraka*. *Plumbago zeylanica* (*indica*? *rosea*?), L. See [Rā](#). 6.124, [ADPS](#): 1, 119, [NK](#): 1, #1966, 1967 : [150](#), [151](#)
- leadwort (*vidyutśikhā*) see [leadwort](#) (*agniśikhā*) : [148](#)
- lemon grass (*uśīrabheda*) → *lāmajja*. *Cymbopogon jwarancusa* (Jones ex Roxb.) Schult.. See [NK](#): 1, #176 : [355](#)
- 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](#) : [337](#), [340](#), [341](#), [354](#), [358](#)
- liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L.? [GVDB](#): 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant : [148](#)
- liquorice (*madhuka*) also *yaṣṭi* (*ka/kā*), *yaṣṭīmadhuka*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L. [AVS](#): 3, 84, [NK](#): 1, #1136, [GVDB](#): 329 f. : [59](#), [85](#), [112–117](#), [119](#), [144](#), [155](#), [157](#), [191](#), [207](#), [210](#), [225](#), [346](#)
- liquorice (*yaṣṭī*) see [liquorice](#) (*madhuka*) : [192](#)
- liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) see [liquorice](#) (*madhuka*) : [60](#)
- 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* : [50](#), [157](#), [191](#), [225](#)
- long pepper (*kṛṣṇā*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [224](#)
- long pepper (*māgadha*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [143](#)
- long pepper (*pippalī*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [191](#)
- long pepper (*pippalī*) *Piper longum*, L. See [ADPS](#): 374, [NK](#): 1, #1928, [GVDB](#): 249–250, but cf. [AVS](#): 3, 245 : [85](#), [109](#), [115](#), [116](#), [120](#), [121](#), [144](#), [157](#), [208](#), [211](#), [224](#), [282](#), [346](#), [354](#)
- long pepper root (*pippalīmūla*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [208](#)
- long-stamen *Wendlandia* (?) (*prapaundarika*) 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 : 150, 191, 210, 347
- long-stamen *Wendlandia* (?) (*tilaka*) see long-stamen *Wendlandia* (?) (*prapaṇḍarika*), *GVDB*: 183–184. Sometimes thought to be a synonym of *viburnum* (*tilvaka*), q.v., but this is probably erroneous : 210, 355
- lotus (*nalina*) see sacred lotus (*kamala*), *GVDB*: 218 : 224, 225
- lotus stalk (*mṛṇāla*) “Leaf stalk of sacred lotus” *GVDB*: 318 : 114
- luffa (*jālinī*) see luffa (*koṣātakī*), *GVDB*: 168 : 150, 200
- luffa (*koṣavatī*) see luffa (*koṣātakī*) : 156
- 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 : 347
- mahua (*madhūka*) *Madhuca longifolia*, (J. Koenig) J. F. Macbride. See *AVS*: 3, 362 f. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 339–340) : 85, 228–230
- maidenhair fern (*haṃsāhvayā*) *Adiantum lunulatum* Burm f. *GVDB*: 463 : 282
- 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) : 106, 107, 114, 141, 157, 199, 200, 210
- Malay beechwood (*śrīparṇī*) → *kāśmarī*. *Gmelina arborea* Linn., *GVDB*: 412, 96–97 : 85
- 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 : 193, 207
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. *GVDB*: 37 : 140, 193, 208, 224
- mangosteen (*amla*) *Garcinia pedunculata* Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham. See *GVDB*: 20–21 : 190
- 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 *Sauśrutaniḥṣaṇṭu* (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) : 151
- marking-nut tree (*aruṣkara*) see marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) : 149, 340
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacardium*, L. See *NK*: 1, #2269, *AVS*: 5, 98, *ADPS*: 85–86, *GVDB*: 23,

- 283 : 109, 143, 347  
marsh barbel (*ikṣuraka*) *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schumach.) Heine (syn. *Asteracantha longifolia* (L.) Nees.), **GVDB**: 42–43 : 208
- medhshingi (*vijayā-2*) *Dolichandrone falcata* (Wall. ex DC.) Seem. The *Sauśrutaniḥaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann (**GVDB**: 373 f; **ADPS**: 518, a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (NK: #862) : 149
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See **AVS** 1927, **ADPS**: 21, NK: 1, #2025, **AVS**: 4, 348; **GJM1**: 523: = *P. integrifolia/serratifolia*, L: 156, 341
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. **GVDB**: 126: see **purple roscoe** and **giant potato**: 59, 351
- 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 : 152
- muddy (?) (*kardama*) unknown. : 150, 152
- mulberry (*kramuka*) probably the **mulberry** (*tūda*); see discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (**GVDB**: 122) : 192
- mulberry (*tūda*) *Morus indica* L., **GVDB**: 189 : 348
- mung beans (*mudga*) *Phaseolus radiatus* L. **GVDB**: 310–311 : 113, 116, 231
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo* Linn. **GVDB**: 308 : 141
- munj grass (*nārācaka*) *Saccharum bengalense*, Retz.?. See NK: 1, #2184 : 150
- musk mallow (*latākastūrikā*) *Abelmoschus moschatus* Medik., **GVDB**: 348 : 348
- 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) : 348
- musk mallow (*ullika*) see **musk mallow** (*ullaka*) : 149
- myrobalan (*abhayā*) *Terminalia chebula*, Retz. See **ADPS**: 172, NK: 1, #2451, **Potter<sub>rev</sub>**: 214 : 104, 156, 163
- myrobalans (*pathyā*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. See NK: 1, #2451 : 224
- natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. NK: 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with svarjikṣāra 4.8.50 (**Su 1938**: 441) : 120, 157, 191
- neem (*picumarda*) see **neem tree** (*nimba*), **GVDB**: 247–248 : 207
- neem tree (*nimba*) *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss., **GVDB**: 226 : 56, 282, 348
- 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* : 163
- nutgrass (*mustaka*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See **ADPS**: 316, **AVS**: 2, 296, NK: 1, #782 : 150, 152
- nutgrass (*mustā*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See **ADPS**: 316, **AVS**: 2, 296, NK: 1, #782 : 348
- odal oil plant (*iṅgudi*) see **odal oil plant** : 199
- odal oil plant (*iṅgudī*) Kirtikar et al. (K & B: 5, 79) also firmly identify *iṅgudī* as *Sarcostigma kleinii* Wight & Arn., a liana well known in the Western Ghats and widely used in āyurveda, including for skin diseases. Balanites agyptiaca (L.) Delile, **GVDB**: 43 is an African plant and unlikely to be the



