

A Translation of the Nepalese Text of the Suśrutasamhitā

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Introduction

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

The date of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*

In a previous publication, I discussed evidence showing that the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* as we have it now began to be assembled in the late centuries BCE, and was heavily revised and supplemented in the period before CE 500.³ The more detailed reflections by Meulenbeld support this dating.⁴ But we also now know, as a result of the Suśruta Project, that the work was subject to at least one further editorial campaign after the ninth century.⁵ Another recently-discovered factor affects older arguments about the dating of the work. The name “Dhanvantari” that is associated with the vulgate version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* is not tied in the same way to the older, Nepalese version of the text.⁶ In the late ninth century, the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* was read as a work delivered by Divodāsa, King of Kāśī, not the god Dhanvantari. The

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

² For more discussion of this issue, see Wujastyk et al. [2023](#): Introduction and ch. 2.

³ Wujastyk [2003b](#): 63–64.

⁴ [HIML](#): 1A, 333–352.

⁵ Wujastyk et al. [2023](#): 16–26.

⁶ Wujastyk [2013](#); Birch, Wujastyk, Klebanov, Parameswaran, et al. [2021](#); Birch, Wujastyk, Klebanov, Rimal, et al. [2021](#); Wujastyk et al. [2023](#).

text was thoroughly re-edited after the ninth century, adding the narrative frame of the Dhanvantari attribution as well as verses from the *Carakasamhitā* and other material. It may be that at least some of this editorial work was performed by the author Candraṭa (fl. 900–1050), since several manuscript colophons of the *Suśrutasamhitā* include the statement,

The correction of textual readings in the treatise of Suśruta was done by Candraṭa the son of the doctor Tīsaṭa, after studying the commentary of Jejjaṭa.⁷

The disassociation of Dhanvantari from the *Suśrutasamhitā* affects several historical arguments that were summarized by Meulenbeld about the relationship of the work to the *Carakasamhitā* and other works. Former arguments based on the priority of the *Carakasamhitā* to the *Suśrutasamhitā* can no longer stand, since the Nepalese version does not include many of the passages from the *Carakasamhitā* on which these arguments rest. A particularly striking example of this occurs in the *Sūtrasthāna*.

In the standard, printed edition or vulgate text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, chapter ten of the *Sūtrasthāna* is dedicated to the topic of becoming a professional physician. The title of the chapter is interesting: “how to start being a secular practitioner,” (विशिकानुप्रवेशनीयमध्यायम्). The word I translate as “secular practitioner” is, etymologically, “without a top-knot,” i.e., a person who is not wearing a religious tuft of hair on the back of the head following tonsure. The text’s choice of words points to a felt distinction of the doctor as not being a religious functionary.⁸ The fourth passage of the chapter, describes how a physician takes note of omens on the way to a patient’s home, and then how he diagnoses the patient:

Then he should approach the house of the sick person according to the favourableness of the messenger, the reason given, omens, and good-luck signs. After sitting down, he should have a good look at the sick person, he should palpate them and interrogate them. Diseases are mostly understandable through these three means of gaining knowledge. That is what some people say, but it is not correct. There are six means of gaining

⁷ Wujastyk 2024.

⁸ Some commentators interpreted the word विशिखा to mean “path, road.” This sense is not known outside the present passage. I would suggest it is an attempt to reverse engineer the chapter’s title to mean something like the Pali *sotāpanna*.

knowledge about diseases, i.e., by the five senses, hearing etc., and by interrogation.⁹

As we see, the text first proposes a three-part method of diagnosis and then immediately distances itself from that statement and provides a different six-part procedure. One has the sense of hearing two voices.

Who were the “some people” being referred to? The three-part diagnostic procedure is found in the *Carakasamhitā* (Ca.ci.25.22). For that reason, this passage has been taken as evidence that the authors of the *Suśrutasamhitā* knew the Caraka text and were responding to it. This is one of the pieces of evidence that is used to argue that the *Suśrutasamhitā* is chronologically later than the *Carakasamhitā*. In the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, however, the passage is much simpler and omits this second, distancing, voice:

Then, arriving at the house of the sick person according to the favourableness of the messenger, the reason given, omens, and good-luck signs, he should sit down. Then, he should have a good look at the sick person, he should palpate them and interrogate them. Through these three means of gaining knowledge it can be known whether life will be long or life will be short.¹⁰

The passage referring to the *Carakasamhitā* is absent.

Luckily, for this part of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, the learned commentary of Cakrapāṇidatta (fl. 1075) survives. It was edited and published in 1939 by Yādavaśarman T. Ācārya. Commenting on the passage, Ācārya stated that this extra passage was not known to Cakrapāṇidatta.¹¹ Thus, we can say that it was added to the text of the *Suśrutasamhitā* some time between the oldest Nepalese manuscript (878 CE) and Cakrapāṇidatta’s time, i.e., the eleventh century.

The fact that this reference to the *Carakasamhitā* is not present in the early Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā* means that the argument about chronological priority cannot be sustained.

9 दूतनिमित्तशकुनमङ्गलानुलोम्येनातुरगृहमभिगम्य, उपविश्य, आतुरमभिपश्येत्स्पृशेत्पृच्छेच्च; त्रिभिरेतैर्विज्ञानोपायै रोगाः प्रायशो वेदितव्या इत्येके; तत्तु न सम्यक्, षड्विधो हि रोगाणां विज्ञानोपायः, तद्यथा — पञ्चभिः श्रोत्रादिभिः प्रश्नेन चेति ॥ ४ ॥

10 ततो दूतनिमित्तशकुनमङ्गलानुलोम्येनातुरगृहमागम्योपविश्यातुरमभिपश्येत्स्पृशेच्च त्रिभिरेतैर्विज्ञानोपायैः दीर्घमायुषोल्पायुषो वेदितव्यः ।

11 अयं पाठश्च चक्रासंगतः.

Evidently, Candrāṭa or some other editor added material from the *Carakasamhitā* to the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* after the ninth century. A piece of evidence that remains independent of the above issues is the remark by the learned commentator Cakrapāṇidatta (fl. 1075, Bengal) that Dr̥ḍhabala (fl. ca. 300–500 CE) knew and made use of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.¹² This provides a latest date for the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* in the period before Dr̥ḍhabala. This also shows that much of the text of the *Carakasamhitā* in its present form, as reconstructed by Dr̥ḍhabala, postdates the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.

The Nepalese Version

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

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

The first of these MSS is the oldest, dated to CE 878.¹³ It covers most of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, but lacks the *Nidānasthāna* and the *Śārīrasthāna* (see Fig. 1). The second is undated but is datable on palaeographical grounds to the twelfth or thirteenth centuries.¹⁴ It contains the *Sūtrasthāna* and *Nidānasthāna* but breaks off shortly afterwards. The third manuscript, H, is the most complete, supporting the text of the whole of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. It is dated CE 1513.¹⁵ The text of manuscript H follows K very closely but is probably not a direct apograph.¹⁶ I conjecture that it was either copied from an intermediary that followed K very closely or from an ancestor of K.¹⁷

¹² Cakrapāṇi ad *Carakasamhitā* 8.12.39 (Ca 1941: 735) (see also HIML: 1A, 132, 350–351).

¹³ Klebanov 2021a: 15.

¹⁴ Klebanov 2021a: 17–18.

¹⁵ I follow the arguments of Klebanov (2021a: 21–26) on the interpretation of the colophon although, as he pointed out, some interpret the date as CE 1573.

¹⁶ Chakraborty 2022.

¹⁷ “...as neither my own research ... nor the study undertaken in Harimoto ... could determine any linear connection between any of the Nepalese manuscripts of the SS, one may assume that [there exists] an older common ancestor of both of the manuscripts K and H.” (Klebanov 2021b: 21).

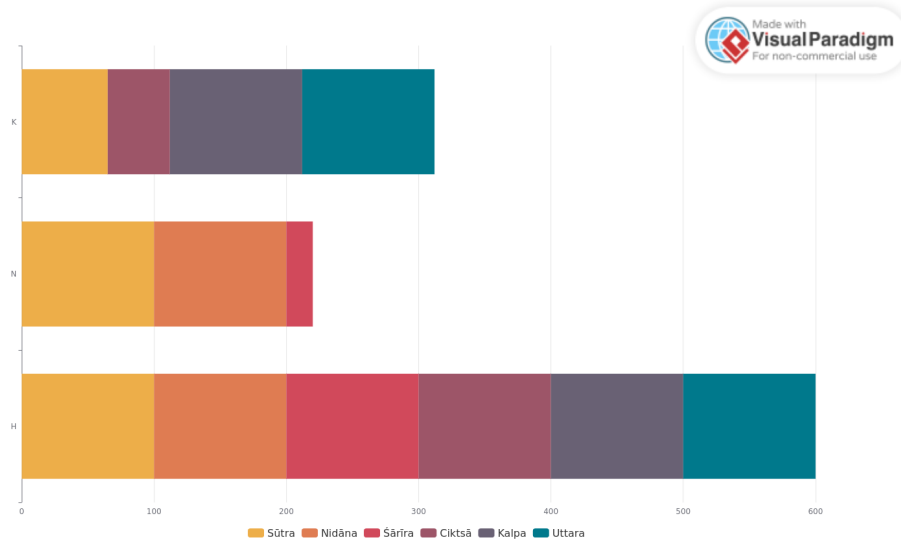


Figure 1: Coverage of the text by MSS K, N and H.

The vulgate

The version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* that we refer to as “the vulgate” is the version of the text that circulates in print today in multiple editions. The most careful and authoritative edition is that of Y. T. Ācārya and N. R. Ācārya (Su1938).¹⁸ It is telling that this edition includes the commentary of Ḍalhaṇa (b. ca. 1175) and, for the *Nidānasthāna*, also that of Gayadāsa (fl. ca. 1000). These important authors commented on a text that is, broadly speaking, what we call “the vulgate.” But they both mentioned quite often that the manuscripts they were consulting contained other versions of the text and in a high number of cases, these variations match the Nepalese version.¹⁹ It is possible that Gayadāsa and Ḍalhaṇa, through their commentarial work on the text, participated in shaping “the vulgate.”

The scholar Rudolph Hoernle was also aware of this cleavage in the transmission-history of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. But with the more limited materials available to him at the turn of the twentieth century he drew

¹⁸ This and the following issues have been discussed by Wujastyk et al. (2023: 2 and ch. 3).

¹⁹ E.g., see the discussion in footnote 165 below.

the line a little differently. He referred to the text of the *Śārīrasthāna* of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, transmitted in the printed editions of his day, as “the Traditional Recension.”

The recension which is found in Jīvānanda’s and all other prints,²⁰ and which, in the sequel, will be referred to as the Traditional Recension, has in its favour not only all available manuscripts, but also all ancient commentaries on the Compendium of Suśruta, Or, shortly, the Traditional Recension is supported by the whole body of existing witnesses.²¹

However, Hoernle was unfortunately not aware of the Nepalese manuscripts of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, which at the time he was writing were in Nepalese libraries that had not yet been explored by scholars of the time. The contrast that Hoernle was drawing was between the Traditional Recension and the *Śārīrasthāna* of the *Carakasaṃhitā* as printed by the influential Bengali scholar, Kavirāja Gaṅgādhara Ray (1798–1885).²²

The Translation

The translation follows the methods of rigorous philological care and modern principles of translation theory.²³ Major differences in sense from the vulgate text are marked **in this manner**, but the differences are so pervasive and fine-grained that most have not been explicitly marked.

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

...we cannot go back beyond the council of Aluvihāra (Ālokavihāra) under Vaṭṭagāmaṇī Abhaya (29–17 B.C.) where the Pāli

20 Hoernle listed four, S. M. Gupta 1835–36; Su 1889; Vīrasvāmi 1900–09; Govindjī et al. 1901.

21 Hoernle 1907: 68.

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

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

canon was written down for the first time in Ceylon. This is the very starting point of our tradition handed down to us by the monks of the Mahāvihāra. About recensions of the Pāli canon different from the Mahāvihāra tradition and deviating from its wording... we scarcely have any knowledge at all.

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

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 *Suśrutasamhitā* commonly end with the statement, “here ends the *Suśrutasamhitā* together with the *Uttaratantra*,” we can presume that an older version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, 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.⁷¹³
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 *Suśrutasamhitā*, 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

⁷¹³ 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.⁷¹⁴ 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.⁷¹⁵

Thus, even pre-modern Sanskrit authors were not expert regarding the identities of the insects discussed in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.⁷¹⁶

In general the names listed in passages 5–14 are the least recognizable. Most seem never to appear elsewhere in Sanskrit literature or even elsewhere in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. The names mentioned from passages 25 onwards are mostly recognizable and do appear elsewhere Sanskrit literature.⁷¹⁷ 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.⁷¹⁸

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

⁷¹⁴ 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.

