

A Translation of the Nepalese Text of the Suśrutasamhitā

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Introduction

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

The Nepalese Version

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

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

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

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

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

³ Klebanov 2021a: 15.

⁴ Klebanov 2021a: 17–18.

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

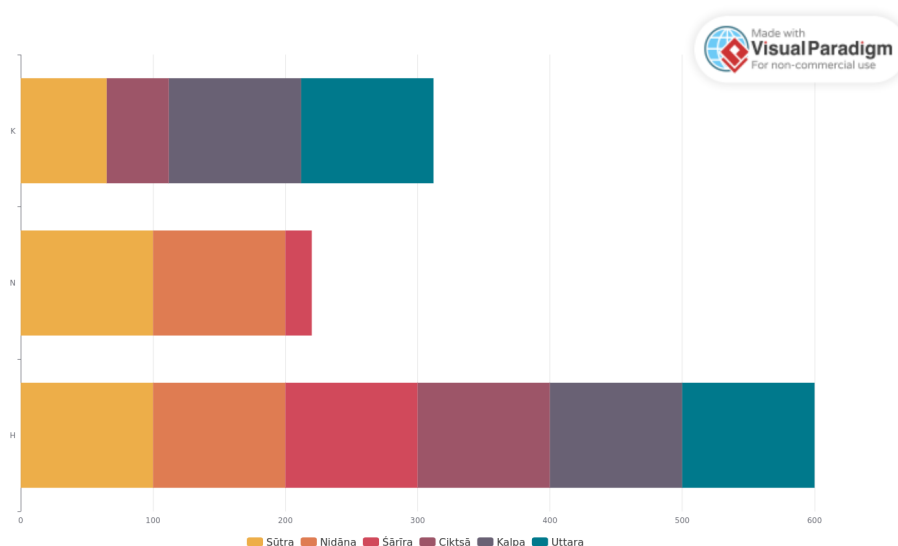


Figure 1: Coverage of the text by MSS K, N and H.

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

The vulgate

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

⁶ Chakraborty 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 Hoernle 1907: 68.

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

The Translation

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

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

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

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

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

Part 1. Sūtrasthāna

Sūtrasthāna 1: The Origin of Medical Knowledge

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.¹⁴

Translation

- 1 “Now I shall narrate the chapter on the origin of this knowledge.”¹⁵
- 2 “Now, as is well-known, Aupadhenava, Vaitaraṇa, Aurabhra, Puṣkalāvata, Karavīra, Gopurarakṣita, Bhoja, Suśruta and others addressed Lord Divodāsa, king of Kāśi, the best of the immortals, who was in his ashram surrounded by an entourage of sages.”¹⁶

¹⁴ [HIML](#): IA, 203–204.

¹⁵ Ḍalhaṇa understood the word “knowledge (*veda*)” as specifically “medical knowledge.” He said that the word “longevity” (*āyur*) had been elided. After this opening statement, later manuscripts and commentaries include the attribution, “as the venerable Dhanvantari stated.” The absence of this statement in the early Nepalese manuscripts is highly significant because it removes the outer narrative frame of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (Wujastyk 2013b: 148; Klebanov 2021a: § 3.1.2; S. K. Rai 2019; Birch et al. 2021). On the figure of Dhanvatari in medical literature, see [HIML](#): IA 358–361.

¹⁶ On these persons, see [HIML](#): IA 361–363, 369 ff. The authority Bhoja does not appear in the list as published in the vulgate edition (*Su* 1931: 1), and was not included in [HIML](#) amongst “authorities mentioned in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.” Meulenbeld gathered textual evidence about Bhoja at [HIML](#): IA 690–691. Klebanov (2021b) has discussed these authors in the context of an anonymous commentary on the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* that cites them.

- 3 “O Lord, distress arose in our minds after witnessing people thrashing about with cries, assailed by different kinds of pain and injury (*vedanābhighāta*), feeling helpless in spite of having friends, because of diseases arising from the body, the mind and external sources.
- 4 “To quell the illnesses of those who seek happiness and for our own purpose of prolonging life, we desire the science of life (*āyurveda*) that is being taught. Welfare, both in this world and in the next, depends upon it. Therefore, we have come to the Lord in pupillage.”
- 5 The Lord said to them:
“Welcome to you! My children, all of you are beyond reproach and worthy to be taught.
- 6 “As is well known, Ayurveda is the name of what is said to be the subsidiary part of the Atharvaveda.¹⁷ Before creating people, Svayambhū composed it in hundreds of thousands of verses and a thousand chapters and, after observing the short lifespan and low intelligence of people, he presented it again in eight parts.¹⁸
- 7 “Surgery, treatment of body parts above the clavicle, general medicine, knowledge of spirits, care of children, and the disciplines of antidotes, rejuvenation and aphrodisiacs.
- 8.1 “Now, a collection of the characteristics of each component of *Āyurveda*.
- 8.1a “Among them, the one called surgery has the goal of extracting various grasses, wood, stone, dust, iron,¹⁹ soil, bone, hair, nails, discharge of pus, malignant wounds and foreign bodies inside the womb, and of determining the application of surgical instruments, knives, caustics and fire by means of sixty definitions.
- 8.2 “The one named “the doctrine of treating body parts above the clavicles” has the aim of curing diseases situated above clavicles that is, diseases located in ears, eyes, mouth, nose and so on.
- 8.3 “The one called “general medicine” has the goal of curing illnesses established in the whole body and [diseases] such as fever, tumour, swelling, hemorrhagic disorders, insanity, epilepsy, urinary diseases, diarrhoea and the like.

17 On the careful wording of this statement, that makes the Atharvaveda connection “something that people say,” see Wujastyk 2022: 400–401.

18 Svayambhū is another name for Brahṃā, the creator.

19 The identity of the metal in such early literature is somewhat moot. For discussion, see Wujastyk 2019.

- 8.4 “The one called “knowledge of spirits” is for appeasing demons by pacification rites and making food offerings for those whose minds have been possessed by gods, their enemies,²⁰ Gandharvas, Yakṣas, demons, deceased ancestors, Piśācas, Vināyakas,²¹ Nāgas and evil spirits that possess children.
- 8.5 “The one called “care of children” is for bearing children and purifying defects in a wet-nurse’s milk, and curing diseases that have arisen from bad breast milk and demons.
- 8.6 “The one called “the discipline of toxicology” is for [knowing] the signs of poison from snake and insect bites and for neutralising various combinations of poisons.²²
- 8.7 “The one called “the discipline of rejuvenation” is maintaining youth, bringing about a long life and mental vigour and for curing diseases.
- 8.8 “The one called the “discipline of aphrodisiacs” brings about the increase, purity, accumulation and production of semen for those whose semen is minimal, bad, depleted, and dry [respectively] and for inducing an erection.
- 9 “In this way, this Āyurveda is taught with eight components.”
“Among these [components], tell us which is for whom.”
- 10 They said, “After you have made the whole knowledge of surgery accessible, teach it to us, Lord”.²³
- 11 “So be it,” he said.
- 12 They then said, “After probing our opinion, we are unanimous: Suśruta will question you. We too will take in what is being taught to him.”
- 13 “So be it,” he said.
- 14–16 “Now, as is well-known, the aim of Āyurveda is eliminating the disease of one who has been assailed by disease and protecting the healthy;

Cite Paul
Courtright,
Ganesha
book.

20 Dānavas. The insertion marks (*kākapadas*) below the text at this point appears to be by the original scribe.

21 The vulgate doesn’t have *vināyakas* but does add *asuras*, probably under the influence of Ḍalhaṇa.

22 The scribal insertion marks (crosses) above the line at this point in MS K appear to be in a later hand and their referent is lost in the damaged part of the folio. Although MSS MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079 and MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333 include spiders (*lūtā*) and creepy-crawlies (*sarīsrpa*) in the list, it does seem that MS K had a shorter list, and the vulgate edition adds rodents (*mūṣika*).

23 For discussion of the text-critical significance of this passage, see Harimoto 2013. I have read the passage as including the word अलङ्कृत्वा in the sense “make accessible” (cf. MW: 94, *sub* अलं विज्ञातुम्).

Āyurveda is, “where they find a long life,” or “that by which long life is known.” You should take in its best component (*aṅga*), which is being taught without conflicting with tradition, perception, inference or analogy.

- 17 “For this component is first, the most important, because it is referred to first; it cures wounds and joins together the most important thing, Yajña’s head. For, just as it has been said of old, ‘the head that had been cut off by Rudra was joined again by the two Aśvins.’
- 18 “And also, of the eight disciplines of Āyurveda, [surgery] alone is the best because of the quick action of its procedures (*kriyā*), its application of blunt instruments, knives, caustics and fire, and it is common to all disciplines.
- 19 “Therefore, [surgery] is eternal, meritorious, leads to heaven, brings renown, bestows a long life, and affords a livelihood.
- 20 “This is what Brahmā said: ‘Prajāpati learned it. From him, the Aśvins. From the Aśvins, Indra. From Indra, I. In this world, I will transmit it to students, for the benefit of people.’
- 21 “There a verse on this:

*For I am Dhanvantari, the first god, the remover of old age, pain and death of mortals. Having understood surgery, the best of the great knowledge systems, I arrived on earth again to teach it here.*²⁴

- 22 “In this context, as far as this discipline is concerned, a human being (*puruṣa*) is called an amalgam of the five elements and the embodied soul. This is where procedures (*kriyā*) apply. This is the locus.”
 “Why?”
 “Because of the duality of the world, the world is twofold: the stationary and the moving. Its nature (*ātmaka*) is twofold, depending on the preponderance of Agni and Soma.²⁵ Alternatively, it can be considered as being fivefold. The multitude of beings in it are fourfold: they are termed “sweat-born, stone-born, caul-born and egg-born”.²⁶ Where

24 Note that this verse about the origin of surgery is the first place that the name “Dhanvantari” is introduced in the Nepalese version of the work. Dhanvantari is here identified with Brahmā, the creator of the world. For discussion, see Birch et al. 2021.

25 See Wujastyk 2004.

26 This fourfold classification of beings is paralleled with closely-related vocabulary in *Bhelasamhitā* 4.4.4 (Bhela 2000: 206; Bhela 1921: 81).

- they are concerned, the human being is the main thing; others are his support. Therefore, the human being (*puruṣa*) is the locus.
- 23–26 “Diseases are said to be the conjunction of the person and suffering (*duḥkha*). There are four of them: invasive, bodily, mental and inherent. The invasive ones are caused by an injury. The bodily ones are based on food, caused by irregularities (*vaiṣaṃyā*) in wind, bile, phlegm and blood.²⁷
- “The mental (*mānasa*) ones, caused by desire (*icchā*) and hatred (*dveṣa*), include: anger (*krodha*), grief (*āśoka*), misery (*dainya*), overexcitement (*harṣa*), lust (*kāma*), depression (*viśāda*), envy (*īrṣyā*), jealousy (*asūyā*), malice (*mātsarya*), and greed (*lobha*).
- “The inherent (*svābhāvika*) ones are hunger, thirst, old age, death, sleep and those of the temperament (*prakṛti*).
- “These too are located (*adhiṣṭhāna*) in the mind and body.
- 27 “Scarification (*lekhaṇa*), nourishment (*br̥ṇhaṇa*), purification (*saṃśo-dhana*), pacification (*saṃśamana*), diet (*āhāra*) and regimen (*ācāra*), properly employed, bring about their cure.
- 28 “Furthermore, food is the root (*mūla*) of living beings as well as of strength (*bala*), complexion (*varṇa*) and vital energy (*ojas*). It depends on (*āyatta*) the six flavours (*rasa*). Flavours, furthermore, have substances as their substrate (*āśrayin*). And substances are remedies (*oṣadhī-*).²⁸ There are two types: stationary (*sthāvara*) and moving (*jaṅgama*).
- 29 “Of these, there are four types of stationary ones: fruit trees (*vanaspati*), flowering trees (*vr̥kṣa*), herbs (*oṣadhi*) and shrubs (*vīrudh*).²⁹ Amongst these, the “fruit trees” have fruit but no flowers.³⁰ The “flowering trees”

27 Note that four humoral substances are assumed here.

28 Pāṇini 6.3.132 provides that the final vowel of the noun *oṣadhi* may be lengthened (→*oṣadhī*) under certain conditions. These conditions require that the word be used in a Vedic mantra and not in the nominative. Neither condition is met in this passage, yet the author uses the form *oṣadhī*. This form is in fact not uncommon in medical literature as well as in epics, purāṇas, smṛtis, and other parts of Sanskrit literature.

29 Ca.sū.1.71–72 also describes these four types of medicinal plant in similar terms but with slightly differing names: *oṣadhi* is a plant that ends after fruiting, *vīrudh* is a plant that branches out, *vanaspati* is a tree with fruit, and *vānaspatya* is a tree with fruit and flowers.