- original āyurvedic *ingudi*. : 348
- oleander spurge (*mahāvṛkṣa*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 302-303 : 207
- oleander spurge (*nandā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 215 : 353
- oleander spurge (*snuhā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*) : 109, 150, 201
- 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 Chunekar ([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 : 349, 353
- 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) : 186
- paddy rice (*śālī*) Oriza sativa, Linn. [GVDB](#): 395–396 mentioning 33 Sanskrit sub-variety names; [AVS](#): 4, 193 : 43, 351
- painted uraria (*prṣṇaparnī*) 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 : 202
- pale Java tea (*arjaka*) Orthosiphon pallidus Royle ex Benth., [GVDB](#): 24, based on Ḍalhaṇa's descriptions, and by P. V. Sharma 1982: 127, #60. But Ocimum basilicum L., according to [AVS](#): 4, 160 : 210
- panacea twiner (*arkapuṣpī*) → *arkaparnī*, Tylophora indica (Burm. f.) Merr. [GVDB](#): 23–24. Maybe identical to [Indian ipecac](#), [giant potato](#) and similar sweet, milky plants. See [GVDB](#): 24, 127, 238, 441, 443 for discussion. For discussion in the context of [Holostemma creeper](#), see [ADPS](#): 195 and [AVS](#): 3, 171. The etymology of the name suggests Helianthus annuus Linn., but this plant is native to the Americas : 156, 344
- peas (*hareṇu*) Pisum sativum, L. T. B. Singh and Chunekar ([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 : 114, 156, 157, 163, 192, 224, 349, 350
- peas (*hareṇukā*) see [peas](#) (*hareṇu*) : 210
- peas (*satīna*) see [peas](#) (*hareṇu*), [GVDB](#): 419-420 : 349
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) Ficus religiosa, L. See [ADPS](#): 63. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 338–339) : 165
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*) Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br. See [AVS](#): 3, 107, [NK](#): 1, #1173 : 143
- phalsa (*parūṣaka*) Grewia asiatica Linn., [GVDB](#): 238 : 86
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*dugdhikā*) synonym of [plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat](#) (*kṣīrīṇī*), [GVDB](#): 204–205, 127 : 349
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīrīṇī*) various milky plants, perhaps including Euphorbia hirta Linn. (asthma plant) and E. microphylla Heyne (Gulf sandmat) ([GVDB](#): 127) : 344, 349
- 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 : 210
- 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. : 354

- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb., *GVDB*: 232–233 : 114, 156, 336
- poison-altar (?) (*viṣavedikā*) Unknown. Possibly, at a guess, *strychnine tree* (*viṣamuṣṭika*)? *GVDB*: 373 Or *Indian aconite* (*viṣā*) : 149
- 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 *vr̥kṣaruhā*, *māmsarohiṇī*, or *durvā*, none of which help : 149, 344
- pomegranate (*dāḍima*) *Punica granatum* Linn. *GVDB*: 201–202 : 85, 86, 119, 120, 193, 202
- 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. : 157
- pondweed (*śevāla*) *Zannichellia palustris* L. See *horned pondweed* : 41, 42
- pongame oiltree (*karañja*) see *pongame oiltree* (*karañjikā*) : 121, 202
- pongame oiltree (*karañjikā*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (*GVDB*: 74–76) discuss complications, but probably *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6.3 : 208, 350
- 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 : 210, 350
- powdered ruffle lichen (*śaileyaka*) see *powdered ruffle lichen* (*śaileya*) : 191
- prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*) *Achyranthes aspera*, L. See *GVDB*: 14, *GJM*1: 524 f, *AVS*: 1, 39, *ADPS*: 44 f, *AVS*: 3, 2066 f, *Dymock*: 3, 135 : 55, 59, 113, 209, 350
- prickly chaff-flower (*vasira*) also *vaśira*. Perhaps *Achyranthes aspera*, L. *GVDB*: 362 describes several possible identities, including *sūryāvarta*, *prickly chaff-flower* and *markaṭatṛṇa*. See also *vasukavasira* (*GVDB*: 363) : 85
- 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 : 350
- prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojī*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (*GVDB*: 145–146) observe that this plant name is unique to the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. 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. : 208
- products of the wood-apple (*kāpitta*) a reading in the Nepalese MSS for *products of the wood-apple* (*kāpittha*), q.v. : 203
- products of the wood-apple (*kāpittha*) relating to or derived from the *wood-apple* (*kapittha*) : 350
- purging nut (*dravantī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See *AVS*: 3, 261, *NK*: 1, #1374. A.k.a. *mūṣikaparṇī* : 350
- purging nut (*mūṣikā*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See *AVS*: 3, 261, *NK*: 1, #1374 : 143
- 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*) : 208
- purging nut tree (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. *AVS*: 3, 261, *NK*: 1, #1374,