⁷¹⁵ 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

⁷¹⁶ MW includes 191 insect names, almost none of which are identified.

⁷¹⁷ E.g., Mitra 2005.

⁷¹⁸ 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.⁷¹⁹ 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.⁷²⁰

Wind

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 5-6 | 1. Tick-navel,
2. Beaked,
3. Horned, and
4. Hundred-kulimbhakas,
5. Cricket,
6. Fiery,
7. Little-voice,
8. Vicitingas, and
9. Lentil insects. | 10. Revolver, and
11. Sheep-insect,
12. Myna-face, and
13. Legume-insect,
14. Hundred-creeper,
15. Stripy,
16. Spotted,
17. Speckle-head. ⁷²¹ |
|-----|---|---|

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

⁷¹⁹ P. V. Sharma (1999-2001: 3, 78) omitted "snakes'" making it sound as if insects are just born of any semen, etc.

⁷²⁰ 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.

⁷²¹ 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 The knowledge about the stages of toxic shock (*vega*) of those bitten by one of these is the same as with snakes.⁷²²
 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*),⁷²³ small ear-like growths (*karṇikā*), spreading rashes (*visarpa*), and dark, rough patches of skin (*kiṭibha*).⁷²⁴

Taxonomy according to symptoms and prognosis

- 25–27 xx
 28 iguana
 29 ⁷²⁵
 30–41 xx

Therapies

- 42–56abcd xx

Taxonomy of scorpions

- 56ef–66 xx

⁷²² 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.

⁷²³ 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 ददु is mentioned in the *Uṇādisūtra* commentary by Śvetavanavāsin (fl. tenth to fifteenth century), “ददुः कुष्ठभेदः” (I.88). Translated here as “ringworm” because that is prominent amongst the NIA usages of the lexeme and derivatives (CDIAL: 1, #6142).

⁷²⁴ 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 657, p. 195.

⁷²⁵ See n. 221, p. 86.



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

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- CDIAL Turner, R. L. (1966–85), *A Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages* (2nd edn., London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0197135501, URL: <http://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t2n69n06g>; v. 2: *Indexes* by D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1969), v. 3: *Phonetic Analysis* by R. L. and D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1971), v. 4: *Addenda and Corrigenda* ed. J. C. Wright (SOAS, London, 1985). Online database at <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/soas/>.
- DED₂ Burrow, Thomas, and Emeneau, Murray B. (1984), *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* (2nd edn., Oxford: Clarendon Press), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s24rgc5rsz0>, URL: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/burrow/>.

- EWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1992–2001), *Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag), ISBN: 3-533-03826-2.
- HIML Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1999–2002), *A History of Indian Medical Literature*, 5 vols. (Groningen: E. Forsten), ISBN: 9069801248.
- KEWA Mayrhofer, Manfred (1953–72), *Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen; a Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag).
- Mahākośa* Jośī, Veṇīmādhavaśāstrī, and Jośī, Nārāyaṇa Harī (1968), *आयुर्वेदीय महाकोशः अर्थात् आयुर्वेदीय शब्दकोशः संस्कृत-संस्कृत* (Mumbaī: Mahārāṣṭra Rājya Sāhitya āṇi Saṃskṛti Maṇḍala), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t22c41g8t>.
- MW Monier-Williams, Monier, Leumann, E., Cappeller, C., et al. (1899), *A Sanskrit–English Dictionary Etymologically and Philologically Arranged, New Edition* (Oxford: Clarendon Press); 1970 reprint.
- OED Simpson, J. A., and Weiner, E. S. C. (1989–), *The Oxford English Dictionary* (2nd edn., Oxford: Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0198611862, URL: <https://www.oed.com>; 20v.
- PWK Böhrtlingk, Otto (1879), *Sanskrit-wörterbuch in kürzerer fassung* (St. Petersburg: Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften), URL: <https://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/scans/PWScan/2020/web/>, accessed 18/05/2023.
- Śabdasindhu* Gupta, Umeśachandra, and Sena, Nagendra Nātha (1983), *वैद्यक-शब्दसिन्धुः = Vaidyaka-Śabdasindhuh* (3rd edn., Varanasi & Delhi: Chaukhambha Orientalia); 3rd ed. first published in 1914.
- Su 1889 Bhaṭṭācāryya, Jivānanda Vidyāsāgara (1889) (ed.), *सुश्रुतः सूत्र-निदान-शारीर-चिकित्सा-कल्पोत्तर-तन्त्र-कल्पित आयुर्वेद. भगवता धन्वन्तरिणोपदिष्टः सुश्रुतनामधेयेन तच्छिष्येण विरचितः* (3rd edn., Calcutta: Sarasvatī Press), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t1nh6j09c>; HIML: IB, 311, edition b.

- Su 1938 Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama, and Ācārya, Nārāyaṇa Rāma (1938) (eds.), श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाख्यव्याख्यया च समुल्लसिता महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता (3rd edn., Bombay: Nirṇayasāgara Press), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t09x0sk1h>; HIML: IB, 313, edition cc ('the vulgate').

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Kathmandu KL 699: 14, 17

Kathmandu NAK 1-1079: 14

Kathmandu NAK 5-333: 14

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Abbreviations

ADPS	Sivarajan, V. V., and Balachandran, Indira (1994), <i>Ayurvedic Drugs and Their Plant Sources</i> (New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta: Oxford & IBH Publishing).
AVS	Warrier, P. K., Nambiar, V. P. K., and Ramankutty, C. (1994–96) (eds.), <i>Indian Medicinal Plants: A Compendium of 500 Species</i> . Vaidyaratnam P. S. Varier's Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakal (Madras: Orient Longman).
BIA	Prater, S. H. (1993), <i>The Book of Indian Animals</i> (3rd edn., Bombay, Delhi, etc.: Oxford University Press), ARK: https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t6356w32f ; 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: https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s2bh76qc88s .
Chopra	Chopra, R. N., Nayar, S. L., and Chopra, I. C. (1956), <i>Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants</i> (3rd reprint, 1992, New Delhi: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research); vol. 2: R. N. Chopra, I. C. Chopra, and Varma (Chopra_{sup}).
Chopra IDG	Chopra, R. N., Chopra, I. C., Handa, K. L., et al. (1958), <i>Chopra's Indigenous Drugs of India</i> (2nd edn., Calcutta: Dhur & Sons), ARK: https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/t9673t140 .

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- GJM2 Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1988), "G. J. Meulenbeld's Additions to his "Sanskrit Names of Plants and their Botanical Equivalents"," in Rahul Peter Das, *Das Wissen von der Lebensspanne der Bäume: Surapālas Vṛkṣāyurveda* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag), chap. Appendix 1, 425–65, ISBN: 9783515046633; Supplement to GJM1.
- GVDB Singh, Thakur Balwant, and Chuneekar, K. C. (1972), *Glossary of Vegetable Drugs in Brhatrayi* (Varanasi: Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office), ARK: <https://n2t.net/ark:/13960/s2cvp72x58j>.
- HK Hilgenberg, Luise, and Kirfel, Willibald (1941), *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅgaḥṛdayasaṃhitā, 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>.

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- MBG Missouri Botanical Garden (2024), "Missouri Botanical Garden: Plant Finder," Missouri Botanical Garden, URL: <https://bit.ly/MissouriPlantfinder>.
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- 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.
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Flora

- aconite leaf (?) (*viṣapatrikā*) Unknown. Cf. perhaps, [Indian aconite](#) (*viṣā*) (but that is feminine). Cf. [GVDB](#): 373, "unidentified": 145
- agarwood (*aguru*) *Aquilaria malaccensis* Lam., [GVDB](#): 3: 102, 103, 206
- 'alas, alas' (?) (*hālāhala*) unknown. See Cf. *Soḍhalanighantu* p.43 (sub *bola*) = *stomaka* = [Indian aconite](#) (*vatsanābha*): 146, 148
- Alexandrian laurel (*punnāga*) *Calophyllum inophyllum*, L. See [AVS](#): 1, 338, [NK](#): 1, #425: 187, 206
- amaranth (*tanḍulīya*) see [amaranth](#) (*tanḍulīyaka*): 188
- amaranth (*tanḍulīyaka*) *Amaranthus spinosus* L. See [GVDB](#): 174, [Dutt](#): 321, [NK](#): 1, #144, [Potter_{rev}](#): 15. Cf. [AVS](#): 1, 121. Amaranth (etym. amṛta!) is a large family, many originally endemic to S. America. *A. hypochondriacus* L. is sometimes identified with *tanḍulīyaka*, but *A. spinosus* L. is better known and attested in S. Asia in the first millennium BCE ([Saraswat 1991](#)): 137, 195, 199, 204, 306
- Arabian jasmin (*tṛṇaśūnya*) see [Arabian jasmine](#) (*mallikā*), [GVDB](#): 190 [MW](#): 453 says *Jasminium sambac*. [GVDB](#): 190 also suggest [screwpine](#) (*ketaka*): 306
- Arabian jasmine (*mallikā*) *Jasminum sambac* (L.) Aiton, [GVDB](#): 300: 306
- Arabian jasmine (*tṛṇaśūlya*) probably an alternative pronunciation for [Arabian jasmin](#) (*tṛṇaśūnya*), [GVDB](#): 190: 206
- arjun (*arjuna*) *Terminalia arjuna*, Bedd. See [HK](#): 738: 46, 82, 203
- Asoka tree (*aśoka*) *Saraca indica* Linn.,

- GVDB: 26 : 103, 105, 188, 206, 220, 322
 atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*) Aconitum
 heterophyllum, Wall. ex Royle. See
 AVS: 1, 42, NK: 1, #39: 146, 148
 axlewood (*dhava*) Anogeissus latifolia
 (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr.
 See AVS: 1, 163 f, Chopra: 20: 46, 81,
 158, 203, 206
 bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) Bambusa
 bambos, Druce. See NK: 1, #307: 137
 banyan (*nyagrodha*) Ficus benghalensis, L.,
 GVDB: 356, HK: 748: 307
 banyan (*vaṭa*) see banyan (*nyagrodha*) :
 82, 85
 barley (*yava*) Hordeum vulgare, L. See
 HK: 752: 113
 barley ash (*yavakṣāra*) The preparation
 method is described at GVDB: 327 :
 116, 307
 barley ash (*yavanāla*) see barley ash
 (*yavakṣāra*), GVDB: 327 : 196
 bayberry (*katphala*) M. esculenta
 Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don, which is 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 : 188
 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 : 81
 beautyberry (*śyāmā*) Callicarpa
 macrophylla, Vahl. See AVS: 1, 334,
 NK: 1, #420: 108, 135, 137, 189
 beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) see beggarweed
 (*śālaparṇī*), GVDB: 1, mentioning that
 the pair of these refers to beggarweed
 and ?? : 153, 198
 beggarweed (*sthirā*) see beggarweed
 (*śālaparṇī*), GVDB: 458: 198
 beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) see
 beggarweed (*śālaparṇī*) : 55, 113, 318
 beggarweed (*śālaparṇī*) Desmodium
 gangeticum (L.) DC. See
 Dymock: 1, 428, GJM1: 602, NK: 1,
 #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: 2, 319,
 4.366 are confusing : 307
 beleric myrobalan (*bibhītaka*) Terminalia
 bellirica Roxb. One of the components
 of the three myrobalans (*triphalā*)
 GVDB: 274, 196: 325
 Bengal quince (*bilva*) Aegle marmelos (L.)
 Corr. See AVS: 1, 62, Chevallard: 161,
 NK: 1, #62, i(MW: 732a) : 81, 103, 105,
 110, 189, 307, 312, 324
 big poison (?) (*mahāviṣa*) unknown :
 146, 148
 big thorn apple (?) (*mahākarambha*)
 Perhaps Datura metel, L.?. See thorn
 apple (*karambha*) : 145
 bitter gourd (*paṭolī*) see pointed gourd
 (*paṭola*), cite[233]gvdb : 188
 bitumen (*adrija*) → *śilājī*. A tar-like, black,
 resinous rock exudate. See
 Mahākośa: 1, 21: 169
 black Bengal quince (*kṛṣṇaśrīphalikā*)
 GVDB: 412, on *śrīphala*, synonym of
 Bengal quince (*bilva*) fruit : 313
 black creeper (*kālānusārī*) Ichnocarpus
 frutescens R. Br. or Cryptolepis
 buchanani Roemer & Schultes.
 Probably a synonym for *kṛṣṇasārīvā*
 (GVDB: 94–95). I. frutescens has dark,
 rust-colored stems, so has been
 preferred here. However, Cryptolepis
 grandiflora, Wight, also has black