30 The MSS agree in reading *phalavantyaḥ* “having flowers” which is grammatically non-standard. This form is also found in the *Viṣṇudharmottarapurāṇa* (1.92.27, 1.92.27 *Viṣṇudh.*: 56r).

have flowers and fruit. The “herbs” die when the fruit is ripe. “Shrubs” put out shoots.

- 30 “As is well known, moving remedies are also of four types: those born in in a caul (*jarāyujā*), those born from eggs (*aṇḍajā*), those born of sweat (*svedajā*), and shoots (*udbhid*). Amongst these, those born in a caul include animals (*paśu*), humans, and wild animals (*vyāla*). Birds, creepy-crawlies (*sarīrpa*) and snakes are “born of eggs.” Worms (*kṛmi*), small insects (*kunta*) and ants (*pipīlika*) and others are born of sweat.³¹ Shoots include red velvet mites (*indragopa*) and frogs (*maṇḍūka*).³²
- 31 “In this context, among the stationary remedies, skin (*tvak*), leaves (*patra*), flowers (*puṣpa*), fruits (*phala*), roots (*mūla*), bulbs (*kanda*), sap (*kṣīra*), resin (*niryāsa*), essence (*sāra*), oil (*sneha*), and juice extract (*svarasa*)³³ are useful; among the moving remedies pelt (*carman*), hair, nails, and blood (*rudhira*) and so forth.
- 32 “And earth products (*pārthiva*) include gold and silver.³⁴
- 33 “The items created by time (*kālakṛta*) are clusters (*samplava*) as far as wind and no wind (*nivāta*), heat and shade, darkness and light and the cold, hot and rainy seasons (*varṣā*) are concerned. The divisions of time are the blink of the eye (*nimeṣa*), a trice (*kāṣṭhā*), minutes (*kalā*), three-quarters of an hour (*muhūrta*), a day and night (*ahorātra*), a fortnight (*pakṣa*), a month (*māsa*), a season (*ṛtu*), a half-year (*ayana*), a year (*saṃvatsara*), and yuga (*yuga*).³⁵
- 34 “These naturally cause accumulation (*sañcaya*), irritation (*prakopa*), pacification (*upaśama*) and alleviation (*pratīkāra*) of the humours (*doṣa*). And they have practical purposes (*prayojanavat*).
- 35 “There are verses about this:

*This fourfold category is taught by physicians as a cause for the agitation and quelling of bodily diseases.*³⁶

31 The word *kunta*, though marked as “lexical” in most dictionaries, is in fact found in literature, commonly as a compound with *pipīlika*; the compound sometimes seems to be understood a type of ant (*tatpuruṣa* compound) rather than as a pair of insects (*dvandva* compound).

32 On *indragopa*, see Lienhard 1978.

33 On juice extract (*svarasa*) see CS 1.1.73, 1.4.7; Ḍalhaṇa on 4.10.12 (Su 1938: 450).

34 The flow of concepts in the treatise seems to be interrupted here.

35 These units are presented at 1.6.5 (Su 1938: 24) and discussed by Hayashi (2017: § 59).

36 On the topic of the “group of four,” the commentator Ḍalhaṇa considered them to

- 36 There are two kinds of invasive diseases. Some certainly³⁷ affect (ni√ pat) the mind, others the body. Their treatment (kriyā) is of two kinds too.
- 37 For those that affect the body there is physical (śārīravād) therapy, whereas for those that affect the mind there is the collection (varga) of desirable sensory experiences like sound that bring comfort (sukha).
- 38 “Along these lines (evam), this brief explanation of the four factors (catuṣṭaya) is given:
- human being (puruṣa),
 - disease (vyadhi),
 - remedies (oṣadhi),
 - the time for therapies (kriyākāla).

“In this context,

- from the mention of the word “human,” the collection of substances that arise from it, such as the elements, and the particulars (vikalpa) of its major and minor parts (aṅga) such as skin (tvak), flesh (māṃsa), ducts (sirā), sinews (snāyu), bones (asthi) and joints (sandhi) are meant.
- From the mention of “diseases,” all diseases caused by wind, bile, phlegm, congested humours (sannipāta), external factors (āgantū) and inherent factors (svabhāva) are intended (vyākhyāta).
- From the mention of “remedies,” there is the teaching of substances, tastes, potencies, post-digestive tastes.
- From the mention of “procedures (kriyā),” therapies (karman) such as oiling and excision (chedya) are taught.
- From the mention of the word “time,” every single teaching about the times for procedures is meant.

- 39 “There is a verse about this:

be “food, behaviour, earthen products and items created by time.” He referred to the author of the lost commentary entitled *Pañjikā*, and to Jejjāta (HIML: IA, 372–3, 192). In his view, these early commentators do not agree that the fourfold grouping (catuṣṭaya) refers to the quartet of stationary (sthāvara), moving (jaṅgama), earthen products (pārthiva) and items created by time (kālakṛta) (Su 1938: 9a).

37 The text uses an archaic interjection here, *ha*.

*This seed of medicine has been declared in brief. Its explanation will be given in one hundred and twenty chapters.*³⁸

40 “There are one hundred and twenty chapters in five sections (*adhyāya*).³⁹ In that regard, having divided them, according to their subject matter, into the Ślokaśthāna, the Nidāna, the Śārīra, the Cikitsita and the Kalpa, we shall mention this in the Uttaratantra.⁴⁰

41 “There is a verse about this:

Someone who reads this eternal proclamation of the King of Kāśī, that was declared by Svayambhu, will have good karma on earth, will be respected by kings and upon death will achieve the world of Śakra.

38 This is the number of chapters in the first five sections of the work, namely the *Sūtra*-, *Nidāna*-, *Śārīra*-, *Cikitsā*- and *Kalpa-sthānas*. These have 46, 16, 10, 40 and 8 chapters respectively. The *Uttaratantra* has 66 chapters.

39 On *vimśa* in the sense of “greater by 20” see P.5.2.46 *śadantaviṃśateś ca*.

40 The end of this sentence reads oddly. The vulgate edition adds an object: “[we shall mention] the remaining topics [in the Uttara]” which smooths out the difficulty, but this is supported in none of the Nepalese MSS. At the start of the *Uttaratantra* (Su 1938: 1.3–4ab) there is indeed a statement that picks up the point about there being 120 chapters.

Sūtrasthāna 2: The Initiation of a Student

Literature

[HIML](#): IA, 204; Preisendanz [2007](#); Wujastyk [2012](#): 82–83.

Translation

Sūtrasthāna 3: The Table of Contents

Literature

Translation

1
54 ⁴¹

⁴¹ Bronkhorst [2016](#): 167.

Sūtrasthāna 10: Diagnosis

11 ⁴² content

⁴² See p. [204](#) below.

Sūtrasthāna 11: Preparing and using caustics

11 ⁴³ content

⁴³ See p. [204](#) below.

Sūtrasthāna 13: On Leeches

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of studies on Indian leeches and their application.⁴⁴

A Persian version of this chapter of the *Suśrutasamhitā* was included in *Sikandar Shāh's Mine of Medicine* (*Ma'din al-shifā' i Sikandar-Shāhī*) composed in 1512 by Miyān Bhūwah b. Khawāṣṣ Khān.⁴⁵

More recently Brooks has examined this chapter and leech therapy more broadly terms of leeches and classification, multispecies agencies, and the tactile and intersensory dynamics of leech therapy.⁴⁶

Translation

- 1 And now we shall explain **the chapter** about leeches.
- 2 The leech is for the benefit of kings, rich people, delicate people, children, the elderly, fearful people and women. It is said to be the most gentle means for letting blood.
- 3 In relation to that, one should let blood that is corrupted by wind, bile or phlegm with a horn, a leech, or a **gourd**, respectively. Or, each kind can be made to flow by any of them in their particular way.⁴⁷

44 [HIML](#): IA, 209; IB, 324, n. 131.

45 Siddiqi 1959: 96–109; Azeez Pasha 1971; Storey 1971: 231–232; [HIML](#): IB, 324, n. 128; Speziale 2019: 8–9.

46 Brooks 2020a,b; 2021a,b.

47 This sentence is hard to construe grammatically, although its meaning seems clear. In place of विशेषस्तु, Cakrapāṇidatta and Ḍalhaṇa both read विशेषतस्, which helps interpretation ([Su 1939](#): 95, [Su 1938](#): 55). It is noteworthy that the critical syllable स्तु is smudged or corrected in both MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079 and in 1-1146, a much later

4 And there are the following about this:

*A cow's horn is praised for being unctuous, **smooth**, and very sweet. Therefore, when wind is troubled, that is good for bloodletting.*⁴⁸

5 *A horn shaped like a half-moon, with a large body the length of seven fingers , should first be placed on the incision. A strong person should suck with the mouth.*⁴⁹

6 *A leech lives in the cold, is sweet and is born in the water. So when someone is afflicted by bile, they are suitable for bloodletting.*⁵⁰

7 *A **gourd** is well known for being pungent, dry and sharp. So when someone is afflicted by phlegm it is suitable for bloodletting.*

8 In that context, at the scarified location one should let blood using a horn wrapped in a covering of a thin bladder, or with a **gourd** with a flame inside it because of the suction.⁵¹

9 Leeches are called “*jala-āyu-ka*” because their life (*āyu-*) is in water (*jala*).⁵² “Home” (*okas*) means “dwelling;” their home is water, so they are called “water-dwellers (*jalaaukas*).”

Devanāgarī manuscript.

There is an insertion in the text, printed in parentheses in the vulgate at 1.13.4 (Su 1938: 55) as विशेषतस्तु विस्राव्यं शृङ्गजलौकालाबुभिर्गृहीयात्. This insertion is not included in the earlier edition of the vulgate, but is replaced by स्निग्धशीतरूक्षत्वात् (Su 1931: 54). Ḍalhaṇa noted that, “this reading is discussed to some extent by some compilers (निबन्धकार), but it is definitely rejected by most of them, including Jejjhaṭa.”

48 The vulgate replaced “smooth” with “hot.”

49 This passage is not found in the vulgate, but it is similar to the passage cited by Ḍalhaṇa at 1.13.8 (Su 1938: 56) and attributed to Bhāluki. Bhāluki was the author of a *Bhālukitantra* that may have predated Jejjhaṭa and might even have been one of the sources for the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (HIML: IA, 689–690 *et passim*). The editor Ācārya was aware of this reading in the Nepalese manuscripts; see his note 4 on 1.13.5 (Su 1938: 55, note 4).

50 Note that the particular qualities (*guṇas*) of the leech in this and the following verses counteract the quality of the affliction. See Brooks 2018: 113, table 1.

51 There are questions about the wrapping or covering of the horn. Other versions of the text, and the commentator, propose that there may be two coverings, or that cloth may be a constituent. Our understanding of this verse is that the bladder material is used to cover the mouthpiece and then to block it, in order to preserve suction in the horn for a few minutes while the blood is let.

52 The lexeme *-āyu-* is known almost exclusively from the *R̥gveda*.

- 10 There are twelve of them: six are venomous and just the same number are non-venomous.
- 11 Here is an explanation of the venomous ones, together with the therapy:
- Black (*kṛṣṇā*)
 - Mottled (*karburā*)
 - Sting-gush (*alagardā*)⁵³
 - Rainbow (*indrāyudhā*)
 - Oceanic (*sāmudrikā*)
 - Cow-praising (*govandanā*)⁵⁴

Among these,

- The one called a Black is the colour of kohl and has a broad head;
- The one called Mottled is like the [Indian mottled eel](#), long with a segmented (*chinna*), humped belly.
- The one called Sting-gush is hairy, has large sides and a black mouth.
- The one called Rainbow is coloured like a rainbow, with vertical stripes.
- The one called Oceanic is slightly blackish-yellow, and is covered with variegated flower patterns.
- The one called Govandana is like a cow's testicles, having a bifurcated appearance on the lower side, and a tiny mouth.

When someone is bitten by them, the symptoms are: a swelling at the site of the bite, excessive itching and fainting, fever, a temperature, and vomiting. In that context the Great Antidote (*mahāgada*) should be applied in drinks and liniments (*ālepana*), etc.⁵⁵ A bite by the Rainbow leech is not treatable. These venomous ones have been explained together with their remedies.

- 12 Now the ones without venom.⁵⁶

53 Treating गर्दा as गल्दा and translating as in RV 8.1.20, with Jamison and Brereton (2014: 1023, verse 20 and cf. commentary). But if गर्द is to be taken from √गर्द् then we might have "crying from the sting."

54 The manuscripts all read गोवन्दना against the vulgate's गोचन्दना.

55 Ḍalhaṇa and the vulgate included errhines in the list of therapies, and Ḍalhaṇa added that "etc." indicated sprinkling and immersion too. The "Great Antidote" is described in the Kalpasthāna, at 5.5.61–63ab (Su 1938: 578).

56 The translations of the names of these leeches are slightly whimsical, but give a sense of the original; सावरिका remains etymologically puzzling.