- GVDB: 317. GVDB: 317; ADPS: 23–25 discuss this issue well : [141](#), [142](#)
- purple calotropis (*arka*) Calotropis gigantea, (L.) R. Br. See ADPS: 52, AVS: 1, 341, NK: 1, #427, Potter<sub>rev</sub>: 57, Chopra IDG: 305–308 : [50](#), [59](#), [109](#), [186](#), [204](#), [207](#)
- 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. : [210](#)
- purple roscoeia (*kṣīrakākolī*) GVDB: 89 notes that many physicians use *Roscoeia procera* Wall. in this context. But the identification is uncertain. Possibly connected to [milk-white](#) or [giant potato](#) : [113](#), [344](#), [348](#)
- pussy willow (*vetasa*) Salix caprea L., GVDB: 380–381, q.v. for the argument that this is not the same as [rattan](#) (*vetra*) : [351](#)
- 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*) : [114](#), [208](#)
- radish (*mūlaka*) Raphanus sativus, L. See NK: 1, #2098 : [118](#), [150](#), [152](#)
- rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrvā*, Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) Wight et Arn. Good discussion at GVDB: 314–316, 324 : [156](#)
- 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 : [116](#), [341](#)
- 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 : [351](#)
- realgar (*manaḥśīlā*) Arsenii disulphidium NK: 2, #11 : [224](#)
- red gourd (*bimbī*) Coccinia indica, W. & A. See PVS 1994.4.715; NK: 1, #534 : [140](#)
- red ochre (*gairika*) Hellwig 2009: 140–141. NK: 2, #40; the same source, at #6, gives kaoolinum or china clay : [157](#), [191](#), [193](#), [210](#), [224](#), [225](#)
- red physic nut (*dantī*) Baliospermum solanifolium (Burm.) Suresh, GVDB: 200 : [107](#), [150](#), [202](#), [208](#), [350](#)
- resin of white dammer tree (*sarjarasa*) GVDB: 424–425. See [white dammer tree](#) (*sarja*) : [116](#), [210](#)
- rice grains (*taṇḍula*) Oriza sativa, Linn. Same as [paddy rice](#) (*śāli*) GVDB: 174; or just “grains” : [43](#)
- rice-grain chaff (*śālitaṇḍulakāṇḍana*) See [chaff](#) : [43](#)
- rock salt (*saindhava*) See NK: 2, M#48, Watt<sub>Comm</sub>: 963–971 : [42](#), [85](#), [120](#), [191](#), [224](#), [337](#)
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats. See AVS: 2, 285, NK: 1, #177 : [157](#), [191](#), [210](#)
- royal jasmine (*mālatī*) Jasminium grandiflorum, L. See NK: 1, #1364, ADPS: 285–288 : [141](#), [351](#)
- royal jasmine (*sumanā*) see [royal jasmine](#) (*mālatī*), GVDB: 437 : [210](#)

- sacred lotus (*kamala*) *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn., *GVDB*: 73–74, *Dutt*: 110, *NK*: 1, #1698 : 347, 352
- sacred lotus (*padma*) see [sacred lotus](#) (*kamala*), *GVDB*: 235–236 : 41, 114, 141, 210, 356
- saffron (*bāhlīka*) syn. of [saffron](#) (*kuṅkuma*), q.v., *GVDB*: 273–274 : 208
- saffron (*kuṅkuma*) *Crocus sativus* Linn., *GVDB*: 100. On the history of confusions between saffron and turmeric, see Cox 2011 : 202, 352
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkolla*) *Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang., *GVDB*: 5–6. See also *AVS*: 1, 77; cf. *NK*: 1, #88 : 140, 193, 200, 202, 352
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkoṭha*) see [sage-leaved alangium](#) (*aṅkolla*) : 207
- 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 : 86
- sal tree (*śālā*) *Shorea robusta*, Gaertn.f. See *AVS*: 5, 124 : 224
- 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.)) : 87, 114, 116, 157, 186, 192, 210, 356
- 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 *Lagerstroemeia parviflora* Roxb. (*sidhraka/siddhaka*) and L. flos-reginae Retz. (*jārula* by some). See *GVDB*: 432 : 207, 210, 351
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*. *Caesalpinia sappan*, L. *AVS*: 1, 323, K & B: 2, 847 f, *GVDB*: 234 : 50, 60
- scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) *Pentapetes phoenicea*, L. *NK*: #1836, *GVDB*: 268 : 142
- scented pavonia (*bālaka*) *Pavonia odorata*, Willd. See *ADPS*: 498, *NK*: 1, #1822 : 157
- scented pavonia (*toya*) → *bālaka*? *Pavonia odorata*, Willd. *ADPS*: 498, *NK*: 1, #1822 : 210
- scramberry (*tālīsapatra*) see [scramberry](#) (*tālīśa*) : 210
- 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) : 114, 225, 352
- screwpine (*ketaka*) *Pandanus tectorius* Parkinson ex Du Roi, *GVDB*: 116 : 335
- scurfy pea (*bākucī*) Identified as *Cullen corylifolia* (L.) Medik. *ADPS*: 69–70, *GVDB*: 272 : 351
- scutch grass (*dūrvā*) *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers., *GVDB*: 205 : 343, 352
- 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*) : 210
- 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 : 191, 353  
 sedge (*kuṭannaṭā*) see [sedge](#) (*kuṭannaṭā*) : 210
- sesame (*tila*) *Sesamum indicum* L.  
 GVDB: 183. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 344) : 210, 211
- sesame oil (*taila*) *Sesamum indicum* L.  
 GVDB: 183 : 59, 186
- shami tree (*śamī*) *Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Druce GVDB: 390 : 207, 337
- silk-cotton tree (*śālmālī*) *Bombax malabarica*. See [Issar](#): 152 : 210
- siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbbeck*, Benth. See [AVS](#): 1, 81, [NK](#): 1, #91, [GVDB](#): 399–400. Cf. [white siris](#): 156, 186, 199–203, 209, 210, 224, 356
- siris seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) *Albizia lebbbeck*, Benth. See [AVS](#): 1, 81, [NK](#): 1, #91 : 140, 201
- small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*) *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb., [GVDB](#): 432 : 162
- smooth angelica (*coraka*) *Angelica glauca* Edgw. [GVDB](#): 161. Distribution: Afghanistan, Himalaya, western Tibet ([POWO](#)). Edgeworth even recorded the indigenous name “chura” (Edgeworth 1851: 53) : 193, 208, 353
- smooth angelica (*taskara*) see [smooth angelica](#) (*coraka*), [GVDB](#): 176 : 210
- 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) : 148
- spikenard (*jaṭā*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) : 201, 210
- spikenard (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) *Nardostachys jatamansi* (D.Don) DC, [GVDB](#): 163. See also [NK](#): 1, #1691. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 343–344) : 353
- spikenard (*māṁsī*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) : 157, 192, 210
- spikenard (*nalada*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) : 138, 192, 210
- spiny bitter gourd (*karkāruka*) *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) : 341
- 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*) : 149
- spurge (*saptalā*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 421–422) discuss the four candidates for this plant, three of which are Euphorbias : 118, 193
- strychnine tree (*viṣamuṣṭika*) *Strychnos nux vomica* Linn., [GVDB](#): 373 : 350
- sugar (*sitā*) Ḍalhaṇa makes this equation at 1.37.25 ([Su](#) 1938: 162) : 157, 192
- sugar (*śarkara*) *Saccharum officinarum*, Linn. [NK](#): #2182 : 144
- sugar cane (*ikṣu*) *Saccharum officinarum*, Linn. [NK](#): #2182 : 144
- sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → *ādityavallī*, *sūryamukhī*, *Helianthus annuus* Linn. [GVDB](#): 35, 443 : 156
- sweet flag (*vacā*) *Acorus calamus* Linn. See [GVDB](#): 352–355 : 113, 120, 208
- sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet plants are enumerated at *Suśrutasaṁhitā* 1.42.11. See also [GVDB](#): 127 : 59
- sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*) *Nerium oleander*, L. See [ADPS](#): 223, [NK](#): 1, #1709, [GVDB](#): 77, which discusses the white and red forms : 148
- teak (*śāka*) *Tectona grandis*, L.f. See [AVS](#): 5, 245, ([MW](#): 1061) : 207