- stems. Synonym of *kālānusāriṇī*, *kālānusārivā*. *kālānusārya* may be a synonym of *tagara*, itself hard to identify : 187, 308
- 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 : 137, 140, 153, 188
- black nightshade (*kākamācī*) *Solanum nigrum*, Linn., GVDB: 86–87. May also be the less poisonous *S. dulcamara*, “bittersweet nightshade,” K & B: 1, 889–892 : 198, 205, 310
- black pepper (*marica*) *Piper nigrum*, L. See ADPS: 294, NK: 1, #1929. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 341) : 114, 204, 220, 312, 325
- black sarsaparilla (*kālānusārivā*) see *Indian sarsaparilla* (*sārivā*); see also *black creeper* (*kālānusāri*). Problems about identifying this plant are discussed at GVDB: 94–95 and GVDB: 429–431 : 206
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420 : 136, 308
- blackboard tree (*saptaparṇa*) see *blackboard tree* (*saptachada*) : 204
- blackbuck (*hariṇa*) *Antelope cervicapra*, L. See BIA: 270 IW: 95, 165, *et passim* : 140
- blue water-lily (*utpala*) *Nymphaea stellata*, Willd. See GJM1: 528, IGP 790; Dutt: 110, NK: 1, #1726 : 37, 135, 153, 206, 220, 221, 311
- bluebell barleria (*kuravaka*) see *bluebell barleria* (*kuruvaka*) : 189
- 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 : 145, 308
- bluebell barleria (*sahā*) see *bluebell barleria* (*sahācara*), GVDB: 428 : 112, 197
- bluebell barleria (*sahācara*) see *bluebell barleria* (*saireyaka*), GVDB: 427 : 308
- 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 : 308
- bread flower (*āśphota*) GVDB: 41 argue for *Vallisneria spiralis* (Roth ex Roem. & Schult.) Kuntze. This has the right distribution in S. Asia POWO: s.v. : 199
- bull’s head (*gokṣura*) *Tribulus terrestris* L. GVDB: 144–145, 193. A component of *lesser five roots* : 308
- bull’s head (*trikaṇṭaka*) → *bull’s head* (*gokṣura*) GVDB: 193. A component of *lesser five roots* : 318
- bulrush (*kaśeru*) “Two species, *Scirpus kysoor* Roxb., and *S. grossus* Linn. f., are used” GVDB: 85. Also *kaśeruka* and *kaseru* : 108, 109, 112
- calabash gourd (*kūṣmāṇḍa*) → *pūṣpaphala*. *Benincasa hispida*, (Thunb.) Cogn. See AVS: 2, 1127; cf. AVS: 1, 261 : 312
- camphor (*karpūra*) → *śītaśiva*. *Cinnamomum camphora*, (L.) Sieb. See IGP 253 : 308
- 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 : 206
- cardamom (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*,

- Maton. See [AVS](#): 2, 360, [NK](#): 1, #924, [Potter_{rev}](#): 66 : 102, 103, 153, 159, 187, 188, 196, 206, 309
- cardamom (*kṣudrailā*) see [cardamom](#) (*elā*), [GVDB](#): 128. This expression, “small cardamom” is only used at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* Kalpasthāna 6.17 : 206
- carray cheddie (*viśvadevā*) → *gāṅgerukī* *Canthium parviflorum*, Lam. See [AVS](#): 1, 366 f. Or *Sida rhombifolia* Linn. ([GVDB](#): 372, 444 ff. et passim) : 85
- castor oil tree (*gandharvahaṣṭa*) see [castor-oil](#) (*eraṇḍa*). [GVDB](#): 135, [K & B](#): 3, 2277 : 51, 105
- castor-oil (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See [NK](#): 1, #2145, [Chopra](#): 214 : 56, 309
- castor-oil tree (*vardhamāna*) see [castor-oil](#) (*eraṇḍa*), [GVDB](#): 361 : 204
- catechu (*khadira*) *Senegalia catechu* (L.f.) P. J. Hurter & Mabb = *Acacia catechu* Willd. [GVDB](#): 129–130 : 82
- certain minerals (*tārāvītāra*) Unknown. It is not even certain that these are minerals. The variant reading in the vulgate, *tāraḥ sutāraḥ* was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.14 ([Su 1938](#): 568) as follows *tāro rūpyaṃ, sutāraḥ pāradah*, “tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury.” : 158
- 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*) : 39, 323
- champak (*campaka*) *Magnolia champaca* (L.) Baill. ex Pierre, [GVDB](#): 154 : 206
- chebulic myrobalan (*haritakī*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. [GVDB](#): 466 : 111, 136, 206, 325
- cherry (*elavālu*) *Prunus cerasus*, L. See [GVDB](#): 58 for a thoughtful discussion [NK](#): 1, #2037 : 153, 206, 309
- cherry (*elavālu*) see [cherry](#) (*elavālu*) : 204
- chir pine (*sarala*) *Pinus roxburghii*, Sarg. [GVDB](#): 423 : 81, 112, 204, 206
- cinnamon (*tvac*) *Cinnamomum cassia*, Blume. See [NK](#): 1, #579 : 198, 206, 309
- cinnamon (*tvak*) see [cinnamon](#) (*tvac*) : 188
- cinnamon (*varāṅga*) see [cinnamon](#) (*tvac*), [GVDB](#): 360 : 204
- citron (*mātuluṅga*) *Citrus medica*, Linn. [GVDB](#): 276, 306. Also spelled *mātuliṅga*, *mātulaṅga*, *mātulāṅga* : 81, 110, 115, 116, 188
- cluster fig (*udumbara*) *Ficus racemosa*, L. See [ADPS](#): 487 : 203
- cobra’s saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → *nāgakeśara*. *Mesua ferrea*, L. See [NK](#): 1, #1595, [GVDB](#): 220 : 153
- 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* : 204, 206, 309
- colocynth (*mṛgādanī*) see [colocynth](#) (*indravāruṇī*) [GVDB](#): 46, 318 : 188
- common smilax (*śvadaṃśtra*) *Smilax aspera* L., [GVDB](#): 414 : 81
- convolvulus (*lakṣmaṇā*) Sivarajan and Balachandran ([ADPS](#): 273–275) suggest *Ipomoea marginata* (Desr.) Verdc. or *I. obscura* (Linn.) [AVS](#): 3, 237–238 suggests *Ipomoea sepiaria* Roxb. (looks like a little boy (*putraka*), and generates a boy (*putrajananī*), according to the *Bhāvaprakāśa*). Sivarajan and Balachandran ([ADPS](#): 273–275) firmly reject *Mandragora officinalis* which is European; but possible consideration could be given to *Mandragora caulescens* C.B. Clarke, a variant that is known in South Asia. Cf. [GVDB](#): 346–347. [NK](#): #1546, #2323 suggests *Mandragora officinalum*, Linn., known as *putrada* : 85
- coriander (*dhānyaka*) *Coriandrum sativum*

- L., [GVDB](#): 213 : 310
- coriander (*kustumburya*) see [coriander](#) (*dhānyaka*), [GVDB](#): 113 : 206
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) *Erythrina suberosa* Roxb. See [GVDB](#): 245 : 158, 310
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadraka*) see [corky coral tree](#) (*pāribhadra*) : 105, 203
- costus (*kuṣṭha*) *Dolomiaea costus* (Falc.) Kasana & A. K. Pandey. See [GVDB](#): 112, [NK](#): 1, #2239. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 345) : 102, 103, 110, 137, 153, 159, 187, 188, 196, 204, 206
- cottony jujube (*kākolī*) *Ziziphus mauritana*, Lam. See [IGP](#): 1233, [NK](#): 1, #2663; [IGP](#) 1233. Cf. [NK](#): 1, #1170 : 101, 109, 110, 184
- 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 : 55, 109, 112, 280
- country mallow (*sahadevā*) → *balā* ([GVDB](#): 428). Contains ephedrine : 85, 112
- 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) : 55, 145, 153, 158
- 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 : 102, 103, 110, 137, 153, 187, 206, 314, 327
- 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 : 312, 327
- croton tree (*nāgadantī*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg., [GVDB](#): 222 : 204, 310, 322
- croton tree (*nāgavinnā*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg. [GVDB](#): 222 I have taken this as [croton tree](#) (*nāgadantī*) because of context in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* Kalpasthāna 5 : 189
- 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 : 145
- datura (*dhattūra*) *Datura metel*, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff. [Potter_{rev}](#): 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132 : 52, 310
- datura (*dhuttūrakā*) see [datura](#) (*dhattūra*) : 200
- deodar (*bhadradāru*) *Cedrus deodara*, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See [AVS](#) 41, [NK](#): 1, #516 : 46, 109, 113, 153, 204
- deodar (*devadāru*) *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Loud. [GVDB](#): 206–207 : 81, 110, 206, 280, 310
- deodar (*suradāru*) see [deodar](#) (*devadāru*) : 187
- devil’s dung (*hiṅgu*) *Ferula foetida* Regel., [GVDB](#): 471–472 : 82, 83, 187
- dried ginger (*nāgara*) → [dried ginger](#) (*śuṇṭhī*) [GVDB](#): 221–222 : 83, 187
- dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See [ADPS](#): 50, [NK](#): 1, #2658, [AVS](#): 5, 435, [IGP](#): 1232 : 108, 310, 325
- 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): 38
- drum-giver (?) (*lambarādā*) Unknown; cf. GVDB: 348: 145
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) cf. Indian barberry (*añjana*): 46, 56, 315
- embelia (*viḍaṅga*) *Embelia ribes*, Burm. f. See ADPS: 507, AVS: 2, 368, NK: 1, #929, Potter_{rev}: 113: 46, 81, 103, 153, 187, 188, 204
- emblic myrobalan (*āmalaka*) *Phyllanthus emblica*, L. See AVS: 4, 256: 81, 111, 112, 220, 325
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭa*) Probably a synonym for *karahāṭa* (emetic nut), q.v., GVDB: 74: 311
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭaka*) see emetic nut (*karahāṭa*): 146, 203
- 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.: 311
- emetic nut (?) (*karaṭā*) Not in GVDB. Cf. perhaps *karahāṭa* (emetic nut): 144
- emetic nut (*madana*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See NK: 1, #2091: 136, 282
- false daisy (*bhṛṅga*) *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See GVDB: 288: 81
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (su)bhaṅgura = bhṛṅga? *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See GVDB: 288: 144
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → *kāñjī*, *kāñjikā*, *sauvīra*. GVDB: 458, NK: 2, appendix VI, #18: 53, 54
- fern (*ajaruhā*) *Nephrodium* species GVDB: 7, uncertain. Perhbaps *Christella dentata* (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy, which is reported to have folk applications against skin diseases in India: 139
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) *Woodfordia fruticosa* (L.) Kurz. See AVS: 5, 412, NK: 1, #2626. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 344): 82, 136
- five roots (*pañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasamhitā* 1.38.66–69 (Su 1938: 169). There are two *pañcamūlas*, the *laghupañcamūla* (the lesser five roots) and *bṛhatpañcamūla* (greater five roots), with differing properties. Combined they are called *daśamūla* (ten roots). See also *Mahākośa*: 1, 468: 81
- flame-of-the-forest (*kiṃśuka*) see flame-of-the-forest (*palāśa*), GVDB: 97–98: 196
- flame-of-the-forest (*palāśa*) *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub. GVDB: 241. *pālāśa* in some sources: 82, 105, 311
- flax (*atasī*) *Linum usitatissimum*, L. See NK#1495: 109
- 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*: 46, 153, 159, 187, 188, 220, 311
- foxtail millet (*priyaṅgū*) see foxtail millet (*priyaṅgu*): 206
- fragrant lotus (*saugandhika*) A type of white water-lily (*kumuda*) or blue water-lily (*utpala*), GVDB: 457: 37
- fruit of the marking-nut (*āruṣkara*) see marking-nut tree (*aruṣkara*). “*āruṣkara* = *aruṣkara phala*” ADPS: 23; see also MW: 151: 188
- 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: 312, 331
- gajpipul (*hastipippalī*) see *gajpipul* (*gajapippalī*), *GVDB*: 469, 132: 204
- 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*): 312
- galls (?) (*karkaṭa*) almost impossible to identify with certainty, *GVDB*: 78–80. Perhaps *Rhus succedanea*, L. See *NK*: 1, #2136: 146
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* Gaertn. f. See *GVDB*: 28, *Chopra*: 100: 158, 203, 206
- giant potato (*kṣīravidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq. See *ADPS*: 510, *AVS*: 3, 222, *AVS*: 3, 1717 ff: 109, 316, 319, 321, 322
- ginger (*mahaśadha*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See *ADPS*: 50, *NK*: 1, #2658, *IGP*: 1232: 140
- gold (*hema*) gold: 153
- gold and sarsaparilla (*surendragopa*) Unknown. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.15 (*Su* 1938: 568) glossed *surendra* as “gold” and *gopā* as “Indian sarsaparilla.” He also noted other opinions that *surendra* was “Tellicherry bark”: 159
- golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) see *golden shower tree* (*āragvadha*): 158
- golden shower tree (*rājavarṣa*) see *golden shower tree* (*āragvadha*): 81
- 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: 111, 186, 196, 198, 312
- gourd (*alābu*) *Lagenaria siceraria* Standl. *GVDB*: 25. Some say *Lagenaria vulgaris*, Seringe (*NK*: 1, #1419) but this is not appropriate for blood-letting: 33, 34, 136, 184
- gourd (*vallīja*) see *gourd* (*vallīja*): 146
- gourd (*vallīja*) 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.”: 312
- grapes (*drākṣā*) *Vitis vinifera* L. *GVDB*: 208–209: 188
- greater five roots (*brhatpañcamūla*) 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*: 311, 317, 325
- green gram (*māṣa*) *Vigna radiata* (L.) R. Wilcz. See *ADPS*: 296, *IGP* 1204: 46, 109, 281
- 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.”: 81,