- Tawny (*kapilā*)
- Ruddy (*piṅgalā*)
- Dart-mouth (*śaṅkumukhī*)
- Mouse (*mūṣikā*)
- Lotus-mouth (*puṇḍarikamukhī*)
- Sāvarikā (*sāvarikā*)

Among these,

- The one called Tawny has sides that look as if they are dyed with realgar and is the colour of glossy mung beans on the back.⁵⁷
- The one called Ruddy is a bit red, has a round body, is yellowish, and moves fast.
- The one called Dart-mouth is the colour of liver, drinks fast and has a long mouth.
- The one called Mouse is the colour and shape of a mouse and has an undesirable smell.
- The one called Lotus is the colour of mung beans and has a mouth that looks like a lotus.
- The one called Sāvarikā has the colour of a lotus leaf and is eighteen centimetres long. But that one is used when the purpose is an animal.

The non-venomous ones have been explained.

- 13 Their lands are Yavana, Pāṇḍya, Sahya, Potana and so on.⁵⁸ Those in

57 The compound *सिग्धमुद्गवर्णा* is supported by all the manuscript witnesses and is translated here. Nevertheless, the reading of the vulgate, that separates *सिग्धा*, f., “slimy” as an adjective for the leech, seems more plausible: “it is slimy and the colour of a mung bean.”

58 This passage is discussed by Karttunen (2015: 109–110, 388–389). At the time of the composition of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, Yavana would most likely have referred the Hellenistic Greek diaspora communities in Bactria and India (Law 1984: 136–137; Mairs 2013; 2014). Unproblematically, the Pāṇḍya country is the extreme south-eastern tip of the Indian subcontinent (Schwartzberg, Bajpai, et al. 1978: E8, p. 20 *et passim*), and Sahya refers to the Western Ghats (Schwartzberg, Bajpai, et al. 1978: D5–7, p. 20 *et passim*). The vulgate reading “Pautana” is not a known toponym. Potana was the ancient capital of the Aśmaka Mahājanapada mentioned in Pali sources and in inscriptions at Ajāntā and elsewhere, and identified by Law (1984: 142, 179) and P. Gupta (1989: 18) with Pratiṣṭhāna, modern Paithan on the Godavari river. The recurring ancient epithet describing the Aśmaka kingdom is that it was on the Godāvarī, and Paithan is flanked to the south west and south east by this river.

Some scholars have identified the name with modern Bodhan in Telangana (Sircar

- particular have large bodies and are strong, they drink rapidly, consume a lot, and are without venom.
- 14 In reference to that, venomous leeches are those originating in decomposing venomous insects, frogs, urine, feces and in polluted water.⁵⁹ Non-venomous ones originate in decomposing [sacred lotus](#), [blue water-lily](#), [white water-lily](#), [fragrant lotus](#), [pondweed](#) and in pure waters.
- 15 There is a verse on this:

*These ones move about in sweet-smelling habitats that abound in water. Tradition teaches that they do not behave in a confused manner or lie in the mud.*⁶⁰

- 16 They can be caught with a fresh hide or one may catch them by other means.⁶¹

1971: 189; Schwartzberg, Bajpai, et al. 1978: E6, p. 14, 140 *et passim*; Sen 1988: 102), but this implausible identification is traceable to a speculative suggestion by Raychaudhuri (1953: 89, n. 5, 143) based on a variant form “Podana” found in some early manuscripts of the *Mahābhārata*: “This name reminds one of Bodhan in the Nizam’s dominions,” “possibly to be identified with Bodhan.”

Ḍalhaṇa on 1.13.13 (Su 1938: 57) anachronistically identified “Yavana” as the land of the Turks (तुरुष्क) and “Pautana” as the Mathurā region. He also noted, as did Cakra-pāṇidatta (Su 1939: 97), that this passage was not included by some authorities on the grounds that the habitats of poisonous and non-poisonous creatures are defined by other criteria.

- 59 The vulgate on 4.13.14 (Su 1938: 57) includes fish in this list.

- 60 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.13.14 (Su 1938: 57) discussed why non-venomous leeches would not “behave in a confused manner” (सङ्कीर्णचारिन्), saying that they do not “eat a diet that is contra-indicated because of poison etc.” (विषादिविरुद्धाहारभुजः). On the use of the term विरुद्ध in the sense of “incompatible,” see 4.23.4 (Su 1938: 485). Ḍalhaṇa there noted that such foods are explained in the chapter on wholesome and unwholesome foods (हिताहिताध्याय, 1.20 (Su 1938: 94–99)).

- 61 “Fresh hide” (आर्द्रचर्मन्) may suggest that the animal skin still includes meat or blood that is attractive to a leech.

Ḍalhaṇa on 1.13.15 (Su 1938: 57) quoted “another treatise” (तन्त्रान्तरवचनात्) that said that autumn is the time to collect leeches. He also explained that “other methods” of collecting leeches included smearing a leg or other limb with cream, butter or milk, etc., or using a piece of flesh from a freshly killed animal.

The Nepalese witnesses all read गृहीत्वा “having (been) caught” for the vulgate’s गृहीयात् “one may grasp (by other means).” The Nepalese reading is hard to construe and we have emended to the vulgate’s reading.

- 17 Then these should be put into a large new pot furnished with mud and the water from lakes or wells. One should provide what they need to eat. One should grind up pondweed, dried meat, and aquatic tubers, and one should give them grass and aquatic leaves to lie on, and every three days water and food. After seven nights one should transfer them to a different pot.
- 18 And on this:

One should not nurture those that are thick in the middle, that are injured,⁶² or small, those that are not born in the proper habitat, those that will not attach, that drink little or those that are venomous.

- 19 First of all, if the patient has an ailment that is treatable by bloodletting with leeches, get them to sit or lie down. Then, dry any place (avakāśa) that is diseased with powders of earth and cow-dung.⁶³ Then the leeches, free from impurities, with their bodies smeared with Indian mustard and turmeric, moving about in the middle of a cup of water, should be made to attach to the site of the ailment. Now, for one that is not attaching, one should provide a drop of milk or a drop of blood. Alternatively, one should make some marks with a knife (śas-trapada).⁶⁴ And if it still will not attach, make a different one attach.
- 20 One can know that it is attached when it fixes on, making its mouth like a horse's hoof and hunching its neck. Then, one should cover it with a wet cloth and keep it there.
- 21 Now, if one knows, from the arising of pricking and itching at the bite, that clean blood is being taken, one should take it off. Then, if it does not release because of the scent of blood one should sprinkle its mouth with powdered rock salt.

62 Pace Ḍalhaṇa on 1.13.18 (Su 1938: 57) who glossed परिक्लिष्ट "injured" as अमनोज्ञदर्शन "disagreeable looking."

63 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.13.19 (Su 1938: 57) read अरुजम् (n.), against the vulgate's अरुजः; Cakra-pāṇidatta on this verse (Su 1939: 98) read अरुजः. Both commentators specified that the Suśrutasaṃhitā said this procedure should only be applied when there is no wound or opening, for fear of exacerbating the condition. The Nepalese text is saying, differently, that the desiccating powders should be applied to a diseased wound.

64 On पद as a "mark," "imprint," or "place of application," cf. 4.1.29 (Su 1938: 399), 5.4.15 (Su 1938: 571), etc. See footnote 553.

- 22 Then one should coat it with *rice-grain chaff*, rub its mouth with sesame oil and salt and cause it to vomit by holding its tail in the left hand and very slowly rubbing it with the thumb and finger of the right hand in the proper direction, as far as the mouth, until it is properly purged.⁶⁵ A properly purged leech placed in a goblet of water moves about, wanting to eat. If it sinks down, not moving, it is badly purged; one should make it vomit once again.
A badly purged leech develops an incurable disease called Indrapada.⁶⁶
- 23 *One that protects its deflated head with its body, suddenly curls up and makes the water warm is traditionally said to have Indrapada.*⁶⁷
- Thus, one should keep such a one as before.⁶⁸
- 24 *After observing the proper or improper flow of the blood, one should rub the opening made by the leech with honey.*⁶⁹ Alternatively, one may bind it up and smear it with ointments that are astringent, sweet, oily and cold.
- 25 And about this there is the following:
When the leeches have just drunk, one should pour ghee on it. And one should pour on to the blood things that are capable of stopping the blood.
- 26 *Someone who knows habitats, the capture, feeding and bloodletting of leeches is worthy to treat a king.*

65 The expression शालितण्डुलकाण्डन, “rice-grain chaff” could be read as “paddy rice, rice grains and chaff” but this seems unlikely in the context.

66 At this point, the Nepalese witnesses read इन्द्रपद/इन्द्रापद, but the vulgate reads इन्द्रमद, a term that is found in other texts such as the *Mānasollāsa* 6.641 (vol. 1, 87), where it is a fever affecting fish, and the *Garuḍapurāṇa* 1.147.3 (tr. A Board of Scholars 1957: 2, 425) where it is fever affecting clouds; see further Brooks *in press*.

67 At this point, witness H, the latest MS, reads इन्द्रपद as before, but the older witnesses K and N have muddled readings, इदमदः and इद्रमदः. The scribes may have been responding to a -पद I-मद confusion about the name of this condition.

68 The vulgate includes “well purged” as the object in this sentence, which makes better sense.

69 In the Nepalese witnesses, the object of this passage is जलौकामुखम् “the mouth of the leech,” that we have interpreted, perhaps freely, as “opening made by the leech.” Logically and as transmitted in the vulgate, this passage should be about managing the wound on the patient that has been made by the leech.

Sūtrasthāna 14: On the Properties of Blood

Previous scholarship

Meulenbeld offered both an annotated summary of this chapter as well as a study specifically on the place of blood in Ayurvedic theory.⁷⁰

Translation

- 1 Now we shall declare the chapter about blood.
- 2
- 3 Food is of four types.⁷¹ It is endowed with six tastes and is made of the five elements.⁷² It has either two or eight potencies, and is endowed with many qualities. ⁷³ Chyle (*rasa*) is the most intangible essence of this food that is properly transformed. It is of the nature of fire.

70 HIML: IA, 209–201 and Meulenbeld 1991. Meulenbeld’s footnotes on this chapter in HIML: IB, 325 ff. refer often to “Hoernle’s note.” This appears to be a reference to Hoernle’s copious notes to his translation of this chapter (Hoernle 1897: 87–98). Meulenbeld (1990) also discussed Sanskrit veterinary texts in the light of their standard theory of four humours, including blood.

71 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.14.3 (Su 1938: 59) said that the four types of food are those that can be drunk, licked, eaten and chewed (पेयलेह्यभोज्यभक्ष्य). The main text of the *Carakasamhitā* is explicit about these categories at 4.3.4(1) (Ca 1941: 308): पानाशनभक्ष्यलेह्य । “things drunk, eaten, chewed or licked.” Yagi (1994) discussed the distinction between भक्ष्य and भोज्य; for further Indological background on foods, see the studies by Olivelle (1995; 2001) and the classic reference works by Achaya (1994; 1998). The long, final adhyāya of the *Suśrutasamhitā*’s sūtrasthāna (ch. 46) is a treatise on food in āyurveda.

72 *Idem*, Earth, water, fire, air, space

73 Ḍalhaṇa related these qualities to the twenty standard गुण of āyurveda; see, e.g., their listing by Vāgbhaṭa, translated by Wujastyk (2003b: 207).

Chyle is situated in the heart. From the heart, it enters into the twenty-four arteries—ten upward arteries, ten downward, and four sideways—and doing so day after day owing to the reaction of past activities that are caused by the invisible,⁷⁴ it satisfies the entire body, enlivens it, prolongs it,⁷⁵ and makes it grow. The motion of the entity that flows throughout the body should be understood by inference. That motion causes deterioration and growth.

With regards to the chyle that flows through all the limbs, humours, body tissues, and impurities of the body, the question arises, “Is it moist or is it fiery?” It is understood to be moist because of its fluidity while flowing⁷⁶ and due to attributes such as mobility, lubrication, enlivening, satisfaction, and supporting.⁷⁷

- 4 That watery chyle is then reddened after reaching the liver and spleen.
- 5 There are verses about this.

Experts know that blood is the untransformed fluid that is reddened by the pure fire element within the bodies of living beings.

- 6 *It is only due to chyle that women’s blood called menses exists. It increases from the twelfth year and decreases after the fiftieth year.*
- 7 The menstrual blood, however, is called fiery.⁷⁸ That is due to the embryo being fiery and moist.⁷⁹
- 8 Others state that the embryo as constituted of the five elements and the preceptors call it the living blood.
- 9 There are verses about this.

74 अदृष्ट (unseen): Doing any righteous or unrighteous action produces good merit and demerit respectively. This good merit and demerit are called अदृष्ट (invisible) because it cannot be directly known but can only be assumed through logical deduction.

75 In the sense of prolonging its lifespan

76 The vulgate emends अनुसरणे to अनुसरण- against the Nepalese MSS. This is logical because mobility would seem to be one of the attributes. Although it is awkward, we read अनुसरणे as a locative absolute “while flowing.”