- Tellicherry bark (*kuṭaja*) *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G. Don, with *Wrightia tinctoria* and *W. arborea* considered [GVDB](#): 101–102, [ADPS](#): 267–270 : 109, 207, 340
- 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](#) : 340
- the three myrobalans (*triphālā*) [chebulic myrobalan](#) [beleric myrobalan](#) and [emblic myrobalan](#) (*harītakī bibhītaka* and *āmālaka*) One of the most-often mentioned drugs in the *Bṛhatrayā* [GVDB](#): 194–196 : 107, 191, 192, 201, 202, 336
- the three pungent drugs (*kaṭutrika*) see the [three pungent drugs](#) (*trikaṭu*) : 203, 210
- the three pungent drugs (*trikaṭu*) dried [ginger](#), [long pepper](#), and [black pepper](#) (*śuṇṭhī*, *pippalī*, and *marica*) [GVDB](#): 193 : 191, 354
- the three pungent drugs (*vyoṣa*) see the [three pungent drugs](#) (*trikaṭu*), [GVDB](#): 382–383 : 202
- the two types of clitoria (*śvete*) see [white clitoria](#) (*śvetā*) : 210
- the two types of turmeric (*haridre*) see [turmeric](#) (*haridrā*) and [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*), [GVDB](#): 465–466 : 210
- thorn apple (*karambha*) *Datura metel*, L. See [GVDB](#): 76 for useful discussion. Also, [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff. [Potter](#)<sub>rev</sub>: 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132. Possibly the same plant as [plumed cockscomb](#) (*indīvara*) ([GVDB](#): 76, 44–45) : 149, 150, 336, 349
- 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 : 87, 156
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva magna* (Lour.) DC. See [AVS](#): 2, 202; cf. [NK](#): 1, #696 : 143, 193, 208, 354
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇaka*) see [three-leaved caper](#) (*varuṇa*) : 210
- toothed-leaf limonia (*surasī*) *Naringi crenulata* (Roxb.) Nicolson (formerly *Limonia crenulata* Roxb.), [GVDB](#): 439 : 192, 210
- top layer of fermented liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*) [K & B](#): 2, 502, [NK](#): 2, appendix VI, #49, [McHugh](#) 2021: 39 : 57, 58
- 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 : 56, 354
- tree cotton (*picu*) See [tree cotton](#) (*kārpāsa*) : 58, 60
- tree of heaven (*arala*) probably *Alianthus excelsa* Roxb., [GVDB](#): 21–22 : 207
- turmeric (*gaūrī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. See [ADPS](#): 169, [AVS](#): 2, 259, [NK](#): 1, #750 : 114
- turmeric (*haridrā*) *Curcuma longa* Linn. [GVDB](#): 465. On the history of confusions between saffron and turmeric, see Cox 2011 : 115, 156, 163, 191, 354
- turmeric (*rajanī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. [ADPS](#): 169, [AVS](#): 2, 259, [NK](#): 1, #750 : 42, 157, 192, 202
- turpeth (*trivṛt*) → *trvṛtā*. *Operculina turpethum* (Linn.) Silva Manso = *Ipomoea turpethum* R. Br. [GVDB](#): 197 : 107, 144, 191, 284, 336
- turpeth (*trvṛt*) The common spelling in Nepalese MSS of *trivṛt* : 202
- 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*) : 85
- unknown fruit poison (*veṇuka*) see [unknown fruit poison](#) (*veṇukā*) : 149
- 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 : 355
- velvet bean (*svayaṃguptā*) Mucuna pruriens (L.) DC., [GVDB](#): 461, who say that the plant is known in the *Carakasamhitā* but not the *Suśrutasamhitā* : 224, 355
- velvet bean (*ārṣabhī*) see [velvet bean](#) (*rṣabhī*) and [velvet bean](#) (*svayaṃguptā*). [Mahākośa](#): 1, 94, citing the *Rājanighaṇṭu* 3.50, 201 : 200
- velvet bean (*rṣabhī*) see [velvet bean](#) (*svayaṃguptā*), [MW](#): 226, [GVDB](#): 56 : 355
- velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) Cissampelos pariera, L. See [ADPS](#): 366, [NK](#): 1, #592, [GJM](#)<sub>1</sub>: 573, [AVS](#): 1, 95; cf. [AVS](#): 2, 277 : 50, 87, 104, 120, 156, 191, 192, 342
- velvet-mite (*indragopa*) Kerria lacca (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978 : 139
- verbena (*bhārgī*) see [verbena](#) (*bhāringī*) : 192, 210
- verbena (*bhāringī*) → phaṇjī. Clerodendrum serratum (L.) Moon or C. serratum; see [AVS](#): 2, 121, [ADPS](#): 87 : 355
- verbena (*phaṇjī*) Clerodendrum serratum, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 121, [ADPS](#): 87 : 142
- vetiver (*uśīra*) Chrysopogon zizanioides (L.) Roberty, also called “khus.” [NK](#): 1, #180, [GVDB](#): 54 identify it as vetiver : 86, 141, 186, 355
- vetiver and lemon grass (?) (*uśīre*) “the two uśīras,” perhaps [vetiver](#) (*uśīra*) and [lemon grass](#) (*uśīrabheda*) : 210
- viburnum (*tilva*) see [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*) : 202
- 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 Dr̥ḍhabala. 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 : 107, 208, 347, 355
- viburnum extract (*tailvaka*) see [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*), [GVDB](#): 185, also a ghee compound of [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*) : 224
- ‘Virāṭa’s plant’ (*vairāṭaka*) unknown. See ? : 150, 152
- water snowflake (?) (*kumudavati*) see [water snowflake](#) (?) (*kumudavatī*) : 150
- 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*)) : 149, 338, 355

- watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) MW: 183 : 140
- weaver's beam tree (*mokṣaka*) see [weaver's beam tree](#) (*muṣkaka*) : 356
- weaver's beam tree (*muṣkaka*) Schrebera swietenoides, Roxb. See AVS: 5, 88, Lord, NK: 1, #2246, GVDB: 242–243 : 109, 162, 356
- 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*) : 109, 207, 210
- 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 *agniśikhā* tree, all of which may be called *śvetamokṣaka* or *kuberākṣī* : 191
- weevil wort (*tālamūlikā*) GVDB: 178–179 : 356
- weevil wort (*tālapatrī*) → *tālamūlikā*, [weevil wort](#), q.v. GVDB: 178 : 193
- white babool (*arimeda*) Acacia leucophloea, (Roxb.) Willd. See AVS: 1, 23 : 50, 208
- white calotropis (*alarka*) Calotropis procera, (Ait.) R. Br. See NK: 1, #428, Chopra: 46b, Chopra IDG: 305–308 : 59
- 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 : 141, 192, 201, 204, 209, 354
- white cutch tree (*somavalka*) Acacia polyacantha, Willd. See AVS: 1, 30, IGP 7, GJM1: 602, AVS: 2, 935; pace NK: 1, #1038 : 142, 162
- 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 : 50, 85, 351, 356
- white dammer tree (*sarjja*) see [white dammer tree](#) (*sarja*) : 207
- white lotus (*punḍarīka*) see [sacred lotus](#) (*padma*), GVDB: 252 : 152
- white sandalwood (*bhadraśrīya*) Santalum album Linn. See [white sandalwood](#) (*bhadraśrī*) : 114, 210
- 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* : 87, 356
- 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 : 207
- white siris (*kaṭabhī*) Albizia procera (Roxb.) Benth. or A. lebbeck (Linn.) Benth. GVDB: 63–64, AVS: 1, 81–84. Cf. [siris](#) : 186, 353
- white siris (*kiṇihī*) Albizia procera (Roxb.) Benth., GVDB: 98, which also discusses past confusions; NK: 1, #93 : 156, 192
- white teak (*kārśmarī*) → *kāśmarī* : 225
- white teak (*kāśmarya*) see [white teak](#) (*kāśmarī*) : 210
- white teak (*kāśmaryā*) see [white teak](#) (*kāśmarī*) : 85
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarya*, *kārśmarī*, *madhuparnī*. Gmelina arborea, Roxb. See GJM1: 543, Trees: 51, ADPS: 240,