- 108, 110, 187, 312
 gummy gardenia (*pr̥thvikā*) ←
hingupatrikā, *Gardenia gummifera* L.f.,
 GVDB: 257, q.v. for discussion : 188, 206
 hairy bergenia (*pāṣāṇabheda*) *Bergenia*
ligulata (Wall.) Engl. GVDB: 246–247 :
 81
 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 : 105, 111, 152, 153, 196,
 198, 318
 halfa grass (*darbha*) *Demostachya*
bipinnata Stapf. GVDB: 201. Synonym
 of *kuśa* : 84, 109
 halfa grass (*kuśa*) *Desmostachya bipinnata*,
 (L.) Stapf. GVDB: 111, AVS: 2, 326 : 109,
 181, 204
 hare foot uraria (*kroṣṭakamekhalā*) see [hare](#)
[foot uraria](#) (*pr̥śniparṇī*)
Mahākośa: 1, 246. *kroṣṭaka* can mean
 “jackal” *śṛgāla*, as in *śṛgālavinna*, “a kind
 of *pr̥śnaparṇī*” *Mahākośa*: 1, 839 : 188
 hare foot uraria (*pr̥thakparṇī*) → [hare foot](#)
[uraria](#) (*pr̥śniparṇī*) and [rajmahal hemp](#)
(mūrvā) GVDB: 257. A component of
[lesser five roots](#) : 111, 318
 hare foot uraria (*pr̥śniparṇī*) → *sahā*?
Uraría lagopoides, DC. and *U. picta*
 Desv. See GVDB: 257–258, GJM1: 577,
 Dymock: 1, 426, AVS: 1, 750 ff, NK: 1,
 #2542; ADPS: 382, AVS: 2, 319 and
 AVS: 4, 366 are confusing. Also called
pr̥thakparṇī. A component of [lesser five](#)
[roots](#) : 108, 109, 313
 heart-leaf sida (*balā*) *Sida cordifolia*, Linn.
 See ADPS: 71, NK: 1, #2297 : 55, 109,
 112, 114, 153, 280
 heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*.
Tinospora cordifolia, (Willd.) Hook.f.
 & Thoms.? See ADPS: 38, NK: 1, #2472,
 624, Dastur #229 : 137, 152, 198
 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](#)) : 81, 110
 heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*)
Tinospora cordifolia (Thunb.) Miers.
 GVDB: 456. Likely, but uncertain : 137
 heart-leaved moonseed creeper
(amṛtavallī) See *amṛtā* : 280
 hedge caper (*hiṃsrā*) *Capparis sepriaria* L.,
 GVDB: 471, IHR: 124, K & B: 1, 109 : 313
 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), Ḍaḥaṇa glossed
kākādanī as [black Bengal quince](#)
(kṛṣṇaśrīphalikā). GVDB: vi, 471 note
 that they have identified *kākādanī* as
Cardiospermum halicacabum L.
 “balloonvine” : 198
 henna (*madayantikā*) *Lawsonia inermis*, L.
 See AVS: 3, 303, NK: 1, #1448,
 Potter_{rev}: 151 : 138
 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 : 189
 Himalayan birch (*bhūja*) see [Himalayan](#)
[birch](#) (*bhūrja*) : 204
 Himalayan birch (*bhūrja*) *Betula utilis* D.
 Don, GVDB: 287 : 313

- 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)) : 159, 187, 188, 198
- Himalayan yew (*sthauneya*) see **Himalayan**
yew (*sthauneyaka*) : 206
- Himalayan yew (*sthauneyaka*) T. B. Singh
and Chunekar (GVDB: 458–459)
suggested *Taxus baccata* L., but that
tree is endemic to the Mediterranean
and not South Asia. Poudel et al. 2013
show that *T. contorta* Griff., T. mairei
(Lemée & Lév.) and *T. wallichiana*
Zucc. are distributed in the Hindu
Kush - Himalaya region. The Nepalese
name *Thuṇeraka* is etymologically
cognate with the Sanskrit name. *T.*
contorta is of medicinal importance, so
its common name is used here : 187, 314
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*,
L. See ADPS: 387, AVS: 1, 281, NK: 1,
#363 : 111, 138, 152, 189, 314
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) see **hogweed**
(*punarnavā*) : 197
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) see **hogweed**
(*punarnavā*) : 200
- hogweed (*varṣābhū*) see **hogweed**
(*varṣābhū*) : 197
- 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*) : 314
- Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) →
sūryavallī? *Holostemma ada-kodien*,
Schultes. See ADPS: 195, AVS: 3, 167,
169, NK: 1, #1242 : 112, 321
- holy basil (*surasa*) *Ocimum tenuiflorum*,
Linn. GVDB: 438–439 : 189
- honey (*kṣaudra*) Eight varieties of honey
are described in the *Suśrutasamhitā*
(NK: 2, Appendix 192). *Kṣaudra* is the
product of a small bee of tawny colour,
called *kṣudra* : 117, 140, 220, 221
- horned pondweed (*śaivāla*) also *śaivāla*,
śevāra. *Zannichellia palustris* L. The
uncertainties of this identification are
discussed by T. B. Singh and Chunekar
(GVDB: 409). Sometimes identified
with **scutch grass** (*dūrvā*) (GVDB: 409).
Identified as *Ceratophyllum demersum*
Linn. (“hornwort”) by AVS: 2, 56–57x :
110, 314, 321
- 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 : 55
- horse gram (*kaulattha*) See **horse gram**
(*kulattha*) : 182
- horse gram (*kulattha*) *Macrotyloma*
uniflorum (Lam.) Verdcourt, syn.
Dolichos biflorus, L., *D. uniflorus*,
Lam., GVDB: 109, POWO: sub
Macrotyloma uniflorum : 113, 114, 186,
207, 314
- horseradish tree (*madhukaśigru*) *Moringa*
oleifera Lam., GVDB: 398–399. See
horseradish tree (*śigru*) : 203
- horseradish tree (*murungī*) see **horseradish**
tree (*śigru*) (GVDB: 311) : 188
- horseradish tree (*śigru*) *Moringa oleifera*
Lam. See IGP: 759, GJM1: 603,
Dymock: 1, 396, GVDB: 398–399 : 110,
111, 314
- hyacinth beans (*niṣpāva*) *Lablab purpureus*
(L.) Sweet (1826) GVDB: 228 : 99
- 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 : 100, 138, 140, 159, 204, 206, 315
- Indian aconite (*vatsanābha*) *Aconitum ferox*, Wall. ex Ser. Cf. AVS: 1, 47 (A. Napellus, L., which is European and now taxonomically separated from A. ferox), NK: 1, #42, Potter_{rev}: 4 f. A. chasmanthum Stapf ex Holmes according to GVDB: 357, but that is distributed in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tibet, Mongolia and Siberia. "vatsanābha" occurs in only once in the *Carakasamhitā* and thrice in the *Suśrutasamhitā* (Ca4.23.11571, Su5.2. 5, 6, 12564) : 146, 147, 306, 315
- Indian aconite (*viṣā*) see Indian aconite (*ativīṣā*), GVDB: 12, 373 : 306, 321
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) see Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) Cf. elixir salve (*rasañjana*) : 56, 139, 311
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis holstii* Engl., Dymock: 1, 65, NK: 1, #335, #685, GJM1: 562, IGP: 141, GVDB: 203 : 152, 153, 315, 325
- Indian barberry (*dārvi*) see Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) : 221
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) see Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) : 137
- Indian bat tree (*śuṅgā*) → *parkatīvrkṣa* according to *Śabdāsindhu*: 1058; idem also suggests *vaṭavrkṣa*, i.e., *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. and *āmratāka*, *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. : 85
- Indian bdellium-tree (*guggula*) See Indian bdellium-tree (*guggulu*) : 187
- 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) : 117, 315
- Indian beech (*naktamāla*) *Pongamia pinnata*, (L.) Pierre. See AVS: 4, 339, NK: 1, #2003 : 46, 105
- 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*) : 111, 152
- Indian cherry (*śelū*) see Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakī*), GVDB: 408 : 206
- Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakā*) see Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakī*) : 203
- 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.) : 188, 315
- Indian dill (*śatapuspā*) *Anethum graveolens* L. May also be *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill. See GVDB: 388 for discussion : 112, 206
- Indian elm (*cirabilva*) *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch. GVDB: 158, who also say that *pūtika* is a synonym; but that must be different than *pūtikā* : 315
- Indian elm (*ciribilva*) see Indian elm (*cirabilva*) : 203
- Indian frankincense (*agamṛttikā*) see Indian frankincense (*śallakī*), according to Ḍalhaṇa's comment on *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.7.29. A variant form of Indian frankincense (*agavṛttikā*) : 198
- Indian frankincense (*agavṛttikā*) see ?? (*nagavṛttikā*), GVDB: 3, 392 : 315
- Indian frankincense (*gajavṛttikā*) *Boswellia serrata* Roxb.; equated with Indian

- frankincense (*śallakī*) by some, GVDB: 392. See also ?? (*nagavṛttikā*): 188
- Indian frankincense (*śallakī*) *Boswellia serrata* Roxb., GVDB: 392 : 198, 315
- 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 : 316
- Indian fumitory (*reṇu*) see **Indian fumitory** (*parpaṭa*), GVDB: 339. To be distinguished from **pollen (?)** (*reṇukā*) : 145
- 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 : 55, 110, 321
- Indian jujube (*sauvīraka*) *Zizphus jujuba* Mill., GVDB: 458, MBG: sub jujuba : 109, 182
- 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 : 55, 81
- Indian laurel (*plakṣa*) *Ficus microcarpa*, L. f. See ADPS: 377 : 204
- Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) *Rubia cordifolia*, L. See IGP, Chopra: 215, GVDB: 289 : 51, 153, 187, 188, 197, 204
- 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) : 35
- Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*) *Brassica juncea*, Czern. & Coss. See AVS: 1, 301, NK: 1, #378, GVDB: 426–427 : 38, 146, 204, 319
- Indian pennywort (*maṇḍūkapaṇī*) *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban. See GVDB: 290, ADPS: 289–291 : 189
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sugandhikā*) see **Indian sarsaparilla** (*śvetasārivā*) GVDB: 430, 436 : 188, 206
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*) → *anantā*. The *śveta* variety is *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–145, NK: 1, #1210, GVDB: 430; and the black form, black creeper, *pāṇḍī*. *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer & Schultes AVS: 3, 141, 145, 203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 429–430 : 153, 308, 312, 316
- Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*) *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. See **Indian sarsaparilla** (*sārivā*). ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–145, NK: 1, #1210, GVDB: 430 : 316
- Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*) *Rauvolfia serpentina*, (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. See NK: 1, #2099, ADPS: 439, GVDB: 425; cf. SS 5.5.76–78 : 189, 316
- Indian snakeroot (*sarvagandhā*) common spelling in Nepalese MSS for **Indian snakeroot** (*sarpagandhā*), q.v. : 198
- Indian symphorema (*ananta*) Not in GVDB but MW: 25 says “*sinduvāra*” on no authority (see **Indian symphorema** : 204
- 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: 187, 189, 197, 206, 316
- Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*) *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. **GVDB**: 172–173. A component of greater five roots: 317
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) → **Indian trumpet tree** (*śyonāka*). *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. **GVDB**: 172–173. A component of greater five roots: 312
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) see **Indian trumpet tree** (*śyonāka*), **GVDB**: 172–173: 204
- 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): 198, 317
- 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*): 197
- indigo (*nīlī*) see **indigo** (*nīlinī*): 206, 317
- Indrajao (*indrayava*) see *vr̥kṣaka* (**Indrajao**) *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G. Don 1837 **GVDB**: 376, 45 and 84: 100
- Indrajao (*vr̥kṣaka*) → *indrayava*, *indrabīja*, *kaliṅga*, and *kuṭaja*. *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G. Don 1837 **GVDB**: 376, 45 and 84: 83, 280, 317
- itchytrees (*nicula*) *Barringtonia acutangula* (L.) Gaertn., **GVDB**: 224: 204
- jambul (*jambū*) *Syzygium cumini*, (L.) Skeels. See **ADPS**: 188, **NK**: 1, #967, **Potter_{rev}**: 168, Wujastyk 2003a: 136, 221
- jequirity (*guñjā*) *Abrus precatorius*, L. See **AVS**: 1, 10, **NK**: 1, #6, **Potter_{rev}**: 168. See further **jequirity** (*kālakūṭa*): 144, 145
- jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) see **jequirity** (*kālakūṭā*): 147, 317
- jequirity (*kālakūṭā*) possibly *Abrus precatorius*, L. Cf. **RRS** 21.14. See **AVS**: 1, 10, **NK**: 1, #6, **Potter_{rev}**: 168. The Nepalese witnesses agree on the feminine form, *kālakūṭā*, while the more normal gender is masculine. The etymology of the name *kāla-kūṭa*, “black-top,” fits with the striking appearance of jequirity seeds. **GVDB**: 93 does not attempt to identify the plant. The *Rasaratnasamuccaya* of pseudo-Vāgbhaṭa (21.14) says that the *kālakūṭa* poison is similar to “crow’s beak” (*kākacañcu*), which is a more certain name for jequirity. Another hypothesis for the name, which could be translated “time/death-peak” might connect it with Sandakphu mountain, whose name is Lepcha for “the height of the poisonous plant” because of the abundance of *Aconitum ferox* on the mountain: 146, 317
- kutki (*kaṭukā*) *Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth. (**GVDB**: 64–65): 100, 117, 317, 320
- kutki (*kaṭurohaṇī*) → **kutki** (*kaṭukā*), **GVDB**: 66, 64–65: 187
- kutki (*kaṭurohiṇī*) see **kutki** (*kaṭukā*), **GVDB**: 66, 64–65: 206
- leadwort (*agnīśikhā*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *rosea*?), L. See **NK**: 1, #1966, 1967: 318
- leadwort (*citraka*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *indica*?), L. See **RĀ**. 6.124, **ADPS**: 119, **NK**: 1, #1966, 1967: 46, 82, 100, 105, 116, 187
- leadwort (*pālaka*) → *citraka*. *Plumbago zeylanica* (*indica*? *rosea*?), L. See **Rā**. 6.124, **ADPS**: 1, 119, **NK**: 1, #1966, 1967: 146, 147