77 The duality being discussed here is that of the essential qualities of Fire and of Soma (agni and soma). See further discussion by Wujastyk (2004) and Angermeier (2021).

78 Ḍalhaṇa commented that this is to distinguish the menstrual blood from regular blood that is gentle.

79 Ḍalhaṇa commented here that the embryo is called such because the menstrual blood is fiery and the semen is gentle (सौम्य). On the fiery/moist distinction (आग्नेय/सौम्य), see Wujastyk 2004; Angermeier 2021.

That is because blood exhibits the qualities of earth, etc. such as a fleshy smell, fluidity, redness, pulsation and thinness.

- 10 *Blood is formed from chyle, flesh from blood, lymph from flesh, bone from lymph, marrow from bone, semen from marrow, and progeny from semen.*
- 11 There, the essence (chyle) of food and drink is the nourisher of these body tissues.
- 12 There is a verse about this.

A living being should be known as born from chyle. One should diligently preserve⁸⁰ chyle by administering food and drink, being nicely disciplined with food⁸¹.

- 13 The verbal root *rasa* means movement.⁸² Because it keeps moving day after day, it is called *rasa* (chyle).⁸³
- 14 Chyle stays in every body tissue for 2548 ((25*100)+48) *kalās* and nine *kāṣṭhas*. As such, it becomes semen after a month. For women, it becomes menses.
- 15 Here are verses about this.

*According to similar and dissimilar treatises, the quantity of *kalās* in this group⁸⁴ is 18,090.*

This is the particular transformation period regarding chyle that lasts for a person with mild fire⁸⁵. For a person with developed fire, one should know it to last for the exact same time⁸⁶

80 All three manuscripts have रक्षेत् which is an incorrect form. रक्षेत् is the correct form.

81 आहारेण - The third case is used. The semantic property of the third case used here is unclear. Unclear regarding if there is any rule in the *Aṣṭādhyāyī* justifying this usage.

82 Kunjalal Bhishagratna 1907–16: 109

83 In the list of verbal roots of Pāṇini, the verbal root रस(*rasa*) means taste and moistening. It does not mean movement.

84 The duration of chyle in all the body tissues as a whole.

85 Perhaps this refers to the digestive fire.

86 Although the vulgate does not have this verse, there is an argument presented in Ḍalhaṇa's commentary on 1.14.16 (Su 1938: 63) that for a person with intense fire, chyle becomes semen after eight days, and for a person with mild fire, chyle becomes semen after a month. Ḍalhaṇa said that this opinion is refuted by Gayadāsa Ācārya in many different ways. Ḍalhaṇa continued that the proper understanding is that for a person with a strong fire, chyle becomes blood in a little less than a month, and for a person with a mild fire, chyle becomes blood in a little more than a month.

- 16 Resembling the expanse of sound, flame, and water, that entity moves along in a minute manner throughout the entire body⁸⁷.
- 17 The aphrodisiac medicines, however, being used like a purgative due to their excessively strong characteristics, evacuate the semen.
- 18 Just as it cannot be said that the fragrance in a flower bud is present in it or not, but accepting that there is the manifestation of existing entities⁸⁸, it,⁸⁹ however, is not experienced only due to its intangibility. That same entity is experienced at another time in the blossomed flower. In the same way regarding children also, the manifestation of semen happens because of the advancement of age⁹⁰. For women, the manifestation is different as rows of hair, menses, etc.
- 19 That very essence of food does not nourish very old people due to their decaying bodies.
- 20 These entities are called body tissues (*dhātu-s*) because they bear the body⁹¹.
- 21 Their decay and growth are due to blood. Therefore, I will speak about blood. In that regard: The blood that is foamy, tawny, black, rough, thin, quick-moving, and non-coagulating is vitiated by air. The blood that is dark green, yellow, green, brown, sour-smelling, and unpleasant to ants and flies is vitiated by bile. The blood that is orange, unctuous, cool, dense, slimy, flowing, and resembling the colour of flesh-muscles is vitiated by phlegm. The blood having all these characteristics is vitiated by the combination of all three of them. The blood that is extremely black is vitiated by blood⁹² just as bile. The blood that has the combined characteristics of vitiations of two humours is vitiated by two humours.

87 Ḍalhaṇa comments (Su 1938: 63) that the expanse of sound indicates the sideways movement of chyle, the expanse of flame indicates the upward movement of chyle, and the expanse of water indicates the downward movement of chyle.

88 This is the doctrine of pre-existence of the effect (सत्कार्यवाद, *satkāryavāda*) first propounded by Sāṅkhya philosophers.

89 fragrance

90 Since chyle becomes semen in a month's time, a question arises "Why then is semen absent in young children?". The reply is given in this passage.

91 The etymological meaning of the Sanskrit word धातु (*dhātu*) is "that which bears [the body]". Thus, the body tissues are called *dhātu-s* because they bear the body. This means that the body tissues are the elements that make up the body and sustain it.

92 Y. T. Ācārya and N. R. Ācārya (Su 1938: 64) quote Cakrapāṇidatta in a footnote: "This is the symptom when the blood vitiated in one part of the body vitiates the blood in another part."

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- 22 The blood that is of the colour of insect cochineal, not thick, and not discoloured should be understood to be in its natural state.
- 23 I will speak of the types of blood that should be let out in another section.
- 24 Now, I speak of those that should not be let out. The swelling appearing in all the limbs of the body of a weak person that happens due to consuming sour food. The swellings of people with jaundice, piles, large abdomen, emaciation, and those of pregnant women.
- 26 In that regard, one should quickly insert the surgical instrument that is simple, not very close, fine, uniform, not deep, and not shallow.
- 26a One should not insert the instrument into the heart, lower belly, anus, navel, waist, groins, eyes, forehead, palms, and soles.
- 26b In the case of swellings filled with pus, one should treat them in the same way as stated earlier.
- 27-27a There, when the swelling is not pierced properly, when phlegm and air have not been sweated out, after having a meal, and due to thickness, the blood does not ooze out or oozes out less. Here is a verse regarding it.
- 28ab-cd *Blood does not ooze out of humans when in contact with air, passing stool or urine, and when intoxicated, unconscious, fatigued, sleeping, or in cold surroundings.*
- 29 That vitiated blood when not taken out increases the disease.
- 30 The blood that is let by an ignorant physician in cases of very hot surroundings, profuse perspiration, and excessive piercing, flows excessively. That profuse bleeding causes the appearance of acute headache, blindness, and partial blindness, or it quickly causes subsequent wasting, convulsions, tremors, hemiplegia, paralysis in a limb, hiccups, coughing, panting, jaundice, or death.
- 31ab-cd The physician should let out the blood when the weather is not very hot or cold, when the patient is not perspiring or heated up, and after the patient has had a sufficient intake of gruel.
- 32ab-cd After coming out properly, when the blood stops automatically, one should know that blood to be pure and drained properly.
- 33ab-cd The symptoms of the proper drainage of blood are the experience of lightness, alleviation of pain, a complete end of the intensity of the disease, and satisfaction of the mind.
- 34ab-cd Defects of the skin, tumours, swellings, and all diseases caused by

blood never arise for those who regularly drain their blood.

- 35 When the blood does not flow out, the physician should rub cardamom and camphor on the opening of the boil with three or four or all among crêpe ginger (*Cheilocostus speciosus*), butterfly gardenia (*Ervatamia coronaria* Stapf), [velvet-leaf](#), [deodar](#), [embelia](#), [leadwort](#), the three spices (black pepper, long pepper, and dry ginger), soot from the chimney (*āgāradhūma*), turmeric, sprouts of [purple calotropis](#), and fruit of the [Indian beech](#), according to availability, with excessive salt. By doing so, the blood flows out properly.
- 36 When there is an excessive flow of blood, the physician should sprinkle the opening of the boil with dry powders of [lodh tree](#), liquorice, [fox-tail millet](#), [sappanwood](#), red chalk, [elixir salve](#), seashell, barley, [green gram](#), wheat, and resin of the Sāla tree, and then press it with the tip of a finger. One should tightly bind it with powdered barks of Sāla, [white dammer tree](#), [arjun](#), [white babool](#), [granthi](#), [axlewood](#), and *dhanvana* (Camelthorn), or a linen cloth⁹³, or *vadhyāsita*, or bone of cuttlefish, or powdered lac, along with the binding materials mentioned. After the piercing, the physician should pierce it again. The physician should serve cool clothing, food, a dwelling place, a bath, cooling ointments, and plastering. Or, one can cauterize it with heat. Or, as mentioned, one should give a decoction of *kākolī*, etc. sweetened by sugar and honey to drink. Or, one should consume the blood of black buck, deer, ram, buffalo, rabbit, or pig, accompanied by milk, green gram soup and meat soup⁹⁴. The physician should treat the pains as mentioned.
- 36a Here are verses about this.
- 37ab-cd *When blood flows out due to the decay of body tissue, fire becomes weak⁹⁵ and the wind becomes highly agitated because of that endeavour.*
- 38ab-cd *The physician should serve the patient food that is not very cold, light in digestion, unctuous, increases blood, slightly sour or not sour at all.*
- 39ab-cd *This is the four-fold method of hindering blood: joining, coagulation, haemostasis. and cauterization.*

93 [Su 1938](#): 66 has क्षौमेण वा ध्मापितेन - "with linen reduced to ashes". Presumably, it is this ash that is also referred to in item 40.

94 Based on Ḍalhaṇa's comment as found in [Su 1938](#): 66

95 This refers to the digestive fire.

- 40ab-cd *The astringent substance joins the opening, the cold substance coagulates the blood, the ash stops the blood, and cauterization contracts the blood vessel.*
- 41ab-cd *If the blood does not coagulate, the physician should employ joining. If the blood does not stop by joining the opening then he should employ haemostasis.*
- 42ab-cd *The physician should endeavour by employing these three methods according to the procedure. If these methods are unsuccessful then cauterization is highly desirable.*
- 43ab-cd *If the blood remains impure, the disease does not aggravate. The physician should then make the blood pure⁹⁶ and not drain blood in excess.*
- 44ab-cd *Blood is the basis of the body. It is sustained by blood only.*
- 44ef *Blood is called life. One should therefore save blood.*
- 45ab-cd *If the air in the person who underwent blood-letting is aggravated due to a cold shower, etc., the swelling with pricking pain should be sprinkled with lukewarm clarified butter.*

Can't be
"sedation"

⁹⁶ Ḍalhaṇa comments (Su 1938: 66) that one should purify the blood again by sedation, etc.

Sūtrasthāna 16: Repairing Pierced Ears

Previous literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.⁹⁷ A book on this topic, arising out of the present project, with edition, translation and discussion of the Nepalese transmission is published by Wujastyk et al. 2023.

Translation

1 Now we shall expound the method for piercing the ear.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ HIML: IA, 211–212317.

⁹⁸ The topic of piercing the ear (*kaṇavyadha*) is not discussed in the *Carakasamhitā* (HIML: IB, 326, n. 175), but it is mentioned in some texts that followed the *Suśrutasamhitā*, such as the *Kaśāpyasamhitā* (HIML: IIA, 30). Also, the instrument for piercing the ear is described in the *Aṣṭāṅgaśāstrīdayasamhitā* 1.26.26 (Ah 1939: 321). In the versions of the text known to Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 76) and Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 125), the heading of this chapter is “the method of piercing and joining the ear” (कर्णव्यधबन्धविधि), instead of the Nepalese version’s “the method of piercing the ear” (कर्णव्यधविधि). The topic of joining the ear (कर्णबन्ध) is discussed in passages 17–20 of the Nepalese version. However, it appears that only subsequent redactors reflected its importance by including it in chapter headings.

The Nepalese version also omits the opening remark on Dhanvantari that appears in subsequent versions of the text. For a discussion of the frame story in the Nepalese version, see Birch et al. 2021.

When commenting on this statement, Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 76) and Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 125) observed that only the ears of healthy people should be pierced, and they quoted the lost authority Bhoja to affirm this: “When piercing the ears of chil-

- 2 One may pierce a child's ears for the purpose of preserving and decorating. During the bright fortnight, when the child is in the sixth or seventh month, on renowned days, half days, hours and constellations, the physician, with a calming presence, sits the boy, who has received a benediction and the recitation of a blessing,⁹⁹ on the lap of a wet-nurse.¹⁰⁰ Then, he should pull the ear with his left hand and pierce straight through with his right hand at a naturally-occurring cleft.¹⁰¹ For a boy, do the right ear first; for a girl, do the left one. Use a needle on a thin ear; an awl on a thick one.¹⁰²
- 3 One may know that it was pierced in the wrong place if there is excess blood or too much pain. The absence of side-effects is a sign that it has been pierced in the right place.¹⁰³

dren who are free of disease at these times, their ear flaps and apertures, as well as limbs, increase" (1.16.1 (Su 1938: 76)).

Some texts use the adjective कर्ण-वेधनी rather than व्यधनी.