- GVDB: 96–97 : 114, 116, 341, 356  
 white teak (*madhuparṇī*) → *kāśmarī* : 85  
 white water-lily (*kumuda*) *Nymphaea alba*, Linn., GVDB: 105 : 41, 210, 340  
 wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See further [wild asparagus](#) (*śatāvārī*) Possibly a syn. for *nandana*. The bark of wild asparagus is toxic : 142  
 wild asparagus (*śatāvārī*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See ADPS: 441, AVS: 1, 218, NK: 1, #264, IGP: 103, AVS: 4, 249 ff, Dymock: 3, 482 ff : 112–114, 116, 230, 357  
 wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhallātaka*, *lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*, GVDB: 4. Uncertain A plant often cited in *Suśrutasamhitā*, 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) : 156, 357  
 wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*, L. Sometimes identified with *agnika* ([wild celery](#)), q.v. : 156, 191  
 wild Himalayan cherry (*padmaka*) *Prunus cerasoides* D.Don, GVDB: 236, AVS: 4, 353–355. MW: 585 is wide of the mark : 114–116, 191, 192, 210  
 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 : 120  
 wild spider flower (*tailaparṇika*) see [wild spider flower](#) : 210  
 wild spider flower (*tilaparṇī*) *Cleome gynandra* L., GVDB: 184–185, but see the discussion of the other drug plants sometimes intended by this name : 357  
 wild sugar cane (*kāṇḍekṣu*) *Saccharum spontaneum* L., GVDB: 90 : 85  
 winged-stem canscora (*giriḥvā*) see [winged-stem canscora](#) (*girikarṇikā*) : 192  
 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., *Suśrutasamhitā* 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 : 357  
 winged-stem canscora (*giryāhvā*) see [winged-stem canscora](#) (*girikarṇikā*) : 356  
 Withania (*aśvagandhā*) *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See AVS: 5, 409 f, Dymock: 2, 566 f, 150, GVDB: 29, Chevillard: 152 : 59, 108, 115, 192  
 wood-apple (*kapittha*) *Limonia acidissima*, L. See AVS: 3, 327, NK: 1, #1021 : 115, 141, 143, 193, 202, 203, 207, 224, 350  
 woody turmeric (*kāleyaka*) *Coscinium fenestratum* (Goetgh.) Colebr., GVDB: 95. See V. K. Gupta et al. 2015: 173–175 : 210  
 woody-fruited jujube (*gopaghonṭā*) *Ziziphus xylopyra* (Retz.) Willd. GVDB: 147 → *ghonṭā* : 208  
 yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*) *Solanum virginianum* L. (syn. *Solanum*

surattense Burm. f. and *Solanthum xanthocarpum*, Schrad. & Wendl.)  
 GVDB: 68–69. See also IHR: 430. A  
 component of lesser five roots: 346, 358

yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*) see  
 yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*),  
 ADPS: 100, NK: 1, #2329, AVS: 5, 164:  
 156, 157

## 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.,  
 DED<sub>2</sub>: #994: 198, 200, 201  
 aṭakī (*aṭakī*) unknown: 217  
 bad-marked rat (*kuliṅga*) etymologically,  
 “having bad-marks” MW: 286, but  
 unidentifiable: 198, 201  
 beaked (*tunḍikerī*) neologism insect-name  
 based on the etymology of *tunḍa*.  
 Probably *tunḍikera* and *tunḍicela* are  
 variants of the same lexeme. *tunḍa* 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”: 216  
 bee (*bhramara*) bee or bumble-bee,  
 MW: 769, etc.: 217  
 bhaṭābha (*bhaṭābha*) unknown: 217  
 black drongo (*dhūmyāṭa*) *Dicrurus*  
*adsimilis*, Bechstein, Dave 1985: 63, 65,  
 199: 138  
 black rat (*kṛṣṇa*) perhaps the widespread  
 Black Rat or Common House Rat,  
*Rattus Rattus* L., BIA: 210: 198, 200  
 black-beak (*kṛṣṇatunḍa*) unknown insect,  
 name based on etymology; MW: 307.  
 But possibly “black-belly” based on the  
 lexeme *tunda*, CDIAL: 1, #5858: 217  
 brown rat (*kapila-animal*) name from  
 etymology; unidentified; see tawny rat  
 (*aruṇa*): 198, 201  
 bull (*vṛṣabha*) MW: 1012, etc. *Bos taurus*,

Linn.: 138  
 celestial (*svarga-insect*) unknown insect,  
 name based on etymology: 217  
 centipede (*śatapādaka*) the name’s meaning  
 is, “hundred-foot” MW: 1049,  
 CDIAL: 1, #12281: 217  
 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: 138, 144, 192  
 chukar partridge (*cakora*) *Alectoris chukar*,  
 J. E. Gray, Woodcock 1980: 45,  
 distributed from NW India to Nepal  
 and Assam: 138  
 civet (*mārjāra*) BIA: ch. 4 *et passim*,  
 McHugh 2012: 192  
 common crane (*kroñca*) *Grus grus*, Linn.,  
 Woodcock 1980: 47, Dave 1985: ch. 62:  
 138  
 cone snail (*śambūka*) a bivalve or snail  
 (MW: 1055), but presumably a  
 poisonous one such as the cone-snail:  
 160  
 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):  
 160, 217  
 cricket (*uccīṭiṅga*) The suggestion “cricket”  
 is from Assamese *usāṅgā* 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 : 216
- devout (*brahmaṇīkā*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- droplet (*bindula*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Dalhaṇa on 5.8.9 ([Su](#) 1938: 586) noted that some people read *viluṭa* instead of *bindula* : 217
- drummer (*duṇḍubhaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. But may be connected with a variant of *tunda*/*tund* “belly” [CDIAL](#): 1, #5858. \**tunda-bhaka* might then mean “belly-croaker/puffer” : 217
- enemy-liquor (*arimedaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Perhaps a variant of *ali*- “bee”, [CDIAL](#): 1, #716 or *āla* “poison” [CDIAL](#): 1, #1352 : 217
- 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”, [DED](#)<sub>2</sub>: #2675 : 198, 201
- fiery (*agni-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. Marāṭhī *āghī* “a kind of stinging fly” [CDIAL](#): 1, #57 : 216, 359
- fiery insect (*agnikīṭa*) see [fiery](#) (*agni-insect*) : 217
- five-venom (*pañcālaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- fondling rat (*lālana*) based on etymology. An unknown rat or mouse : 198, 199
- 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 : 198, 200
- grey peacock-pheasant (*jīvajīvaka*) *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*, Linn., Dave 1985: 270, 273, 274, 281 : 138
- hill myna (*sārikā*) *Acridotheres tristis*, L., etc. See Ali and Ripley 1983: #1006, Dave (1985: 28 ff.), Woodcock (1980: 119) : 138
- horned (*śṛṅgī*) unknown, based on etymology : 216
- house gecko (*grhagoḍikā*) [MW](#): 362, [CDIAL](#): 1, #4324. Hemacandra’s *Abhidhānacintāmaṇi* (4.364) mentions that *grhagoḍhikā* and *grhagolikā* are synonyms (*Rādhākāntā Deva* 1876: 691a, *sub māṇikyā*) : 160
- 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 [DED](#)<sub>2</sub>: #2661 and [CDIAL](#): 1, #5053 : 198, 200
- hundred-creeper (*śatakurda*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. *śarāvākurda* “creeping among dishes” ([MW](#): 1057), apparently also the name of a snake : 216
- hundred-kulimbhaka (*śatakulimbhaka*) unknown insect class. Perhaps centipedes : 216
- 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 : 218, 360
- Indian monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802), [Reptiles](#): 58–60, ill. : 59, 144, 359
- Indian peafowl (*mayūra*) *Pavo cristatus*, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 39 : 138
- invincible rat (*ajita*) etymological meaning; unidentifiable : 198, 201
- kaṣāyavāsika (*kaṣāyavāsika*) unknown : 217