- leadwort (*vidyutśikhā*) see [leadwort](#) (*agnīśikhā*) : [144](#)
- lemon grass (*uśīrabheda*) → *lāmajja*.
Cymbopogon jwarancusa (Jones ex Roxb.) Schult.. See [NK](#): 1, #176 : [327](#)
- 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](#) : [308](#), [311](#), [313](#), [325](#), [329](#)
- liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) Glycyrrhiza glabra, L.? [GVDB](#): 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant : [144](#)
- liquorice (*madhuka*) also *yaṣṭi*(*ka/kā*), *yaṣṭīmadhuka*, Glycyrrhiza glabra, L. [AVS](#): 3, 84, [NK](#): 1, #1136, [GVDB](#): 329 f. : [55](#), [81](#), [108–113](#), [115](#), [140](#), [151](#), [153](#), [187](#), [203](#), [206](#), [221](#), [318](#)
- liquorice (*yaṣṭī*) see [liquorice](#) (*madhuka*) : [188](#)
- liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) see [liquorice](#) (*madhuka*) : [56](#)
- lodh tree (*lodhra*) Symplocos racemosa, Roxb. See [GJM](#)1: 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 *śāvāra*, and *S. crataegoides* Buch.-Ham. for *paṭṭikā lodhra* : [46](#), [153](#), [187](#), [221](#)
- long pepper (*kṛṣṇā*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [220](#)
- long pepper (*māgadha*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [139](#)
- long pepper (*pippali*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [187](#)
- long pepper (*pippalī*) Piper longum, L. See [ADPS](#): 374, [NK](#): 1, #1928, [GVDB](#): 249–250, but cf. [AVS](#): 3, 245 : [81](#), [105](#), [111](#), [112](#), [116](#), [117](#), [140](#), [153](#), [204](#), [207](#), [220](#), [280](#), [318](#), [325](#)
- long pepper root (*pippalīmūla*) see [long pepper](#) (*pippalī*) : [204](#)
- long-stamen Wendlandia (?) (*prapaunḍarika*) 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 : [146](#), [187](#), [206](#), [318](#)
- long-stamen Wendlandia (?) (*tilaka*) see [long-stamen Wendlandia](#) (?) (*prapaunḍarika*), [GVDB](#): 183–184. Sometimes thought to be a synonym of [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*), q.v., but this is probably erroneous : [206](#), [327](#)
- lotus (*nalina*) see [sacred lotus](#) (*kamala*), [GVDB](#): 218 : [220](#), [221](#)
- lotus stalk (*mṛṇāla*) “Leaf stalk of [sacred lotus](#)” [GVDB](#): 318 : [110](#)
- luffa (*jālīnī*) see [luffa](#) (*koṣātakī*), [GVDB](#): 168 : [146](#), [196](#)
- luffa (*koṣavatī*) see [luffa](#) (*koṣātakī*) : [152](#)
- 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 : [318](#)
- mahua (*madhūka*) *Madhuca longifolia*, (J. Koenig) J. F. Macbride. See [AVS](#): 3, 362 f. Known to ancient Greek authors ([Ball](#) 1888: 339–340) : [81](#), [224–226](#)
- maidenhair fern (*haṃsāhvayā*) *Adiantum lunulatum* Burm f. [GVDB](#): 463 : [280](#)
- 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” (φύλλον, *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) : 102, 103, 110, 137, 153, 195, 196, 206
- Malay beechwood (*śrīparṇī*) → *kāśmarī*. *Gmelina arborea* Linn., [GVDB](#): 412, 96–97 : 81
- 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 : 189, 203
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. [GVDB](#): 37 : 136, 189, 204, 220
- mangosteen (*amla*) *Garcinia pedunculata* Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham. See [GVDB](#): 20–21 : 186
- 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) : 147
- marking-nut tree (*aruṣkara*) see [marking-nut tree](#) (*bhallātaka*) : 145, 311
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacardium*, L. See [NK](#): 1, #2269, [AVS](#): 5, 98, [ADPS](#): 85–86, [GVDB](#): 23, 283 : 105, 139, 319
- marsh barbel (*ikṣuraka*) *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schumacher.) Heine (syn. *Asteracantha longifolia* (L.) Nees.), [GVDB](#): 42–43 : 204
- medhshingi (*vijayā-2*) *Dolichandrone falcata* (Wall. ex DC.) Seem. The *Sauśrutaniḥṣaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgi*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann ([GVDB](#): 373 f; [ADPS](#): 518, a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison ([NK](#): #862) : 145
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See [AVS](#) 1927, [ADPS](#): 21, [NK](#): 1, #2025, [AVS](#): 4, 348; [GJM1](#): 523: = *P. integrifolia/serratifolia*, L : 152, 312
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. [GVDB](#): 126: see [purple roscoe](#) and [giant potato](#) : 55, 322
- 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 : 148
- muddy (?) (*kardama*) unknown. : 146, 148
- mulberry (*kramuka*) probably the [mulberry](#) (*tūda*); see discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 122) : 188
- mulberry (*tūda*) *Morus indica* L., [GVDB](#): 189 : 319
- mung beans (*mudga*) *Phaseolus radiatus* L. [GVDB](#): 310–311 : 109, 112, 227
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo*

- Linn. [GVDB](#): 308 : 137
 munj grass (*nārācaka*) *Saccharum bengalense*, Retz.?. See [NK](#): 1, #2184 : 146
- musk mallow (*latākastūrikā*) *Abelmoschus moschatus* Medik., [GVDB](#): 348 : 320
- 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) : 320
- musk mallow (*ullika*) see [musk mallow](#) (*ullaka*) : 145
- myrobalan (*abhayā*) *Terminalia chebula*, Retz. See [ADPS](#): 172, [NK](#): 1, #2451, [Potter_{rev}](#): 214 : 100, 152, 159
- myrobalans (*pathyā*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. See [NK](#): 1, #2451 : 220
- natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. [NK](#): 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with svarjikṣāra 4.8.50 ([Su 1938](#): 441) : 116, 153, 187
- neem (*picumarda*) see [neem tree](#) (*nimba*), [GVDB](#): 247–248 : 203
- neem tree (*nimba*) *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss., [GVDB](#): 226 : 52, 280, 320
- 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* : 159
- nutgrass (*mustaka*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See [ADPS](#): 316, [AVS](#): 2, 296, [NK](#): 1, #782 : 146, 148
- nutgrass (*mustā*) *Cyperus rotundus*, L. See [ADPS](#): 316, [AVS](#): 2, 296, [NK](#): 1, #782 : 320
- odal oil plant (*īṅgudī*) see [odal oil plant](#) : 195
- odal oil plant (*īṅgudī*) Kirtikar et al. ([K & B](#): 5, 79) also firmly identify *īṅgudī* as *Sarcostigma kleinii* Wight & Arn., a liana well known in the Western Ghats and widely used in āyurveda, including for skin diseases. *Balanites aegyptiaca* (L.) Delile, [GVDB](#): 43 is an African plant and unlikely to be the original āyurvedic *īṅgudī* : 320
- oleander spurge (*mahāvṛkṣa*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 302–303 : 203
- oleander spurge (*nandā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 215 : 325
- oleander spurge (*snuhā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*) : 105, 146, 197
- oleander spurge (*snuhī*) *Euphorbia neriifolia*, L., or *E. antiquorum*, L. See [ADPS](#): 448, [AVS](#): 2, 388, [AVS](#): 3, 1, [NK](#): 1, #988, [IGP](#): 457b. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 459) discuss the two varieties distinguished by Caraka on the basis of their spines. *Euphorbia* all share the feature of having a poisonous, latex-like sap : 320, 325
- 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) : 182
- paddy rice (*śāli*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. [GVDB](#): 395–396 mentioning 33 Sanskrit sub-variety names; [AVS](#): 4, 193 : 39, 323
- 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 : 198
- 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 : 206
- 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: 152, 316
- peas (*hareṇu*) *Pisum sativum*, L.
T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 419–420, 467–468) note that two plants are usually meant under this name, but there is no agreement on the identity of the second. Synonym of **peas** (*satīna*). GVDB: 468 make an argument for *Symphorema polyandrum* Wight: 110, 152, 153, 159, 188, 220, 321
- peas (*hareṇukā*) see **peas** (*hareṇu*): 206
- peas (*satīna*) see **peas** (*hareṇu*), GVDB: 419–420: 321
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) *Ficus religiosa*, L.
See ADPS: 63. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 338–339): 161
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśrṅga*)
Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br. See AVS: 3, 107, NK: 1, #1173: 139
- phalsa (*parūṣaka*) *Grewia asiatica* Linn., GVDB: 238: 82
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*dugdhikā*) synonym of **plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat** (*kṣīriṇī*), GVDB: 204–205, 127: 321
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīriṇī*) various milky plants, perhaps including *Euphorbia hirta* Linn. (asthma plant) and *E. microphylla* Heyne (Gulf sandmat) (GVDB: 127): 316, 321
- 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** (*kṣīriṇī*), q.v., GVDB: 327, 127: 206
- 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.: 325
- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb., GVDB: 232–233: 110, 152, 307
- poison-altar (?) (*viṣavedikā*) Unknown. Possibly, at a guess, **strychnine tree** (*viṣamuṣṭika*)? GVDB: 373 Or **Indian aconite** (*viṣā*): 145
- pollen (?) (*reṇukā*) An unidentifiable plant. Perhaps a misreading for **peas** (*hareṇu*), although this is a long shot. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 339) suggest, on no authority, the synonyms *vṛkṣaruhā*, *māṃsarohiṇī*, or *durvā*, none of which help: 145, 316
- pomegranate (*dāḍima*) *Punica granatum* Linn. GVDB: 201–202: 81, 82, 115, 116, 189, 198
- 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.: 153
- pondweed (*śevāla*) *Zannichellia palustris* L. See **horned pondweed**: 37, 38
- pongame oiltree (*karañja*) see **pongame oiltree** (*karañjikā*): 117, 198
- pongame oiltree (*karañjikā*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 74–76) discuss complications, but probably *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6.3: 204, 321
- 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:

- 206, 322
 powdered ruffle lichen (*śaileyaka*) see
[powdered ruffle lichen](#) (*śaileya*) : 187
 prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*)
Achyranthes aspera, L. See [GVDB](#): 14,
[GJM1](#): 524 f, [AVS](#): 1, 39, [ADPS](#): 44 f,
[AVS](#): 3, 2066 f, [Dymock](#): 3, 135: 51, 55,
 109, 205, 322
 prickly chaff-flower (*vasira*) also *vaśīra*.
 Perhaps *Achyranthes aspera*, L.
[GVDB](#): 362 describes several possible
 identities, including *sūryāvarta*, [prickly](#)
[chaff-flower](#) and *markaṭatṛṇa*. See also
vasukavasira ([GVDB](#): 363) : 81
 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 : 322
 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. : 204
 products of the wood-apple (*kāpitta*) a
 reading in the Nepalese MSS for
[products of the wood-apple](#) (*kāpittha*),
 q.v. : 199
 products of the wood-apple (*kāpitta*)
 relating to or derived from the
[wood-apple](#) (*kapittha*) : 322
 purging nut (*dravantī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L.
 See [AVS](#): 3, 261, [NK](#): 1, #1374. A.k.a.
mūṣikaparṇī : 322
 purging nut (*mūṣikā*) *Jatropha curcas*, L.
 See [AVS](#): 3, 261, [NK](#): 1, #1374 : 139
 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*) : 204
 purging nut tree (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatropha*
curcas, L. [AVS](#): 3, 261, [NK](#): 1, #1374,
[GVDB](#): 317. [GVDB](#): 317; [ADPS](#): 23–25
 discuss this issue well : 137, 138
 purple calotropis (*arka*) *Calotropis*
gigantea, (L.) R. Br. See [ADPS](#): 52,
[AVS](#): 1, 341, [NK](#): 1, #427, [Potter_{rev}](#): 57,
[Chopra IDG](#): 305–308 : 46, 55, 105, 182,
 200, 203
 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. : 206
 purple roscoeia (*kṣīrakākoli*) [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](#) : 109, 316, 319
 pussy willow (*vetasa*) *Salix caprea* L.,
[GVDB](#): 380–381, q.v. for the argument
 that this is not the same as [rattan](#)
(vetra) : 322
 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*) :
 110, 204
 radish (*mūlaka*) *Raphanus sativus*, L. See
[NK](#): 1, #2098: 114, 146, 148
 rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrvī*,
Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) Wight
 et Arn. Good discussion at
[GVDB](#): 314–316, 324 : 152

- 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 (*GJM*1: 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: 112, 313
- 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: 322
- realgar (*manahśīlā*) *Arsenii disulphidium* *NK*: 2, #11: 220
- red gourd (*bimbī*) *Coccinia indica*, W. & A. See *PVS* 1994.4.715; *NK*: 1, #534: 136
- red ochre (*gairika*) Hellwig 2009: 140–141. *NK*: 2, #40; the same source, at #6, gives kaolinum or china clay: 153, 187, 189, 206, 220, 221
- red physic nut (*dantī*) *Baliospermum solanifolium* (Burm.) Suresh, *GVDB*: 200: 103, 146, 198, 204, 322
- resin of white dammer tree (*sarjarasa*) *GVDB*: 424–425. See white dammer tree (*sarja*): 112, 206
- rice grains (*taṇḍula*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. Same as paddy rice (*śālī*) *GVDB*: 174; or just “grains”: 39
- rice-grain chaff (*śālitaṇḍulakāṇḍana*) See chaff: 39
- rock salt (*saindhava*) See *NK*: 2, M#48, *WattComm*: 963–971: 38, 81, 116, 187, 220, 308
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.) Wats. See *AVS*: 2, 285, *NK*: 1, #177: 153, 187, 206
- royal jasmine (*mālatī*) *Jasminium grandiflorum*, L. See *NK*: 1, #1364, *ADPS*: 285–288: 137, 323
- royal jasmine (*sumanā*) see royal jasmine (*mālatī*), *GVDB*: 437: 206
- sacred lotus (*kamala*) *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn., *GVDB*: 73–74, *Dutt*: 110, *NK*: 1, #1698: 318, 323
- sacred lotus (*padma*) see sacred lotus (*kamala*), *GVDB*: 235–236: 37, 110, 137, 206, 328
- saffron (*bāhlikā*) syn. of saffron (*kuṇkuma*), q.v., *GVDB*: 273–274: 204
- saffron (*kuṇkuma*) *Crocus sativus* Linn., *GVDB*: 100. On the history of confusions between saffron and turmeric, see Cox 2011: 198, 323
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkollā*) *Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang., *GVDB*: 5–6. See also *AVS*: 1, 77; cf. *NK*: 1, #88: 136, 189, 196, 198, 323
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkoṭha*) see sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkollā*): 203
- 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: 82
- sal tree (*śālā*) *Shorea robusta*, Gaertn.f. See *AVS*: 5, 124: 220
- 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.)): 83, 110, 112, 153, 182, 188, 206, 328
- sandan (*tiniśa*) *Ougeinia oojeinensis* (Roxb.) Hochr. *GVDB*: 181, q.v. for discussion about whether *tiniśa* and *syandana* are to be separated. If other trees are in the frame for either name, T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (*GVDB*) suggest *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb. (*sidhraka/siddhaka*) and *L. flos-reginae* Retz. (*jārula* by some). See

- GVDB: 432 : 203, 206, 322
 sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*.
 Caesalpinia sappan, L. AVS: 1, 323, K & B: 2, 847 f, GVDB: 234 : 46, 56
 scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) Pentapetes
 phoenicea, L. NK: #1836, GVDB: 268 :
 138
 scented pavonia (*bālaka*) Pavonia odorata,
 Willd. See ADPS: 498, NK: 1, #1822 : 153
 scented pavonia (*toya*) → *bālaka*? Pavonia
 odorata, Willd. ADPS: 498, NK: 1,
 #1822 : 206
 scrambleberry (*tālīśapatra*) see *scramberry*
 (*tālīśa*) : 206
 scrambleberry (*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) : 110, 221, 324
 screwpine (*ketaka*) Pandanus tectorius
 Parkinson ex Du Roi, GVDB: 116 : 306
 scurfy pea (*bākucī*) Identified as Cullen
 corylifolia (L.) Medik. ADPS: 69–70,
 GVDB: 272 : 322
 scutch grass (*dūrvā*) Cynodon dactylon
 (Linn.) Pers., GVDB: 205 : 314, 324
 scutch grass (*granthilā*) see *scutch grass*
 (*dūrvā*), *Mahākośa*: 1, 303, citing the
Rājānighaṇṭu. 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
Rājānighaṇṭu 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*) : 206
 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 : 187, 324
 sedge (*kuṭannaṭa*) see *sedge* (*kuṭannaṭa*) :
 206
 sesame (*tila*) *Sesamum indicum* L.
 GVDB: 183. Known to ancient Greek
 authors (Ball 1888: 344) : 206, 207
 sesame oil (*taila*) *Sesamum indicum* L.
 GVDB: 183 : 55, 182
 shami tree (*śamī*) *Prosopis cineraria* (L.)
 Druce GVDB: 390 : 203, 308
 silk-cotton tree (*śālmālī*) *Bombax*
malabarica. See Issar: 152 : 206
 siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbbeck*, Benth. See
 AVS: 1, 81, NK: 1, #91, GVDB: 399–400.
 Cf. white siris : 152, 182, 195–199, 205,
 206, 220, 328
 siris seeds (*śirīṣamāśaka*) *Albizia lebbbeck*,
 Benth. See AVS: 1, 81, NK: 1, #91 :
 136, 197
 small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*)
Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb.,
 GVDB: 432 : 158
 smooth angelica (*coraka*) *Angelica glauca*
 Edgw. GVDB: 161. Distribution:
 Afghanistan, Himalaya, western Tibet
 (POWO). Edgeworth even recorded the
 indigenous name “chura” (Edgeworth
 1851: 53) : 189, 204, 324
 smooth angelica (*taskara*) see *smooth*
angelica (*coraka*), GVDB: 176 : 206
 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) : 144

- spikenard (*jaṭā*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭāmāṃsī*) : 197, 206
- spikenard (*jaṭāmāṃsī*) Nardostachys jatamansi (D.Don) DC, [GVDB](#): 163. See also [NK](#): 1, #1691. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 343–344) : 325
- spikenard (*māṃsī*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭāmāṃsī*) : 153, 188, 206
- spikenard (*nalada*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭāmāṃsī*) : 134, 188, 206
- 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) : 312
- spurge (?) (*nandanā*) an unknown poisonous plant, a.k.a. (equally obscurely) *udīmānaka*, [GVDB](#): 215 (where it is m.). Perhaps a synonym of [oleander spurge](#) (*snulī*), like [oleander spurge](#) (*nandā*) : 145
- spurge (*saptalā*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 421–422) discuss the four candidates for this plant, three of which are Euphorbias : 114, 189
- strychnine tree (*viṣamuṣṭika*) Strychnos nux vomica Linn., [GVDB](#): 373 : 321
- sugar (*sitā*) Ḍalhaṇa makes this equation at 1.37.25 ([Su 1938](#): 162) : 153, 188
- sugar (*śarkara*) Saccharum officinarum, Linn. [NK](#): #2182 : 140
- sugar cane (*ikṣu*) Saccharum officinarum, Linn. [NK](#): #2182 : 140
- sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → *ādityavallī*, *sūryamukhī*, Helianthus annuus Linn. [GVDB](#): 35, 443 : 152
- sweet flag (*vacā*) Acorus calamus Linn. See [GVDB](#): 352–355 : 109, 116, 204
- sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet plants are enumerated at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.42.11. See also [GVDB](#): 127 : 55
- sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*) Nerium oleander, L. See [ADPS](#): 223, [NK](#): 1, #1709, [GVDB](#): 77, which discusses the white and red forms : 144
- teak (*śāka*) Tectona grandis, L.f. See [AVS](#): 5, 245, ([MW](#): 1061) : 203
- Tellicherry bark (*kuṭaja*) Holarrhena pubescens Wall. ex G.Don, with Wrightia tinctoria and W. arborea considered [GVDB](#): 101–102, [ADPS](#): 267–270 : 105, 203, 312
- 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](#) : 311
- the three myrobalans (*triphalā*) [chebulic myrobalan](#) [beleric myrobalan](#) and [emblic myrobalan](#) (*harītakī bibhītaka* and *āmalaka*) One of the most-often mentioned drugs in the *Bṛhatrayī* [GVDB](#): 194–196 : 103, 187, 188, 197, 198, 307
- the three pungent drugs (*kaṭutrika*) see the [three pungent drugs](#) (*trikaṭu*) : 199, 206
- the three pungent drugs (*trikaṭu*) dried ginger, long pepper, and black pepper (*śuṇṭhī*, *pippalī*, and *marica*) [GVDB](#): 193 : 187, 325
- the three pungent drugs (*vyoṣa*) see the [three pungent drugs](#) (*trikaṭu*), [GVDB](#): 382–383 : 198
- the two types of clitoria (*śvete*) see [white clitoria](#) (*śvetā*) : 206
- the two types of turmeric (*haridre*) see [turmeric](#) (*haridrā*) and [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*), [GVDB](#): 465–466 : 206
- thorn apple (*karambha*) Datura metel, L. See [GVDB](#): 76 for useful discussion. Also, [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff. [Potter](#)_{rev}: 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132. Possibly the same plant as [plumed cockscomb](#) (*indīvara*) ([GVDB](#): 76, 44–45) : 145, 146, 307, 321
- three heating spices (*tryūṣaṇa*) *śuṇṭhī*