- 99 The causative form व्यधयेत् is known in Classical Sanskrit (Whitney 1885: 166). The compound कृतमङ्गलस्वस्तिवाचनं "who has received a benediction and the recitation of a blessing" is an emendation based on the similar text at 3.2.25 (Su 1938: 346). Cf. also 3.10.8, 24 (Su 1938: 388, 390) that have slightly different formulations.
- 100 The versions of 1.16.3 known to Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 126) and Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 76) have the additional compound कुमारधराङ्के ("on the lap of one who holds the child") after धात्र्यङ्के. The gender of कुमारधर is made clear by Ḍalhaṇa's gloss "a man who holds the child." Also, both versions add बालक्रीडनकैः प्रलोभ्य ("having enticed with children's toys") to indicate that the child should be tempted with toys to stay on the assistant's lap. According to Ḍalhaṇa on 1.16.3 (Su 1938: 76), the toys include replica elephants, horses, bulls and parrots. Ḍalhaṇa further mentions that others read भक्ष्यविशेषैर्वा ("or by special treats") before बालक्रीडनकैः, but we see no trace of these small kindnesses in our witnesses.
- 101 The versions of 1.16.3 of Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 126) and Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 76) add that this naturally-occurring cleft is illuminated by a ray of sunshine (आदित्यकरावभासिते). The syntax of this slightly long sentence is unusual because of the dual object तौ "the two (ears)" at the start of the sentence, which is remote from the main verb. The other singular accusatives referring to the ear being pierced are governed by absolutes.
- 102 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.16.3 (Su 1938: 76) clarifies that the awl is a shoe-maker's knife for piercing leather. He also cites the authority of "the notes of Lakṣmaṇa" (Lakṣmaṇa-ṭippanāka) on the issue of the thickness of the needle. The Notes of Lakṣmaṇa is not known from any earlier or contemporary sources and was presumably a collection of glosses on the Suśrutasamhitā that was available to Ḍalhaṇa in twelfth-century Bengal. See Meulenbeld (HIML: IA, 386).
- 103 At this point, MS Kathmandu KL 699 is missing a folio, so the rest of this chapter is

- 4 In this context, if an ignorant person randomly pierces a duct there will be fever, burning, swelling, pain, lumps, paralysis of the nape of the neck, convulsions, headache or sharp pain in the ear.¹⁰⁴
- 5 Having removed the wick (*vartti*) because of the accumulation of humours or an unsatisfactory piercing at that location,¹⁰⁵ he should smear it with barley, liquorice, *Indian madder*, and the root of the *castor oil tree*, thickened with honey and ghee. And when it has healed well, he should pierce it again.¹⁰⁶
- 6 He should treat the properly-pierced ear by sprinkling it with raw sesame oil. After every three days one should make a thicker wick and do the very same sprinkling.¹⁰⁷
- 7 Once the ear is free from humours or side-effects, one should put in a light dilator (*pravardhanaka*) in order to enlarge it enough.¹⁰⁸

constructed on the basis of witnesses MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333 and MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079.

- 104 This passage is significantly augmented in Cakrapāṇidatta's and Ḍalhaṇa's versions, to outline the specific problems caused by piercing three ducts called कालिका, मर्मिका and लोहितिका (1.16.4 (Su 1939: 126) and 1.16.5 (Su 1938: 77) respectively). In fact, the order of the problems mentioned in the Nepalese version has been retained in the other versions and divided between each duct. Cakrapāṇidatta's commentary on 1.16.4 (Su 1939: 126) cites several verses attributed to Bhoja on the problems caused by piercing these three ducts in the ear flap: 'लोहितिका, मर्मिका and the black ones are the ducts situated in the earflaps. Listen in due order to the problems that arise when they are pierced. Paralysis of the nape of the neck and convulsions, or sharp pain arise from piercing लोहितिका. Pain and lumps are thought to arise from piercing मर्मिका. Piercing कालिका gives rise to swelling, fever and burning.'
- 105 In addition to these reasons, Ḍalhaṇa at 1.16.6 (Su 1938: 77) added "because of piercing with a painful, crooked and unsatisfactory needle" (क्लिष्टजिह्वाप्रशस्तसूचीव्यधात्) and "because of a wick that is too thick" (गाढतरवर्तित्वात्). Ḍalhaṇa was aware of the reading in the Nepalese version because in his commentary on 1.16.6 (Su 1938: 77) he noted that some read "because of the accumulation of humours" rather than "because of piercing with a painful, crooked and unsatisfactory needle or because of a wick that is too thick." On the concept of humoral accumulation (*samudāya*), see the important analysis by Meulenbeld (1992).
- 106 The description of the drug is ambiguous: the word "root" could be taken with each plant, or just with the last. The vulgate reads just "castor oil root" so we assume that is the traditional interpretation.
- 107 Describing ear and nose operations similar to those here, Celsus described the use of a quill (Latin *pinna*) where the Sanskrit authors use a cotton wick (*De Medicina* VII ¶10–11, Spencer 1935–38: 3, 366–367).
- 108 Cakrapāṇidatta on 1.16.6 (Su 1939: 127) and Ḍalhaṇa on 1.16.8 (Su 1938: 77) pointed out that the dilator can be made of wood, such as that of the *prickly chaff-flower*,

- 8 A person's ear enlarged in this way can split in two, either as a result of the humours¹⁰⁹ or a blow.

Listen to me about the ways of joining it can have.

- 9 Here, there are, in brief, fifteen ways of mending the ear flap.¹¹⁰ They are as follows: Rim-join (*nemīsandhānaka*), Lotus-splittable (*utpalabhedyaka*), Dried Flesh (*vallūraka*), Fastening (*āsaṅgima*), Cheek-ear (*gaṇḍakarṇa*), Take away (*āhārya*), Ready-Split (*nirvedhima*), Multi-joins (*vyāyojima*), Door-hinge (*kapāṭasandhika*), Half door-hinge (*ardhakapāṭasandhika*), Compressed (*saṃkṣipta*), Reduced-ear (*hīnakarṇa*), Creeper-ear (*vallīkarṇa*), Stick-ear (*yaṣṭīkarṇa*), and Crow's lip (*kākauṣṭha*).¹¹¹

In this context, among these,

Rim-join:	both flaps are wide, long, and equal.
Lotus-splittable:	both flaps are round, long, and equal.
Dried flesh:	both flaps are short, round, and equal.
Fastening:	one flap is longer on the inside.
Cheek-ear:	one flap is longer on the outside. ¹¹²
Take-away:	the flaps are missing, in fact, on both sides.
Ready-split:	the flaps are like a dais (<i>pīṭha</i>).
Multi-joins:	one flap is small, the other thick, one flap is equal, the other unequal.
Door-hinge:	the flap on the inside is long, the other is small.
Half door-hinge:	the flap on the outside is long, the other is small.

the *neem tree* and *tree cotton*. Ḍalhaṇa added that it can also be made of lead and should have the shape of the *datura* flower. The manuscripts have variant readings for लघुप्रवर्धनकमामुञ्चेत् at this point that include a scribal emendation, none of which construe plausibly. It is possible that the unusual verb form आ+√मुच् puzzled the scribes and caused the implausible scribal readings and emendations.

109 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.16.9 (Su 1938: 77) notes that the word दोष here can refer to either a humour, such as wind, as we have understood it, or a disease generated from a humour.

110 The Nepalese version uses the word सन्धान to refer to joining a split in an ear flap, which is consistent with the terminology in the verse cited above (8). However, 1.16.10 of Ḍalhaṇa's version (Su 1938: 77) uses the term बन्ध here and at the very beginning of the chapter (i.e., 1.16.1) to introduce the topic of repairing the ear.

111 For an artist's impression of these different kinds of joins in the ear flap, see Majno 1975: 290 (reproduced as Figure 3.2 in Wujastyk 2003b: 154).

112 For an artist's impression of this join, see Majno 1975: 291 (reproduced as Figure 3.3 in Wujastyk 2003b: 155).

These ten options for joins of the ear should be bound. They can mostly be explained as resembling their names.¹¹³ The five from compressed (*saṃkṣipta*) on are incurable.¹¹⁴ Among these, “Compressed” has a dry ear canal and the other flap is small. “Reduced ear” has flaps that have no base and have wasted flesh on their edges. “Creeper-ear” has flaps that are thin and uneven. “Stick-ear” has lumpy flesh and the flaps are stretched thin and have stiff ducts. “Crow-lip” has a flap without flesh with compressed tips and little blood. Even when they are bound up, they do not heal because they are hot, inflamed, suppurating, or swollen.¹¹⁵

- 10 A person wishing to perform a join of any of these should therefore have supplies specially prepared according to the recommendations of the “Preparatory Supplies” chapter.¹¹⁶ And in this regard, he should particularly gather¹¹⁷ top layer of fermented liquor, milk, water, fermented rice-water, and powdered earthenware crockery (*kapālacūrṇa*).¹¹⁸

113 Cakrapāṇidatta on 1.16.9–13 (Su 1939: 128–129) and Ḍalhaṇa on 1.16.10 (Su 1938: 77–78) provide examples of how the names of these joins describe their shapes. For example, the rim-join (*nemīsandhānaka*) is similar to the join of the rim of a wheel (*cakradhārā*).

114 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.16.10 (Su 1938: 77–78) mentions that some do not read the statement that only five are incurable, and they understand the causes of unsuccessful joins given below (i.e., heat, inflammation, suppuration and swelling) as also pertaining to the first ten when they do heal.

115 The version of 1.16.11–13 known to Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 78) has four verses (श्लोक) at this point that are not in the Nepalese manuscripts. The additional verses iterate the types of joins required for ear flaps that are missing, elongated, thick, wide, etc. All four verses were probably absent in the version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* known to Cakrapāṇidatta. He cites the verses separately in his commentary, the *Bhānumatī* (Su 1939: 128–129), introducing each one as ‘some people read’ (के चित्पठन्ति). However, in Trikamajī Ācārya’s edition of the *Sūtrasthāna* of the *Bhānumatī*, the root text is largely identical to the one commented on by Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938), even in instances like this where Cakrapāṇidatta’s commentary indicates that he was reading a different version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. See further the discussion on p. ?? above.

116 *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.5 (Su 1938: 18–23), probably verse 6 especially, that lists the equipment and medications that a surgeon should have ready.

117 The reading in the Nepalese manuscripts of विशेषतश्चाग्नोपहरणीयात् has been emended to विशेषतश्चात्रोपहरेत् to make sense of the list of ingredients, which is in the accusative case. Also, the repetition of अग्नोपहरणीयात् in the Nepalese version suggests that its second occurrence, which does not make good sense here, is a dittographic error.

118 The term कपालचूर्ण is unusual. Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 79) defines it as the powder of fragments of fresh earthen pots and Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 129) as the powder of earth-

Next, having made the woman or man tie up the ends of their hair, eat lightly and be firmly held by qualified attendants, the physician considers the joins and then applies them by means of cutting, splitting, scarification, or piercing.¹¹⁹ Next, he should examine the blood of the ear to know whether it is tainted or not. If it is tainted by wind, the ear should be bathed with *fermented rice-water* and water; if tainted by choler, then cold water and milk should be used; if tainted by phlegm, then *top layer of fermented liquor* and water should be used, and then he should scarify it again.

After arranging the join in the ear so that it is neither proud, depressed, nor uneven, and observing that the blood has stopped, one should anoint it with honey and ghee, bandage each ear with *tree cotton* and gauze (*plota*), and bind it up with a thread, neither too tightly nor too loosely. Then, the physician should sprinkle earthenware powder on it and provide medical advice (*ācārika*). And he should supplement with food as taught in the “Two Wound” chapter.¹²⁰

- 11 *One should avoid rubbing, sleeping during the day, exercise, overeating, sex, getting hot by a fire, or the effort of speaking.*
- 12 *One should not make a join when the blood is too pure, too copious, or too thin.*¹²¹ *For when the ear is tainted by wind, then it is obstructed by blood, unhealed and will peel. When tainted with choler, it becomes pinched (*gāḍha*), septic and red. When tainted by phlegm, it will be stiff and itchy. It has excessively copious suppuration and is swollen. It has a small amount of wasted (*kṣīṇa*) flesh and it will not grow.*¹²²
- 13 *When the ear is properly healed and there are no complications, one may very gradually start to expand it. Otherwise, it may be inflamed*

enware vessels.

119 There are syntactic difficulties in this sentence. We have adopted the reading in Ḍalhaṇa’s version (Su 1938: 78), which has च कृत्वा following सुपरिगृहीतं. It is likely that a verb, such as कृत्वा, dropped out of the Nepalese transmission.

120 *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 4.1 (Su 1938: 396–408).

121 1.16.17 of Ḍalhaṇa’s version (Su 1938: 79) reads “impure” for the Nepalese “too pure,” which would appear to make better medical sense. Emending the text to नाशुद्ध- for नातिशुद्ध- in the Nepalese version would yield the same meaning as Ḍalhaṇa’s version.