- kiṭibha (*kiṭibha*) unknown : 217
- koel (*kokila*) *Eudynamys scolopaceus*, Linn., *Wikipedia*, Woodcock 1980: 66 : 138
- kokila-insect (*kokila-insect*) unknown : 217
- koṇṭāgīrī (*koṇṭāgīrī*) unknown : 217
- krīmikara (*krīmikara*) unknown : 217
- kṛṣṇagodhā (*kṛṣṇagodhā*) unknown : 217
- kuṣṭa-insect (*kuṣṭa-insect*) unknown : 217
- 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 : 163, 192, 210
- large Brown rat (*mahākapiḷa*) from the etymology of the name, “large brown,” perhaps a bandicoot : 201
- 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 518, p. 160. 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 (DED<sub>2</sub>: #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 : 90
- leaf-scorpion (*patravṛścika*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- legume-insect (*vaidala*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 216
- lentil insect (*masūrika-insect*) usually the name of a lentil or the “lentil disease,” namely smallpox. But here, an insect : 216
- little rat (*cikkira*) likely related to the Tuḷu “cikkeli, a small variety of mouse,” and other Dravidian works related to Tamil *cikka* “small,” DED<sub>2</sub>: #2495. See also CDIAL: 1, #4779 on *cikka* “mouse or muskrat,” from lexical sources, and #4781 *cikkā* “small” from Drav., Burrow 1948: #141 : 198, 200
- little-voice (*alpavāca*) unidentified insect; possibly a wrong reading : 216
- lotus-insect (*padmakīṭa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- maggot (*kīra-insect*) unknown insect. See Lahndā, Panjābī, Bengali, Oriya *kīrā*, etc., CDIAL: 1, #3193 and similar forms in Bihārī, Maithilī Bhojpurī, etc. Obviously a variant of *kīṭa* : 217
- maṇḍalapuṣpaka (*maṇḍalapuṣpaka*) unknown : 217
- mole-rat (*kokila-animal*) *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray & Hardwicke). Etymologically, “brown as a Kokila”. CDIAL: 1, #4324 relates *kokila* to *golaka* but it may more likely be a Dravidian loanword from *koko*, *kogi*, *koki*, meaning “small, little, young” DED<sub>2</sub>: 2030. This is possibly supported by Kannada *kok* and Telugu *golatta*, *koku* for the mole-rat, reported by Prater (BIA: 205) : 198, 201
- 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 : 144, 192
- mosquito (*maśaka*) a mosquito, gnat, gadfly or any stinging fly, MW: 793, CDIAL: 1, #9917 : 217
- myna-face (*śārikāmukha*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 216
- nāhana (*nāhana*) unknown : 217
- noseless (*vināsikā*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- outsider (*bāhyaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- pañcakṛṣṇa (*pañcakṛṣṇa*) unknown : 217
- pañcaśukla (*pañcaśukla*) unknown : 217
- parakeet (*śuka*) *Psittacula krameri*, Scopoli (or *P. eupatria* or *cyanoccephala*), See Woodcock 1980: 64 : 138, 202
- picciṭā (*picciṭā*) unknown insect; etymologically perhaps similar to *piccata* “squashed flat” (MW: 624) : 217
- pigeon rat (*kapota-animal*) a rat “like a pigeon;” presumably of grey colour : 198, 201
- pitcher-like (*kaṇḍinya-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- pot-nose wasp (?) (*kumbhīnāsa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. the forms related to *kumbhakārī* “potters’ wife” at CDIAL: 1, #3312, including Assamese *kumārni* “mason-wasp,” Hindī “wasp-like insect which makes a clay nest” : 362
- pot-turd (*kumbhīvarcas*) unknown insect, name based on etymology (on *-varcas*, see *Mahākośa*: 1, 725 : 217
- pravalāka (*pravalāka*) unknown : 217
- racket-tailed drongo (*bhr̥ṅgarāja*) *Dicrurus paradiseus*, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 123 : 138
- 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: 1, #2095, Menon 2014, where it is called “house mouse” : 198, 201
- red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadanta*) see red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadaśana*) : 201
- 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*) : 198, 361
- revolver (*āvarttaka*) unidentified insect : 216
- river dolphin (*śiśumāra*) *Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck), BIA: 313–314, plate on p. 289, MW: 1076 : 211
- śairyaka-insect (*śairyaka-insect*) unknown : 217
- śambuka (*śambuka*) unknown : 217
- sarṣapaka (*sarṣapaka*) unknown : 217
- she-ass insect (*gardabhī-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- sheep-insect (*urabhra-insect*) unidentified insect : 216
- shining-like-grain (*kaṇabha*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- slimy (*śleṣmaka-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 217
- sonny rat (*putraka*) unidentified mouse or rat. Perhaps related to Dravidian forms like Pengo *puṭki*, DED<sub>2</sub>: #4257 (itself perhaps just a form related to Tamil *poṭi* “little”) : 198, 199
- speckle-head (*citraśīrṣaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 216
- spoṭaka (*spoṭaka*) unknown : 217
- spotted (*paruṣa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology, which could be anything from dirty-coloured, stiff, or rough to shaggy : 216