- (Dried ginger) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. **ADPS**: 50, **NK**: 1, #2658, **AVS**: 5, 435, **IGP** 1232, pippali (long pepper) *Piper longum*, L. **ADPS**: 374, **NK**: 1, #1928, and marica (black pepper) *Piper nigrum*, L. **ADPS**: 294, **NK**: 1, #1929: 83, 152
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva magna* (Lour.) DC. See **AVS**: 2, 202; cf. **NK**: 1, #696: 139, 189, 204, 326
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇaka*) see [three-leaved caper](#) (*varuṇa*): 206
- toothed-leaf limonia (*surasī*) *Naringi crenulata* (Roxb.) Nicolson (formerly *Limonia crenulata* Roxb.), **GVDB**: 439: 188, 206
- top layer of fermented liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*) **K & B**: 2, 502, **NK**: 2, appendix VI, #49, McHugh 2021: 39: 53, 54
- 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: 52, 326
- tree cotton (*picu*) See [tree cotton](#) (*kārpāsa*): 54, 56
- tree of heaven (*arala*) probably *Alianthus excelsa* Roxb., **GVDB**: 21–22: 203
- turmeric (*gaurī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. See **ADPS**: 169, **AVS**: 2, 259, **NK**: 1, #750: 110
- turmeric (*haridrā*) *Curcuma longa* Linn. **GVDB**: 465. On the history of confusions between saffron and turmeric, see Cox 2011: 111, 152, 159, 187, 325
- turmeric (*rajanī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. **ADPS**: 169, **AVS**: 2, 259, **NK**: 1, #750: 38, 153, 188, 198
- turpeth (*trivṛt*) → *trvṛtā*. *Operculina turpethum* (Linn.) Silva Manso = *Ipomoea turpethum* R. Br. **GVDB**: 197: 103, 140, 187, 282, 308
- turpeth (*trvṛt*) The common spelling in Nepalese MSS of *trivṛt*: 198
- 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*): 81
- unknown fruit poison (*veṇuka*) see [unknown fruit poison](#) (*veṇukā*): 145
- 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: 326
- velvet bean (*svayamguptā*) *Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC., **GVDB**: 461, who say that the plant is known in the *Carakasamhitā* but not the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*: 220, 326
- velvet bean (*āṛṣabhī*) see [velvet bean](#) (*ṛṣabhī*) and [velvet bean](#) (*svayamguptā*). *Mahākośa*: 1, 94, citing the *Rājanighaṇṭu* 3.50, 201: 196
- velvet bean (*ṛṣabhī*) see [velvet bean](#) (*svayamguptā*), **MW**: 226, **GVDB**: 56: 326
- velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) *Cissampelos pariera*, L. See **ADPS**: 366, **NK**: 1, #592, **GJM**: 573, **AVS**: 1, 95; cf. **AVS**: 2, 277: 46, 83, 100, 116, 152, 187, 188, 313
- velvet-mite (*indragopa*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978: 135
- verbena (*bhārgī*) see [verbena](#) (*bhārgī*): 188, 206
- verbena (*bhārgī*) → phaṇḍī. *Clerodendrum serratum* (L.) Moon or *C. serratum*; see **AVS**: 2, 121, **ADPS**: 87: 326
- verbena (*phaṇḍī*) *Clerodendrum serratum*, L. See **AVS**: 2, 121, **ADPS**: 87: 138
- vetiver (*uśīra*) *Chrysopogon zizanioides* (L.) Roberty, also called “khus.” **NK**: 1, #180, **GVDB**: 54 identify it as vetiver:

- 82, 137, 182, 327
 vetiver and lemon grass (?) (*uśīre*) “the two *uśīras*,” perhaps [vetiver](#) (*uśīra*) and [lemon grass](#) (*uśīrabheda*) : 206
 viburnum (*tilva*) see [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*) : 198
 viburnum (*tilvaka*) *Viburnum nervosum* D. Don. In their thoughtful article, T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 185–186) separate *tilvaka* from *lodhra*, a conflation they attribute to Dṛḍhabala. They identify *V. nervosum* because of its use under a similar local name in Garhwal and Gangotri and the match with its purging properties mentioned in ayurvedic literature. [AVS](#): 5, 219 makes the same separation, noting that in Kerala the plant *Jatropha curcas* L. is used. But that is a native of the new world. Cf. many *Viburnum* varieties listed by Griffiths ([IGP](#): 1200 ff.). [POWO](#) confirms that *V. nervosum* has an appropriate Himalayan distribution. *Tilvaka* is also sometimes wrongly considered to be a synonym of [long-stamen Wendlandia](#) (?) (*tilaka*), [GVDB](#): 185–186 : 103, 204, 318, 327
 viburnum extract (*tailvaka*) see [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*), [GVDB](#): 185, also a ghee compound of [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*) : 220
 ‘Virāṭa’s plant’ (*vairāṭaka*) unknown. See ? : 146, 148
 water snowflake (?) (*kumudavati*) see [water snowflake](#) (?) (*kumudavatī*) : 146
 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*)) : 145, 310, 327
 watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) [MW](#): 183 : 136
 weaver’s beam tree (*mokṣaka*) see [weaver’s beam tree](#) (*muṣkaka*) : 327
 weaver’s beam tree (*muṣkaka*) *Schrebera swietenoides*, Roxb. See [AVS](#): 5, 88, Lord, [NK](#): 1, #2246, [GVDB](#): 242–243 : 105, 158, 327
 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*) : 105, 203, 206
 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* : 187
 weevil wort (*tālamūlikā*) [GVDB](#): 178–179 : 327
 weevil wort (*tālapatrī*) → *tālamūlikā*, weevil wort, q.v. [GVDB](#): 178 : 189
 white babool (*arimeda*) *Acacia leucophloea*, (Roxb.) Willd. See [AVS](#): 1, 23 : 46, 204
 white calotropis (*alarka*) *Calotropis procera*, (Ait.) R. Br. See [NK](#): 1, #428, [Chopra](#): 46b, [Chopra IDG](#): 305–308 : 55
 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 : 137, 188, 197, 200, 205, 325
- white cutch tree (*somavalka*) *Acacia polyacantha*, Willd. See AVS: 1, 30, IGP 7, GJM1: 602, AVS: 2, 935; *pace* NK: 1, #1038: 138, 158
- 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 Chunekar (GVDB: 424) discussed whether this term might be broadened to any resinous tree and decided against: 46, 81, 323, 328
- white dammer tree (*sarjja*) see white dammer tree (*sarja*) : 203
- white lotus (*puṇḍarīka*) see sacred lotus (*padma*), GVDB: 252 : 148
- white sandalwood (*bhadraśrīya*) *Santalum album* Linn. See white sandalwood (*bhadraśrī*) : 110, 206
- 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* : 83, 328
- white siris (?) (*kapītana*) T. B. Singh and Chunekar (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 : 203
- white siris (*kaṭabhī*) *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth. or *A. lebbeck* (Linn.) Benth. GVDB: 63–64, AVS: 1, 81–84. Cf. *siris* : 182, 324
- white siris (*kiṇihī*) *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth., GVDB: 98, which also discusses past confusions; NK: 1, #93 : 152, 188
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarya* : 221
- white teak (*kāśmarya*) see white teak (*kāśmarī*) : 206
- white teak (*kāśmaryā*) see white teak (*kāśmarī*) : 81
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarya*, *kāśmarī*, *madhuparṇī*. *Gmelina arborea*, Roxb. See GJM1: 543, Trees: 51, ADPS: 240, GVDB: 96–97 : 110, 112, 312, 328
- white teak (*madhuparṇī*) → *kāśmarī* : 81
- white water-lily (*kumuda*) *Nymphaea alba*, Linn., GVDB: 105 : 37, 206, 311
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See further wild asparagus (*śatāvārī*) Possibly a syn. for *nandana*. The bark of wild asparagus is toxic: 138
- 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 : 108–110, 112, 226, 328
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhallātaka*, *lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*, GVDB: 4. Uncertain A plant often cited in *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, but rarely in *Carakasamhitā* (GVDB: 4). Ḍalhaṇa glossed it at 5.2.45 (Su 1938: 566) as *ajamodā* but noted that others consider it to be *moraṭa*. There is considerable complexity surrounding the identification of *moraṭa*/*mūrvā* itself and related synonyms (GVDB: 314–316) : 152, 328
- wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*, L. Sometimes identified with *agnika* (wild celery), q.v. : 152, 187
- wild Himalayan cherry (*padmaka*) *Prunus cerasoides* D. Don, GVDB: 236, AVS: 4, 353–355. MW: 585 is wide of the mark : 110–112, 187, 188, 206
- 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 : 116
- wild spider flower (*tailaparṇika*) see [wild spider flower](#) : 206
- wild spider flower (*tilaparṇī*) Cleome gynandra L., [GVDB](#): 184–185, but see the discussion of the other drug plants sometimes intended by this name : 329
- wild sugar cane (*kāṇḍekṣu*) Saccharum spontaneum L., [GVDB](#): 90 : 81
- winged-stem canscora (*giriḥvā*) see [winged-stem canscora](#) (*girikarṇikā*) : 188
- 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 *śaikhapuṣpī*, another possible synonym, Sivarajan and Balachandran ([ADPS](#): 425–427) also suggest Canscora alata (Roth) Wall. (syn of Canscora decussata Schultes & Schultes f.) and Convulvulus pluricaulis Choisy. The former has a more appropriate distribution and is chosen here : 329
- winged-stem canscora (*giryāhvā*) see [winged-stem canscora](#) (*girikarṇikā*) : 328
- Withania (*aśvagandhā*) Withania somnifera (L.) Dunal. See [AVS](#): 5, 409 f, [Dymock](#): 2, 566 f, 150, [GVDB](#): 29, [Chevallard](#): 152 : 55, 104, 111, 188
- wood-apple (*kapittha*) Limonia acidissima, L. See [AVS](#): 3, 327, [NK](#): 1, #1021 : 111, 137, 139, 189, 198, 199, 203, 220, 322
- woody turmeric (*kāleyaka*) Coscinum fenestratum (Goetgh.) Colebr., [GVDB](#): 95. See V. K. Gupta et al. 2015: 173–175 : 206
- woody-fruited jujube (*gopaghonṭā*) Ziziphus xylopyra (Retz.) Willd. [GVDB](#): 147 → *ghonṭā* : 204
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*) Solanum virginianum L. (syn. Solanum surattense Burm. f. and Solanum xanthocarpum, Schrad. & Wendl.) [GVDB](#): 68–69. See also [IHR](#): 430. A component of [lesser five roots](#) : 318, 329
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*) see [yellow-berried nightshade](#) (*kaṇṭakārī*), [ADPS](#): 100, [NK](#): 1, #2329, [AVS](#): 5, 164 : 152, 153

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](#)₂: #994 : 194, 196, 197
- aṭakī (*aṭakī*) unknown : 213
- bad-marked rat (*kuliṅga*) etymologically, “having bad-marks” [MW](#): 286, but unidentifiable : 194, 197
- beaked (*tuṇḍikerī*) neologism insect-name based on the etymology of *tuṇḍa*. Probably *tuṇḍikera* and *tuṇḍicela* are variants of the same lexeme. *tuṇḍa* is “Nicht überzeugend erklärt” according to Mayrhofer ([EWA](#): 1, 653), who refers to a possible non-Indo-European origin (ibid. v. 3, 249 on *tundikā*, *tundikerī* refers to plants only). But Burrow 1971: 544 derived the term plausibly from √*tud* “peck” : 212
- bee (*bhramara*) bee or bumble-bee, [MW](#): 769, etc. : 213