122 In his edition of *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, Ācārya (Su 1938: 79 n. 1) includes in parentheses the following treatment for these conditions, which according to a footnote is not found in the palm-leaf manuscript he used: ‘One should sprinkle it with raw sesame oil for three days and one should renew the cotton bandage after three days’ (आमतैलेन त्रिरात्रं परिषेचयेत्त्रिरात्राच्च पिचुं परिवर्तयेत्).

- (*saṃrambha*), burning, septic or painful. It may even split open again.
- 14 Now, massage for the healthy ear, in order to enlarge it.
One should gather as much as one can the following: a *Indian monitor lizard*, scavenging and seed-eating birds, and creatures that live in marshes or water,¹²³ fat, marrow, milk, and sesame oil, and white mustard oil.¹²⁴ Then cook the oil with an admixture of the following: *purple calotropis*, *white calotropis*, *heart-leaf sida*, *country mallow*, *country sarsaparilla*, *Indian kudzu*, *liquorice*, and *hornwort*.¹²⁵ This should then be deposited in a well-protected spot.
- 15 *The wise man who has been sweated should rub the massaged ear with it. Then it will be free of complications, and will enlarge properly and be strong.*¹²⁶
- 16 *Ears which do not enlarge even when sweated and oiled, should be scarified at the edge of the hole, but not outside it.*¹²⁷
- 17 *In this tradition, experts know countless repairs to ears. So a physician who is very intent on working in this way may repair them.*¹²⁸

123 For such classifications, see the analyses by Zimmermann (1999) and B. K. Smith (1994).

124 Ḍalhaṇa's version of 1.16.19 (Su 1938: 79) includes ghee. However, Ḍalhaṇa's remarks on this passage and Cakrapāṇidatta's on 1.16.18 (Su 1939: 130) indicate that they knew a version of this recipe, perhaps similar to the Nepalese one, that did not include ghee. Ḍalhaṇa also noted that others simply read four oils, beginning with fat and without milk, whereas Cakrapāṇidatta said that some say it is made with four oils and milk.

125 The version of of this verse known to Ḍalhaṇa (vulgate (Su 1938: 79)) adds several ingredients to this admixture, including *prickly chaff-flower*, *Withania*, *milk-white*, *sweet plants* and *Indian ipecac*. Also, it has *beggarweed* instead of *Indian kudzu*. When commenting on 1.16.19, Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 79) noted that some do not read *sweet plants* and *Indian ipecac*. Therefore, at his time there were other versions of this recipe circulating, with fewer ingredients, as seen in the Nepalese version.

126 For these aims (i.e., healing and enlarging the ear), the text known to Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 79) had an additional verse and a half describing an ointment for rubbing the ear and *sesame oil* cooked with various medicines for massage. Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 131) did not comment on these verses, nor verse 15 of the Nepalese version, and so the version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* known to him may not have included them.

127 Ḍalhaṇa's version of 1.16.23 (Su 1938: 79–80) added another hemistich that stated more explicitly that the scarification should not be done on the outside of hole as it will cause derangement.

128 After verse 17, the 1938 edition of Ācārya (Su 1938: 80) has in parentheses nineteen verses on diseases of the ear lobes, treatments and complications. It is possible that these verses were in some of the witnesses used by Ācārya to construct the text as they occur in other manuscripts, such as MS Hyderabad Osmania 137-3(b). However, Cakrapāṇidatta (Su 1939: 132) and Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 80) stated that some read

- 18 If an ear has grown hair, has a nice hole, a firm join, and is strong and even, well-healed, and free from pain, then one can enlarge it slowly.¹²⁹
- 19 Now I shall describe the proper method of making a repair when a nose is severed. First, take from the trees a leaf the same size as the man's nose and hang it on him.
- 20 Next, having cut a slice of flesh (vadhra),¹³⁰ with the same measurements, off the cheek, the end of the nose is then scarified.¹³¹ Then the undistracted physician, should quickly put it back together so that it is well joined.
- 21 Having carefully observed that it has been sewn up properly, he should then fasten it along with two tubes.¹³² Having caused it to be raised,¹³³ the powder of sappanwood,¹³⁴ liquorice and Indian barberry should be sprinkled on it.¹³⁵
- 22 The wound should be covered properly with tree cotton and should be moistened repeatedly with sesame oil. Ghee should be given to the man to drink. His digestion being complete, he should be oiled and purged in accordance with the

about the diseases of the ear lobes in this chapter whereas others read about them in the chapter on various treatments (*miśrakacikitsa*) (SS 5.25), which does indeed begin with a discussion of the disease परिपोट. Ḍalhaṇa went on to say that some believe that these verses were not composed by sages and, therefore, do not read them.

129 The order of verses 17 and 18 is reversed in Ḍalhaṇa's version (Su 1938: 80).

130 The version of 1.16.28b known to Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 81) reads "bound, connected (*bad-dham*)" instead of "slice of flesh (*vadhra*)." This is a critical variant from the surgical point of view. If the slice remains connected, it will have a continuing blood supply. This is one of the effective techniques that so astonished surgeons witnessing a similar operation in Pune in the eighteenth century (see Wujastyk 2003b: 67–70).

131 Or 1.16.20 could be mean, '... off the cheek, it is fixed to the end of the nose, which has been scarified.' Unfortunately, the Sanskrit of the Nepalese version is not unambiguous on the important point of whether or not the flap of grafted skin remains connected to its original site on the cheek. However, Ḍalhaṇa (Su 1938: 81) clarified the meaning of the vulgate here by stating that one should supply the word "flesh" when reading "connected," thus indicating that he understood the flesh to be connected to the face.

132 Ḍalhaṇa noted that the two tubes should be made of reed or the stalk of the leaf of the castor-oil plant (on 1.16.21 (Su 1938: 81)). They should not be made of lead or betel nut because the weight will cause them to slip down.

133 The Sanskrit term उन्नामयित्वा in 1.16.21 is non-Pāṇinian.

134 For पत्ताङ्ग (sappanwood), there are manuscript variants पत्ताङ्ग (MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333) and पत्तङ्ग (MS Kathmandu NAK 1-1079). Also, MS Kathmandu KL 699 (f. 14r:1) has पत्ताङ्ग in a verse in 1.14 (cf. 1.14.36 (Su 1938: 66)). The text known to Ḍalhaṇa has पत्तङ्ग (1.16.29 (Su 1938: 81)) and this term is propagated in modern dictionaries.

135 Ḍalhaṇa glossed अञ्जन as रसाञ्जन, elixir salve (Su 1938: 81).

- instructions specific to him.*¹³⁶
- 23 *And once healed and really come together, what is left of that slice of flesh (vadhra) should then be trimmed.*¹³⁷ *If it is reduced, however, one should make an effort to stretch it, and one should make its overgrown flesh smooth.*¹³⁸

¹³⁶ The expression स्वयथोपदेश is ungrammatical but supported in all available witnesses.

¹³⁷ The vulgate transmission has lost the word वध्र and replaced it with अर्ध "half," which makes little sense in this surgical context.

¹³⁸ Ḍalhaṇa accepted a verse following this, 1.16.32 (Su 1938: 81), which pointed out that the procedure for joining the nose is similar to that of joining the lips without fusing the ducts. He noted that earlier teachers did not think this statement on the nose and lips was made by sages, but he included it because it was accepted by Jejjāṭa, Gayadāsa and others, although they did not comment on it because it was easy to understand. Cakrapāṇidatta also did not comment on this additional verse (Su 1939: 133).

Sūtrasthāna 28: Unfavourable Prognosis in Patients with Sores

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.¹³⁹

Goswami studied the commentaries of Ḍalhaṇa and Cakrapāṇidatta on this and the following adhyāyas up to 32, focussing on the topic of omens (*ariṣṭa*). He concluded that both authors were influenced by the Indriyasthāna of the *Carakasamhitā* in their commentaries on this topic.¹⁴⁰

Translation

- 1 Thus, living creatures and their strength, complexion (*varṇa*) and energy (*ojas*) are rooted in food. That (food) depends on the six flavours (*rasa*). Thus, the flavours depend on substance (*dravya*), and substances depend on medicinal herbs. There are two kinds of them (herbs): stationary and mobile.¹⁴¹

¹³⁹ HIML: IA, 219.

¹⁴⁰ Goswami 2011.

¹⁴¹ 1.1.28 (Su 1938: 7), tr. P. V. Sharma 1999–2001: 1, 21.

Sūtrasthāna 46: The Rules about Food and Drink

Introduction

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83 ¹⁴²

¹⁴² This is the first place at which the term दूषीविष occurs in the *Suśrutasamhitā*. The term दोष was given important discussion by Meulenbeld [1991](#); [1992](#); [2011](#). See also Das [2003](#): 548–550.

Part 2. Nidānasthāna

Nidānasthāna 1: The Diagnosis of Diseases Caused by Wind

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.¹⁴³

Subject matter

It is notable that this nosological part of the *Suśrutasamhitā* opens with a chapter on diseases of wind (*vāta*). In all other major Āyurvedic works, including the *Carakasamhitā*, the first chapter in the section on nosology deals with the symptoms of fever (*jvara*). This is almost a defining feature of works on nosology. But in the *Suśrutasamhitā*, fever is not addressed at all in the first five sections of the work, but only in the thirty-ninth chapter of the Uttaratantṛa, which is exceptionally long at about three hundred verses.

The present chapter describes the diseases caused by vitiated wind and wind's mixing with other humours. Contemporary Ayurvedic physicians consider these diseases to include rheumatism.

We have not translated the terms *prāṇa* ...because the text defines them.

complete
this
thought

Translation

- 1 And now we shall explain the chapter about the aetiology of wind diseases.

¹⁴³ HIML: IA, 234. (Ruben 1954) studied the wind doctrines in the *Carakasamhitā*.

- 3 After holding the feet of Dhanvantari, the foremost of the upholders of righteousness who emerged out of nectar, Suśruta makes this enquiry.¹⁴⁴
- 4 O King! O best of orators! Explain the location and types of diseases of the wind, whether in its natural state or disordered.¹⁴⁵
- 5–9 On hearing his words, the venerable sage spoke. This lordly wind is declared to be self-born because it is independent, constant and omnipresent. It is worshipped by the whole world. Amongst all beings, it is the self of all. During creation, continued existence and destruction, it is the cause of beings.
It is unmanifest though its actions are manifest; it is cold, dry, light, and mobile. It moves horizontally, has two attributes and is full of dust (*rajas*).¹⁴⁶ It has inconceivable power. It is the leader of the humours¹⁴⁷ and the ruler of the multitude of diseases.
It moves fast, it moves constantly, it is located in the stomach and in the rectum.¹⁴⁸
- 9cd Now, learn from me the characteristics of wind as it moves inside the body.¹⁴⁹
- 10 Wind connects the senses and the sense objects. Unvitiated, it maintains a state of equality between the humours (*doṣa*), the bodily tissues (*dhātu*) and heat (*agni*) and the rightness (*ānulomya*) of actions.¹⁵⁰

144 Explain the nectar myth.

145 MSS H and N both read भूपते instead of कोपनैः in the vulgate: instead of addressing the king, the vulgate is saying “by irritations of the wind....” The vulgate also has Suśruta asking about कर्म, whereas in the Nepalese version he asks only about the types of diseases. Note that Dhanvantari is here addressed as king, a title associated elsewhere with Divosdāsa.

146 According to Ḍalhaṇa on 2.1.8 (Su 1938: 257), the two qualities are sound and tangibility. The word रजस् could also refer to the quality of activity in the three-quality (*guṇa*) theory, which is how Ḍalhaṇa interpreted it. On the semantic field of रजस्, see Das 2003: 14 note 26 and ff.

147 Ḍalhaṇa on 2.1.8 (Su 1938: 257) interpreted नेता “leader” as प्रेरक “impeller.”

148 MS H read आशुचारी, which we have translated (“moves fast”), but MS N and the commentators of the vulgate read आशुकारी, “quick-acting.”

149 Ḍalhaṇa and Cakrapāṇidatta both interpreted मे as an ablative (2.1.8 (Su 1938: 258)).

150 According to Ḍalhaṇa on 1.6.3 (Su 1938: 23), सम्पत्तिः=सम्पन्नता. According to Ḍalhaṇa, Gayadāsa read इन्द्रियार्थोपसंप्राप्तिं but Ḍalhaṇa did not accept this on the grounds that it was too verbose: गयदासाचार्यस्तु इमं श्लोकं ‘इन्द्रियार्थोपसंप्राप्तिः इत्यादि कृत्वा पठति, स च विस्तरभयान्न लिखितः । But witnesses H and N suggest the reading इन्द्रियार्थोपसम्पत्तिः.

The expression “qualities” is used advisedly. It is almost universal practice to refer to

add foot-
note here

add refs to
Divodāsa as
king.