- stripy (*abhirājī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 216
- sucīmukha (*sucīmukha*) unknown : 217
- swan (*haṁsa*) *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 J. Vogel 1962 is based on mainly southern observations and temple carvings. The discussion by Dave 1985 is nuanced and accurate : 138
- 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) : 210
- 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” ?? : 198, 201, 202, 358
- tick-navel (*uṇḍunābha*) unknown insect; name based on etymology. 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” (DED<sub>2</sub>: #150). Possibly remotely related to Dravidian lexemes for “tick,” *uḷuṅgu*, *uḍum*, *urūm*, *uṇṇi*, etc. DED<sub>2</sub>: #591, #604. The vulgate of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* reads *pot-nose wasp* (?) (*kumbhīnāsa*) “pot-nose” in place of this lexeme, q.v. : 216
- tolaka (*tolaka*) unknown : 217
- tortoise (*kūrma*) Perhaps *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff), *Reptiles*: 30 and plate, MW: 1076 : 211
- tuṇḍavakra (*tuṇḍavakra*) unknown : 217
- tuṅgīnāsa (*tuṅgīnāsa*) unknown : 217
- vaiśvambhara (*vaiśvambhara*) unknown : 217
- valabhika (*valabhika*) unknown insect : 217
- vicitiṅga (*vicitiṅga*) unidentified insect (not in MW) : 216
- warding off (*vāraṇī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. *Ōriyā bāraṇī* “charm against wild animals or noxious insects” CDIAL: 1, #11553 : 217
- 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 : 198, 201
- worm-dish (*krimisarāvī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. *śarāva* “dish, plate, etc.” (MW: 1057) : 217

## Minerals

- ashes (*bhasma*) ashes, corrosive when wet : 150
- 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. : 150
- orpiment (*haritāla*) *Arsenii trisulphidum*. See NK v. 2, p. 20 ff : 150

vermilion (*rakta*) speculative, based on  
*Mahākośa*: 1, 667, under *raktadhātu*,

citing the *Dhanvantarīyanighaṇṭu* : 150





## Glossary

*ākula* - permeated: 218

character - *prakṛti*: 216

*dadru* - ringworm: 218

*dardru* - ringworm: 218

dark, rough patches of skin - *kiṭibha*: 218

insect - *kīṭa*: 216

*kalpa* - procedure: 216

*karṇikā* - small ear-like growths: 218

*kīṭa* - insect: 216

*kiṭibha* - dark, rough patches of skin: 218

permeated - *ākula*: 218

*prakṛti* - character: 216

procedure - *kalpa*: 216

ringworm - *dadru*: 218 - *dardru*: 218

*saumya* - watery: 217

small ear-like growths - *karṇikā*: 218

spreading rashes - *visarpa*: 218

toxic shock - *vega*: 218

*vega* - toxic shock: 218

*visarpa* - spreading rashes: 218

watery - *saumya*: 217




## Todo list

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■ complete this thought . . . . .	69
■ add footnote here . . . . .	70
■ add refs to Divodāsa as king. . . . .	70
■ find out about uttarabasti . . . . .	85
■ to what? . . . . .	86
■ 29, 30 missing? . . . . .	89
■ Problematic passage in the edition. . . . .	89
■ unsolved problem . . . . .	94
■ Perhaps <i>kalka</i> here could also mean the <i>Terminalia Bellerica</i> (विभीतक). . . . .	106
■ Perhaps <i>kalka</i> here could also mean the <i>Terminalia Bellerica</i> (विभीतक). . . . .	106
■ Euphorbia Antiquorum (Antique spurge) . . . . .	109
■ The webpage <a href="https://hindi.shabd.in/vairagya-shatakam-bhag-acharya-arjun-tiwari/post/117629">https://hindi.shabd.in/vairagya-shatakam-bhag-acharya-arjun-tiwari/post/117629</a> says that this verse belongs to the <i>Nītiratna</i> . I could not find this text. . . . .	113
■ The provisional edition should be modified accordingly. . . . .	115
■ There, Ḍalhaṇa commented that deliberation on <i>avapīḍa</i> had been done earlier when it was mentioned. Find that description to know more details. . . . .	117
■ Search for the section where the treatment of <i>ākṣepaka</i> is described. . . . .	118
■ Make the first letter of sentence capital. . . . .	118
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■ ? . . . . .	124
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■ Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8. . . . .	137

■ I'm still unhappy about this verse. . . . .	140
■ Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate. . . . .	140
■ fn about sadyas+ . . . . .	140
■ Bear's bile instead of deer's bile. . . . .	141
■ punarṇṇavā in the N & K MSS . . . . .	142
■ śrita for śṛta . . . . .	142
■ explain more . . . . .	142
■ Medical difference from Sharma. . . . .	143
■ example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text. . . .	143
■ 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. . . . .	143
■ √ vyadh not √ vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative. . . . .	143
■ Look up the ca. reference. . . . .	152
■ Come back to the issue of "kalpa". Look up passages in the Kośa. . . .	159
■ got to here - 2023-01 continue with table for #5 . . . . .	161
■ write footnote: don't repeat ativiṣā; vulgate similar to H. . . . .	163
■ Include info on Hidas 2019 . . . . .	169
■ 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? . . . . .	171
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■ maṣī burned charcoal. Find refs. . . . .	224
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■ Check out these refs. . . . .	230
■ meaning of kalpa . . . . .	230
■ or a dual? . . . . .	235
■ See chapter 40 of Sūtrasthāna. . . . .	284
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■ Does bhūtādi a compound or it means ahaṅkāra or ego? . . . . .	285

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