- bhaṭābha (*bhaṭābha*) unknown : 213
- black drongo (*dhūmyāṭa*) *Dicrurus adsimilis*, Bechstein, Dave 1985: 63, 65, 199 : 134
- black rat (*kṛṣṇa*) perhaps the widespread Black Rat or Common House Rat, *Rattus Rattus* L., BIA: 210 : 194, 196
- black-beak (*kṛṣṇatunḍa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology; MW: 307. But possibly “black-belly” based on the lexeme *tunda*, CDIAL: 1, #5858 : 213
- brown rat (*kapila-animal*) name from etymology; unidentified; see *tawny rat* (*aruṇa*) : 194, 197
- bull (*vṛṣabha*) MW: 1012, etc. *Bos taurus*, Linn. : 134
- celestial (*svarga-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- centipede (*śatapādaka*) the name’s meaning is, “hundred-foot” MW: 1049, CDIAL: 1, #12281 : 213
- chital deer (*prṣata*) *Axis axis*, Erxleben. BIA: 295–296. In *Suśrutasamhitā* 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 : 134, 140, 188
- chukar partridge (*cakora*) *Alectoris chukar*, J. E. Gray, Woodcock 1980: 45, distributed from NW India to Nepal and Assam : 134
- civet (*mārjāra*) BIA: ch. 4 *et passim*, McHugh 2012 : 188
- common crane (*kroñca*) *Grus grus*, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 47, Dave 1985: ch. 62 : 134
- cone snail (*śambūka*) a bivalve or snail (MW: 1055), but presumably a poisonous one such as the cone-snail : 156
- 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) : 156, 213
- cricket (*uccīṭiṅga*) The suggestion “cricket” is from Assamese *usaṅgā* and Bengali *cuiṅgā*, *ucuṅgā*, CDIAL: 1, #1645, although they are not venomous. Unlikely: a crab, MW: 173. The cricket may appear to have a sting, although it does not Maxwell-Lefroy 1909: 102 : 212
- devout (*brahmaṇikā*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- droplet (*bindula*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.8.9 (Su 1938: 586) noted that some people read *viluṭa* instead of *bindula* : 213
- 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” : 213
- enemy-liquor (*arimedaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Perhaps a variant of *ali*- “bee”, CDIAL: 1, #716 or *āla* “poison” CDIAL: 1, #1352 : 213
- fidgety rat (*capala*) from the etymology of the word. Unidentifiable mouse or rat. It is probably too much of a stretch to connect it with Dravidian forms like *Kui superi* “shrew-mouse”, DED₂: #2675 : 194, 197
- fiery (*agni-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. Marāṭhī *āghī* “a kind of stinging fly” CDIAL: 1, #57 : 212, 330
- fiery insect (*agnikīṭa*) see *fiery* (*agni-insect*) : 213
- five-venom (*pañcālaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- fondling rat (*lālana*) based on etymology. An unknown rat or mouse : 194, 195
- 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 *hamsira* as the name of this rat : 194, 196
- grey peacock-pheasant (*jīvajīvaka*) Polyplectron bicalcaratum, Linn., Dave 1985: 270, 273, 274, 281 : 134
- hill myna (*sārikā*) *Acridotheres tristis* tristis, L., etc. See Ali and Ripley 1983: #1006, Dave (1985: 28 ff.), Woodcock (1980: 119) : 134
- horned (*śṛṅgī*) unknown, based on etymology : 212
- house gecko (*grhagoḍikā*) MW: 362, CDIAL: 1, #4324. Hemacandra's *Abhidhānacintāmaṇi* (4.364) mentions that *grhagodhikā* and *grhagolikā* are synonyms (*Rādhākāntā Deva* 1876: 691a, *sub māṇikyā*) : 156
- house shrew (*chuchundara*) *Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus, 1766), Wikipedia, BIA: 168–169 and plate 38. Probably a Dravidian loan word related to Tamil *cunṭaṇ*, “grey musk shrew,” see DED₂: #2661 and CDIAL: 1, #5053 : 194, 196
- hundred-creeper (*śatakurda*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. *śarāvākurda* “creeping among dishes” (MW: 1057), apparently also the name of a snake : 212
- hundred-kulimbhaka (*śatakulimbhaka*) unknown insect class. Perhaps centipedes : 212
- 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 : 214, 331
- Indian monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802), Reptiles: 58–60, ill. : 55, 140, 331
- Indian peafowl (*mayūra*) *Pavo cristatus*, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 39 : 134
- invincible rat (*ajita*) etymological meaning; unidentifiable : 194, 197
- kaṣāyavāsika (*kaṣāyavāsika*) unknown : 213
- kiṭibha (*kiṭibha*) unknown : 213
- koel (*kokila*) *Eudynamys scolopaceus*, Linn., Wikipedia, Woodcock 1980: 66 : 134
- kokila-insect (*kokila-insect*) unknown : 213
- koṇṭāgīrī (*koṇṭāgīrī*) unknown : 213
- krīmikara (*krīmikara*) unknown : 213
- krṣṇagodhā (*krṣṇagodhā*) unknown : 213
- kuṣṭa-insect (*kuṣṭa-insect*) unknown : 213
- 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 : 159, 188, 206
- large Brown rat (*mahākapila*) from the etymology of the name, “large brown,” perhaps a bandicoot : 197
- 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 503, p. 156. The similarity of names suggests that a गलगोडिका may be a non-domestic creature that looks similar to a domestic gecko. Cf. other IA parallels at CDIAL: 1, #4324, 4431, which point to a Dravidian origin for the lexeme (DED₂: #1125) and suggests “iguana.” The tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko* (Linnaeus, 1758)) is a large gecko endemic to South Asia having a

- blue-gray skin with red or orange spots and speckles that may change according to its environment like a chameleon. Tokay geckos, especially males, are aggressive and territorial and can inflict a strong bite. However, many agamids and skinks are also endemic to South Asia, and have markings that could match the description of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. See further *IW*: 40, 135–136; Deuti 2020 : 86
- leaf-scorpion (*patraṇṛścika*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- legume-insect (*vaidala*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 212
- lentil insect (*masūrika-insect*) usually the name of a lentil or the “lentil disease,” namely smallpox. But here, an insect : 212
- little rat (*cikkira*) likely related to the Tuḷu “cikkeli, a small variety of mouse,” and other Dravidian works related to Tamil *cikka* “small,” *DED*₂: #2495. See also *CDIAL*: 1, #4779 on *cikka* “mouse or muskrat,” from lexical sources, and #4781 *cikkā* “small” from Drav., Burrow 1948: #141 : 194, 196
- little-voice (*alpavāca*) unidentified insect; possibly a wrong reading : 212
- lotus-insect (*padmakīṭa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- maggot (*kīra-insect*) unknown insect. See Lahndā, Panjābī, Bengali, Oriya *kīṛā*, etc., *CDIAL*: 1, #3193 and similar forms in Bihārī, Maithilī Bhojpurī, etc. Obviously a variant of *kīṭa* : 213
- maṇḍalapuṣpaka (*maṇḍalapuṣpaka*) unknown : 213
- 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*₂: 2030. This is possibly supported by Kannada *kok* and Telugu *golatta*, *koku* for the mole-rat, reported by Prater (*BIA*: 205) : 194, 197
- 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 : 140, 188
- mosquito (*maśaka*) a mosquito, gnat, gadfly or any stinging fly, *MW*: 793, *CDIAL*: 1, #9917 : 213
- myna-face (*śārikāmukha*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 212
- nāhana (*nāhana*) unknown : 213
- noseless (*vināsikā*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- outsider (*bāhyaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- pañcakṛṣṇa (*pañcakṛṣṇa*) unknown : 213
- pañcaśukla (*pañcaśukla*) unknown : 213
- parakeet (*śuka*) *Psittacula krameri*, *Scopoli* (or *P. eupatria* or *cyanoccephala*), See Woodcock 1980: 64 : 134, 198
- picciṭā (*picciṭā*) unknown insect; etymologically perhaps similar to *piccaṭa* “squashed flat” (*MW*: 624) : 213
- pigeon rat (*kapota-animal*) a rat “like a pigeon;” presumably of grey colour : 194, 197
- pitcher-like (*kaunḍinya-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- 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” : 334
- pot-turd (*kumbhīvarcas*) unknown insect, name based on etymology (on *-varcas*, see *Mahākośa*: 1, 725 : 213
- pravalāka (*pravalāka*) unknown : 213
- racket-tailed drongo (*bhṛṅgarāja*) *Dicrurus*

- paradiseus, Linn., Woodcock 1980: 123 : 134
- 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” : 194, 197
- red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadanta*) see red-toothed shrew (*kaṣāyadaśana*) : 197
- 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*) : 194, 333
- revolver (*āvartaka*) unidentified insect : 212
- river dolphin (*śiśumāra*) *Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck), BIA: 313–314, plate on p. 289, MW: 1076 : 207
- śairyaka-insect (*śairyaka-insect*) unknown : 213
- śambuka (*śambuka*) unknown : 213
- sarṣapaka (*sarṣapaka*) unknown : 213
- she-ass insect (*gardabhī-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- sheep-insect (*urabhra-insect*) unidentified insect : 212
- shining-like-grain (*kaṇabha*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- slimy (*śleṣmaka-insect*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 213
- sonny rat (*putraka*) unidentified mouse or rat. Perhaps related to Dravidian forms like Pengo *puṭki*, DED₂: #4257 (itself perhaps just a form related to Tamil *poṭi* “little”) : 194, 195
- speckle-head (*citraśīrṣaka*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 212
- spotaka (*spotaka*) unknown : 213
- spotted (*paruṣa*) unknown insect, name based on etymology, which could be anything from dirty-coloured, stiff, or rough to shaggy : 212
- stripy (*abhirājī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology : 212
- sucīmukha (*sucīmukha*) unknown : 213
- swan (*haṃsa*) *Cygnus olor*, Gmelin, Dave 1985: ch. 84. As Dave says, “a generic term for a large part of the Anatidae family” including Swans, Geese, Ducks and Teals. The term needs to be translated variously according to the geographical context of the usage. In the Himalayan region, “swan” is appropriate, but in more southerly peninsular India, “goose” is more likely. The dogmatism of Vogel 1962 is based on mainly southern observations and temple carvings. The discussion by Dave 1985 is nuanced and accurate : 134
- 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) : 206
- 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” ?? : 194, 197, 198, 330
- 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” (DED₂: #150). Possibly

- remotely related to Dravidian lexemes for “tick,” *uḷuṅgu*, *uḍum*, *urūm*, *uṇṇi*, etc. [DED₂](#): #591, #604. The vulgate of the *Suśrutasamhitā* reads [pot-nose wasp \(?\)](#) (*kumbhīnāsa*) “pot-nose” in place of this lexeme, q.v. : [212](#)
- tolaka (*tolaka*) unknown : [213](#)
- tortoise (*kūrma*) Perhaps *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff), [Reptiles](#): 30 and plate, [MW](#): 1076 : [207](#)
- tuṇḍavakra (*tuṇḍavakra*) unknown : [213](#)
- tuṅgīnāsa (*tuṅgīnāsa*) unknown : [213](#)
- vaiśvambhara (*vaiśvambhara*) unknown : [213](#)
- valabhika (*valabhika*) unknown insect : [213](#)
- vicitiṅga (*vicitiṅga*) unidentified insect (not in [MW](#)) : [212](#)
- warding off (*vāraṇī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. Cf. *Oṛiyā bāraṇī* “charm against wild animals or noxious insects” [CDIAL](#): 1, #11553 : [213](#)
- 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 : [194](#), [197](#)
- worm-dish (*krimisarāvī*) unknown insect, name based on etymology. *śarāva* “dish, plate, etc.” ([MW](#): 1057) : [213](#)

Minerals

- ashes (*bhasma*) ashes, corrosive when wet : [146](#)
- 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. : [146](#)
- orpiment (*haritāla*) Arsenii trisulphidum. See [NK](#) v. 2, p. 20 ff : [146](#)
- vermillion (*rakta*) speculative, based on [Mahākośa](#): 1, 667, under *raktadhātu*, citing the *Dhanvantarīyanighaṇṭu* : [146](#)

Glossary

ākula - permeated: 214

character - *prakṛti*: 212

dadru - ringworm: 214

dardru - ringworm: 214

dark, rough patches of skin - *kiṭibha*: 214

insect - *kīṭa*: 212

kalpa - procedure: 212

karṇikā - small ear-like growths: 214

kīṭa - insect: 212

kiṭibha - dark, rough patches of skin: 214

permeated - *ākula*: 214

prakṛti - character: 212

procedure - *kalpa*: 212

ringworm - *dadru*: 214 - *dardru*: 214

saumya - watery: 213

small ear-like growths - *karṇikā*: 214

spreading rashes - *visarpa*: 214

toxic shock - *vega*: 214

vega - toxic shock: 214


visarpa - spreading rashes: 214

watery - *saumya*: 213

Todo list

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■ Can't be "sedation"	47
■ complete this thought	65
■ add footnote here	66
■ add refs to Divodāsa as king.	66
■ find out about uttarabasti	81
■ to what?	82
■ 29, 30 missing?	85
■ Problematic passage in the edition.	85
■ unsolved problem	90
■ Perhaps <i>kalka</i> here could also mean the <i>Terminalia Bellerica</i> (विभीतक).	102
■ Perhaps <i>kalka</i> here could also mean the <i>Terminalia Bellerica</i> (विभीतक).	102
■ Euphorbia Antiquorum (Antique spurge)	105
■ The webpage https://hindi.shabd.in/vairagya-shatakam-bhag-acharya-arjun-tiwari/post/117629 says that this verse belongs to the <i>Nītiratna</i> . I could not find this text.	109
■ The provisional edition should be modified accordingly.	111
■ There, Ḍalhaṇa commented that deliberation on <i>avapīḍa</i> had been done earlier when it was mentioned. Find that description to know more details.	113
■ Search for the section where the treatment of <i>ākṣepaka</i> is described.	114
■ Make the first letter of sentence capital.	114
■ ?	120
■ ?	120
■ ?	120
■ (?)	120
■ Is Dh. the teacher of Su. elsewhere?	132
■ Cf. Arthaśāstra 1.21.8.	133

■ I'm still unhappy about this verse.	136
■ Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate.	136
■ fn about sadyas+	136
■ Bear's bile instead of deer's bile.	137
■ punarṇṇavā in the N & K MSS	138
■ śrita for śṛta	138
■ explain more	138
■ Medical difference from Sharma.	139
■ example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text. . . .	139
■ 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.	139
■ √ vyadh not √ vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative.	139
■ Look up the ca. reference.	148
■ Come back to the issue of "kalpa". Look up passages in the Kośa. . . .	155
■ got to here - 2023-01 continue with table for #5	157
■ write footnote: don't repeat ativiṣā; vulgate similar to H.	159
■ Include info on hida-2019	165
■ 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?	167
■ grammar	168
■ ri- ṛ-?	171
■ varṇa means "colour" elsewhere?	172
■ write note on pariṣekān pradehāmś	184
■ where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm. . . .	220
■ maṣī burned charcoal. Find refs.	220
■ find ref.	226
■ Check out these refs.	226
■ meaning of kalpa	226
■ or a dual?	231
■ See chapter 40 of Sūtrasthāna.	282
■ vasā / medas / majjan	282
■ Does bhūtādi a compound or it means ahaṅkāra or ego?	283

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