- 11 Just as the fire is divided into five types by name, place and their actions, similarly, one type of air is divided into five types based on name, place, action and diseases.
- 12 Five types of wind:¹⁵¹
1. prāṇa,
 2. udāna,
 3. samāna,
 4. vyāna,
 5. apāna.¹⁵²

The above five types of wind remain in their state of equality and support the body.¹⁵³

- 13–14ab The wind that flows through the mouth is called the vital wind (*prāṇa*), the sustainer of the body. It causes food to enter within and supports the breaths.¹⁵⁴ It mostly causes diseases like hiccups and wheezing (*śvāsa*).
- 14cd–15 Since it is the one that flows upwards, that highest of winds is called udāna.¹⁵⁵ Special acts like speech and singing are all initiated by it. It particularly causes diseases above the neck (*jatru*).¹⁵⁶
- 16–17ab The samāna wind flows in the receptacles of raw and of digested matter.¹⁵⁷ Assisting the digestive fire (*agni*), it cooks food and separates out

“balance” or “equilibrium” in such contexts, but this misrepresents the metaphor that the Sanskrit sources are using. As the commentators on *Aṣṭāṅgahrdayasaṃhitā* 1.1.20 (Ah 1939: 14) make abundantly clear, the expression *doṣasāmya* means “equality of humours,” as in *quantitative* equality, not balance.

- 151 See Zysk 1993. Zysk (2007: S110) translated the following descriptions of the winds.
- 152 We use the Sanskrit terms which are generally recognizable to English readers.
- 153 According to Ḍaḥaṇa on 2.1.12 (Su 1938: 259), स्थान=साम्य, यापयन्ति=धारयन्ति. All the manuscripts read प्राणोदानः समानश्च व्यानोपानस्तथैव च । against the vulgate’s प्राणोदानौ समानश्च व्यानश्चापान एव च ।.
- 154 According to Ḍaḥaṇa on 2.1.13–14ab (Su 1938: 259), प्राण also resides in the throat and nose.
- 155 The sentence plays on the sound उत्- ऊर्ध्व- in the qualifiers (उदान, ऊर्ध्वम्, उत्तम). According to Ḍaḥaṇa on 2.1.14cd–15 (Su 1938: 260), the places of udāna wind are not mentioned here, but it also flows in the navel, stomach and throat. In yoga literature, it is more common for prāṇa to be called the principle breath.
- 156 Ḍaḥaṇa noted that “above the *jatru*” would include eyes, nose, ears, face, and head. Meulenbeld cited discussions on the difficulties of interpreting the term जत्रु (Meulenbeld 1974b: 465). Hoernle (1907: §§62, 98) translated *jatru* as “neck, windpipe”. See also Hoernle’s notes on the expression “above the *jatru*” (idem, 237–238).
- 157 The “receptacle of raw matter” (आमाशय) is described at 1.21.12 (Su 1938: 102) as one

- the substances produced from it.¹⁵⁸
 It mainly causes abdominal swelling (*gulma*), diminished digestive fire (*agnisaṅga*) and diarrhoea.¹⁵⁹
- 17cd–18 The vyāna moves everywhere in the body, active in making chyle (*rasa*) flow. It also makes sweat and blood flow as well as causing movement **in every respect**.¹⁶⁰ Angered, it causes diseases that generally exist throughout the whole body.
- 19–20ab The apāna resides in the place of digested food and, at the right moment, it draws wind, urine, and feces, as well as semen, fetus and menstrual blood downwards. Angered, it causes terrible diseases located in the bladder and rectum.
- 20cd–21ab Irritated vyāna and apāna winds cause defects of semen and urinary diseases (*prameha*). Simultaneously aggravated, they surely destroy the body.¹⁶¹
- 21cd–22ab From here, I shall describe all the diseases, located in the various places of the body, that are caused by wind that is irritated in various ways.
- 22cd–24 Aggravated wind in the stomach causes diseases like vomiting, as well as disorientation (*moha*), fainting, thirst, heart-seizure (*hṛdgraha*), and pain in the flanks.¹⁶² It also causes rumbling of the bowels, gripes (*śūla*), swollen belly, painful urine and feces, constipation, and pain in the sacrum (*trika*).¹⁶³ Aggravated wind in the ears etc., destroys the senses.
- 25abc–29 Located in the skin, it causes discolouration (*vaivarṇya*), throbbing,

of the locations of phlegm, and the place where food arrives, just above the location of bile, and where the food is moistened and broken down for easy digestion. The “receptacle of digested matter” (पक्वाशय) is described at 1.21.6 (Su 1938: 100) as being located below the navel and above the pelvis and rectum.

158 Gayadāsa had the same reading सहायवान् as the Nepalese version (Su 1938: 260, note 1 and the text of the *Nyācācandrikā*). This suggests that it is the samāna that cooks food, while the vulgate reading involves the equal participation of digestive fire.

159 Ḍalhaṇa on 1.11.8 (Su 1938: 46) described अग्निसङ्ग as “the fire is stuck, dissolved.”

160 The vulgate text reads पञ्चधा “in five ways,” and Ḍalhaṇa listed five kinds of movement (Ḍalhaṇa on 2.1.18 (Su 1938: 260)).

161 Ḍalhaṇa on 2.1.21ab (Su 1938: 261) clarified that this refers to all five winds being aggravated at once.

162 On “disorientation,” Ḍalhaṇa on 2.1.23ab (Su 1938: 261) noted that the condition was नैवात्यन्तं चित्तनाशः “not the complete loss of awareness.”

163 Hoernle (1907: 140) attributed the quite different interpretation of त्रिक by Ḍalhaṇa on 1.21.14 (Su 1938: 102) to “the decay of anatomical knowledge subsequent to the time of Suśruta.”

dryness, numbness (*supti*), itching (*cumucumāyana*), and pricking pain.¹⁶⁴ Located in the flesh, painful lumps.¹⁶⁵ Located in the fat, it causes slightly painful lumps that are not wounds.

Located in the ducts, it causes acute pain, contraction and filling up of the duct.¹⁶⁶ When it reaches the sinews, it paralyses the network of sinews, and causes them to tremble. Located in the joints, it destroys the joints and it causes sharp pain and swelling. It causes a splitting of the bones, when it acts there, and dryness as well as sharp pain; and when it is in the marrow, it causes an sickness that never abates. Wind located in the semen, it causes the non-production or faulty production of semen.¹⁶⁷

30–31ab Wind moves incrementally from the hand to the foot, the head, and the bodily tissues. Or it may pervade people’s entire bodies, causing stiffness, convulsion, numbness (*svāpa*), swelling, and acute pain everywhere.

164 Maas (2008) definitively clarified the contrasting त्वक्-first and (usually) रस-first models of the bodily elements (*dhātu*) as distinct historical formulations in the earliest medical literature. Das 2003: 267–282 also explored this issue, including the observation that the *Bhedaśaṃhitā* seems to have taught that रस “chyle” was the sources of menstrual blood, in contrast to the *Kāśyapaśaṃhitā* that assigned this role to त्वक् “skin.” In their comments on this passage, Gayadāsa and Ḍalhaṇa both tried to square the circle of these contrasting models by suggesting that त्वक् “skin” should be understood to mean रस “chyle” (on 2.1.25 (Su 1938: 262)). Gayadāsa explained in more detail that chyle is located in the skin and therefore, the expression त्वक्स्थ “located in the skin” should, by extension, be read as रसस्थ “located in the chyle.” He proposed the parallel with the well-known grammatical example of figurative meaning, गङ्गायां घोषः “the village on the Ganges,” which means, really, “the village on the bank of the Ganges” (on this example of figurative meaning, *lakṣaṇā*, see Kunjunni Raja 1963: ch. 6; Jhalakīkar 1978: 698–699).

165 At this point, the vulgate has a passage that is not present in the Nepalese witnesses. It gives more symptoms of wind in the skin and then addresses wind in the blood: “(wind in the skin) may cause prickling, splitting of the skin and peeling; and when it is in the blood, it causes wounds” (Su 1938: 261). The commentators Gayadāsa and Ḍalhaṇa were aware that this passage was missing in some of their manuscripts. Gayadāsa said that this was because some authors noticed that वातरक्त “wind-blood” would be discussed later in the chapter. But they both thought this absence was incorrect (Su 1938: 262).

166 According to Ḍalhaṇa सिराकुञ्चनं is also known as कुटिला सिरा (Su 1938: 262), which may refer to varicose veins.

167 Ḍalhaṇa and Gayadāsa both suggest that a faulty production विकृतां प्रवृत्तिम् is too fast, too slow, knotty and discoloured Su 1938: 262.

Symptoms of diseases that arise because of a combination of five-winds with other humours

- 31cd–32ab In the stated locations, wind that is compounded causes compounded afflictions.¹⁶⁸ And located in the limbs, it can cause a multitude of diseases.¹⁶⁹

Prāṇa

- 34cd–35ab Prāṇa covered by bile causes vomiting and a burning sensation and when covered by phlegm it causes weakness, exhaustion, lassitude and **loss of the sense of taste**.¹⁷⁰

Udāna

- 35cd–36ab When udāna is joined with bile there is bewilderment (*moha*), fainting (*mūrchā*), dizziness (*bhrama*) and exhaustion. And when covered by phlegm there is exhilaration and an absence of perspiration, slow digestion, and coldness.¹⁷¹

Samāna

- 36cd–37ab When is samāna is combined with bile there is perspiration, a burning sensation, a temperature and fainting (*mūrchā*). When in contact with phlegm there is horripilation of the limbs during feces and urine.

¹⁶⁸ Ḍalhaṇa on 2.1.31cd (Su 1938: 262) explained “wind that is compounded” as wind being mixed with bile and phlegm.

¹⁶⁹ The Nepalese version omits passages 2.1.32cd–33ab which are about the diseases that arise when contaminated wind mixes with cough, phlegm and blood (Su 1938: 263).

¹⁷⁰ वैरस्य “loss of the sense of taste” may refer to ageusia. The vulgate reads वैवर्ण्य “loss of colour” (Su 1938: 263). The vulgate’s footnote 1 says that the palm-leaf manuscript reads वैश्वर्य but this is not correct. The palm-leaf manuscript whose readings were sent to Trivikrama Ācārya was witness N, which reads वैरस्य.

¹⁷¹ The expression “exhilaration and an absence of perspiration” translates the Nepalese version’s अस्वेदहर्षः as if it were a dvandva. The vulgate has the easier dvandva, अस्वेदहर्षौ “lack of sweating and also exhilaration” 2.1.36ab (Su 1938: 263). Perhaps the Nepalese reading is an Epic form of m. sing. dvandva as described by Oberlies (2003: 361–362, n. 3).

Apāna

- 37cd–38ab When apāna is associated with bile there is a burning sensation, a temperature and blood in the urine.¹⁷² When covered with phlegm there is a feeling of heaviness in the lower body and coldness.

Vyāna

- 38cd–39ab Vyāna wind surrounded by bile causes a burning sensation, tossing of the limbs and fatigue and surrounded by phlegm it causes stiffening limbs, uddanḍaka? and pain in the swelling.
¹⁷³ Instead of this verse, Nepalese version has a different hemistich here which is स्तम्भनोद्घण्डकश्चापि शोथशूलं कफावृते ||.
- 40–41 Persons who are of delicate nature, follow faulty diet and lifestyle, ? also afflicted with intoxicating drinks, sexual enjoyment, exercise causes vitiation of wind and blood.??
- 42 Riding elephant, horse and camel, lifting great weights, consuming vegetables which are pungent, hot, sour, alkali and being frequently distressed situation causes contamination of wind.
- 43–44 Blood flowing in the body blocks the passage of contaminated wind which moves quickly in the body. Excessively irritated wind–being contaminated by wind and dominance of wind, it is called वातरक्त Gout¹⁷⁴.
- 45–46 Vātarakta causes – pricking pain, dryness, loos of sensation in the feet. Contaminated Bile mixed with blood causes sharp burning sensation, excessive heat and soft swelling with red color in the feet. Contaminated Phlegm mixed with the blood causes itching in the feet. It makes feet white, cold, dry, thick and hard. All defects ¹⁷⁵ in the blood contaminated by humours (wind, bile, phlegm) manifest their symptoms in the feet.
- 48 This disease spreads all over the body like rat poison by staying in feet or sometimes hands.

¹⁷² The This probably describes hematuria. Again we have an Epic m. sing. dvandva.

¹⁷³ Nepalese version omits next verse which is गुरुणि सर्वगात्राणि स्तम्भनं चास्थिपर्वणाम् | लिङ्गं कफावृते व्याने चेष्टास्तम्भस्तथैव च || The verse describes other diseases that cause by contaminated vyāna mix with cough and phlegm. [Su 1938](#): 264.

¹⁷⁴ In the medical term वातरक्त is known as Gout. Cakrapāṇi called it आढ्यरोगः Caraka-saṃhitā sū.14.18 and ci.28.66

¹⁷⁵ Gayadāsa suggests सर्वे दुष्टाः शोणितं चापि nominative plural instead of locative singular.

- 49 Gout spreads in the knee and the skin bursts and starts bleeding makes it incurable. It is mitigatable if it is of a year's old.
- 50–51 When vitiated wind enters in the all arteries it causes quickly convulsions again and again and because of frequent contractions (*ākṣepa*) it is called convulsions (*ākṣepaka*).
- 52–56 Because in this situation a person often sees darkness and fall, it calls spasmodic contraction (*apatānaka*) ¹⁷⁶. If wind mixed with phlegm stays excessively in the arteries, it stiffens body like a staff and it is called दण्डापतानकः epilepsy with convulsions. Vitiated wind entered in the arteries and bends the body like a bow, it is called धनुःस्तम्भ Tetanus. When vitiated wind accumulated in the regions of finger, ankle, abdomen, heart, chest, and throat swiftly attack on the group of vein and ligaments, it gets a person's eyes stuck, chin stuns, side breaks and vomiting phlegm he moves inwards like a bow and this situation is known as emprosthotonos (*antarāyāma*). When vitiated wind attacks on outside ligaments, body of a person will stretch forward like a bow. In this situation, if the chest, hip or thigh break, wise men call it incurable.
- 58 Aggravated phlegm and bile mixed with wind or only vitiated wind causes fourth convulsive disease due to trauma.
- 59 Convulsions due to miscarriage, excessive bleeding, and injury are incurable ¹⁷⁷.
- 60–62 When excessively agitated and strong wind flows in the arteries which spread downward, upward, and sideways, it loses the joints and kills the other side of body. The best of physicians calls it paralysis (*pakṣāṅghāta*). ¹⁷⁸ Then half of his entire body becomes inefficient and unconscious. Afflicted by wind he suddenly falls or dies.
- 62.1 Bile integrates with wind causes burning sensation, affliction, and infatuation. When it integrates with phlegm causes coldness, morbid swelling, and heaviness. ¹⁷⁹.

176 Gayadāsa accepted the Nepalese reading ताम्यते which vulgate does not read. Gayadāsa gives definition of अपतानक as येनापताम्यते means a situation in that a person sees the dark.

177 According to Ḍaḥaṇa convulsion (*ākṣepaka*) is also known as अपतानक (Su 1938:266). He further mentions that even if fortunately, it is cured, it cripples the limb.

178 In the ca.6.28.55 पक्षाघात is described as monoplegia (*ekāṅgaroga*). In that case it damages one of the limbs. In the medical terms paralysis (*apakṣāṅghāta*) is known as hemiplegia.

179 This verse is not available in vulgate. It deals with the symptoms when bile and

- 63 A paralysis (*pakṣāghāta*) caused by wind ¹⁸⁰ is curable with most difficulty. It becomes curable when caused by bile and phlegm mix with the wind. It becomes incurable when caused by the loss of bodily constituents.
- 64–66 Verses from 64–66 are not found in the Nepalese manuscripts. These verses discuss the term spasmodic contradiction (*āpatantraka*) which is the same as अपतानक. Ḍalhaṇa commented on ni.1.64-66 (Su 1938:267) that because of having the similar condition in both situations, some scholars do not read the अपतन्त्रक. In the verse ni.1.59 Ḍalhaṇa commented that the आक्षेपक and अपतानक is same (Su 1938:266) and again he suggested that the अपतानक and अपतन्त्रक both are similar condition. Therefore, आक्षेपक, अपतानक and अपतन्त्रक should be the same. Gaya-dāsa further commented that the Caraka has not read आक्षेपक as अपतानक and therefore described the अपतन्त्रक separately (Su 1938:267).
- 67 This verse also not found in the Nepalese Manuscripts. The verse describes rigidity of neck (*manyāsthambha*). According to Ḍalhaṇa, rigidity of neck is a prior symptom of spasmodic contradiction.
- 68–72 By speaking very loudly, eating hard foods, excessively laughing and yawning, lifting heavy loads and sleeping in an awkward position, vitiated wind lodges into face painfully and produces paralysis of the jaw-bones (*ardita*) disease. In that case, half of the face and neck become curved, head trembles, speech hindrances, deformity occurs in the eyes, eyebrows and cheeks.¹⁸¹ Experts in diseases call this disease spasm of the jaw-bones (*ardita*).
- 73 Spasm of the jawbones cannot be cured when it stays in a person for three years, who is very weak, stays without blinking, trembles, and constantly speaks gibberish.
- 74 Arteries of Heel and toes stricken by vitiated wind prevents stretching of thighs. This disease is known as sciatica (*gṛdhrasī*).
- 75 Arteries which run to the tips of fingers from behind the roots of the upper arm affected by vitiated wind terminates all activities of arms and back. This disease is called paralysis of arms and back (*viśvañci*).

¹⁸²

phlegm mix with the wind. It is already discussed in su.2.1.38.

¹⁸⁰ Here the term शुद्धवात suggests the meaning of the wind that is devoid of bile and phlegm.

¹⁸¹ Ḍalhaṇa suggests नेत्रादीनाम् इत्यादि शब्दात् भूगण्डादि उपसङ्ग्रहः

¹⁸² Both the MSS N and H read विश्वञ्चि instead of the vulgate reading विश्वाची. There is no

- 76 Vitiated wind and blood in the joint of knee causes synovitis of knee joint (*kroṣṭukaśīrṣa*). In this extremely painful situation, the shape of swelling in knee joints seems like a head of Jackal.
- 77 Vitiated wind resides in the waist attacks on the arteries of thigh causes limpness (*khañja*) and when it attacks on both the thighs a person becomes lame (*paṅgu*).
- 78 A person who trembles at the beginning of walking or walks limping and whose foot joint has become loose is called lathyrism (*kalāyakhāñja*).
- 79 Vitiated wind residing in the ankle-joint causes pain when one steps on uneven ground. This disease occurs is called वातकण्टक.
- 80 Vitiated wind mixed with bile and blood cause burning sensation in feet. It should be declared as burning sensation in feet (*pādādāha*).
- 81 A person whose feet tingle and become insensible due to vitiation of phlegm and wind is called पादहर्ष.
- 82 Vitiated wind lying in the shoulder dries the shoulder joints and it is called अंसशोष. It also bends the arteries of shoulder, and this disease is called अवबाहुक.¹⁸³
- 83 Vitiated wind singly or mixed with phlegm cover the channel of ears causes deafness.
- 84 Vitiated wind saturated with phlegm covering the arteries which conduct the sound of speech makes a person inactive (*akriya*), dumb (*mūka*). He mumbles (*mimmira*) through the nose and stammers (*gadgad*).¹⁸⁴
- 85 Vitiated wind penetrating into the cheekbones, temporal bones, head and neck causes piercing pain in the ears. It is called ear-ache (*karṇaśūla*).¹⁸⁵
- 86–87 The pain that arises from the bladder or feces goes down as if it were breaking the rectum and..... ? is called तूनी, whereas the pain, rising upward from the rectum extending up to the region of the intestines, is called प्रतितूनी.

such word found in other Āyurveda texts.

183 Ḍaḥaṇa and Gayadāsa both have defined two diseases i.e., अंसशोष and अवबाहुक respectively.

184 Nepalese Manuscripts read मिर्मिर instead of the Vulgate's reading मिन्मिण. Dictionary of MW suggests the meaning of मिर्मिर = having fixed unwinking eyes which is not relevant to the disease of tongue.

185 In the medical terms, this disease is known as Otitis.

88–89 Retention of vitiated wind inside abdomen causes distension of the stomach and flatulence and intense pain and rumbling inside, is called tympanites (*ādhmāna*). Vitiated wind mixed with phlegm causes प्रत्याध्मान. It rises in the stomach and causes pain in the heart and sides.
186

90–91 A knotty stone-like tumour caused by wind appearing in the stomach having an elevated shape and stretched upward direction which obstructing the passage of faeces and urine should be known as वाताष्टीला. A tumour of similar shape rose obliquely in the abdomen obstructing the passage of wind, faeces and urine should be known as प्रत्यष्टीला.

Names of diseases discussed in the chapter 2.1

Gout (*vātarakta*) convulsion (*ākṣepaka*) paralysis of one side (*pakṣāghāta*) paralysis of the jaw-bones (*ardita*) sciatica (*grdhrasī*) paralysis of arms and back (*viśvañci*) synovitis of knee join (*kroṣṭukaśīrṣa*) lathyrism (*kalāyakhañja*) (*vātakantaka*) (*avabāhuka*) (*tūnī*) (*pratitūnī*) tympanites (*ādhmāna*) (*pratyādhmāna*) (*vātāṣṭhīlā*) (*pratyāṣṭhīlā*)

186 There's an addition in MS N. नाभेरधस्तात् संजातः संचारी यदि वाऽचलः

Part 3. Śārīrasthāna

Śārīrasthāna 2: On Semen and Menstrual Fluid

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.¹⁸⁷ Das (2003: chs 6–8) also studied topics of this chapter and in chapter 13 provided an overview of the conceptual background of ayurveda on the topics discussed in this chapter.

Translation

- 1 We shall now explain the anatomy that is the purification of sperm (*śukra*) and blood (*śoṇita*).
- 3 Semen (*retas*)¹⁸⁸ is incompetent to produce offspring if it is [characterized by] wind, bile, phlegm, blood (*śoṇita*),¹⁸⁹ decomposition (*kūṇapa*), clumps (*granthi*),¹⁹⁰ stinking pus (*pūtipūya*), low volume (*kṣīṇa*), urine, or feces.

¹⁸⁷ [HIML](#): IA, 244–246.

¹⁸⁸ The Nepalese version has -रेतांसि “semen” (in the plural) as the subject of the sentence: “seeds are unable to produce offspring....” In the vulgate, -रेतसः is a masculine bahuvrīhi, making “men whose semen has...” the subject of the sentence.

¹⁸⁹ Note that the list begins with the four entities, wind, bile, phlegm and blood, hinting at a four-humour system (see Wujastyk 2000: 485–486).

¹⁹⁰ Modern Establishment Medicine (MEM) understands that normal ejaculate contains coagula which, however, dissolve after about half an hour. But coagula that do not dissolve may sometimes be a sign of an underlying disorder (see, e.g., Lamming and Marshall 1990: 2, 614–615; Cohen 1990).

Diagnosis by humours

- 4
- When the dysfunction is caused by wind, there is a colour and a type of pain that typically goes with wind problems.
 - If caused by bile the colour and the pain are typical of bile afflictions. If caused by phlegm the discolouration and suffering are characteristic for phlegm disease.
 - And if caused by blood (*śoṇita*) there will be a colouration due to blood and a sensation of a bile affliction. Moreover, when caused by blood (*rakta*) there is the smell of decomposition (*kuṇapa*).¹⁹¹
 - Phlegm with wind causes the appearance of clumps.
 - Bile with blood (*śoṇita*) causes the appearance of foul-smelling pus (*pūtipūya*).
 - Bile with wind (*māruta*) cause a weakening of semen.
 - Humoral colligation (*sannipāta*) causes the smell of urine and feces.¹⁹²

Cases of foul-smelling sperm, sperm with clumps, and when it reeks of pus are hard to treat. But when sperm contains urine or faeces there is no treatment.¹⁹³

- 5
- Moreover, seasonal blood (*ārtava*) too can become afflicted (*upasṛṣṭa*), seedless (*abīja*) because of the three humours, and blood as the fourth, taken individually, in pairs or triples or all together.¹⁹⁴

This can also be known by means of the humour, colour and pain.

In these cases, that which displays decomposition (*kuṇapa*), clumps and the putrid smell of pus is incurable (*asādhya*). And otherwise it is curable (*sādhya*).

Among these, the kind which shows decomposition, or coagula, or putrid pus is incurable. The other types, however, can be treated.

¹⁹¹ Note that the text mentions both शोणित and रक्त. This raises the question of whether the author considered these to be different, or whether it is an artefact of textual transmission.

¹⁹² The expression “humoral colligation,” translating सन्निपात, refers to the simultaneous disorder of three humours at the same time, a condition that is difficult to treat (see Wujastyk 2016: 38 *et passim*).

¹⁹³ Note that the above characterizations presuppose the direct inspection of an ejaculate. The process of collection is not described in the sources in this chapter.

¹⁹⁴ This translates the text of the oldest surviving witness, N, and the vulgate. But MS H, that normally follows K very closely, has a negative particle, न, reversing the sense of the sentence.

- 6 And there is a verse on this.

An expert should overcome the first three of these sperm pathologies with special treatments such as unction and sweating, as well as by means of a urethral instillation (uttarabasti).¹⁹⁵

find out
about ut-
tarabasti

Therapies by humour

- 6.1 In that context, when the sperm is of the nature of wind, there is an enema (*āsthāpana*) consisting of **Bengal quince**, **Indian kudzu** and milk.¹⁹⁶ In the urethral instillations one should use sesame oil well cooked with **mahua**, **grey orchid**, **deodar**, and **chir pine**. One can also make the patient drink clarified butter with ripe **pomegranate**, **citron fruit**, **rock salt**, a caustic (*kṣāra*), and **two kinds of salt**.¹⁹⁷
- 6.2 When the sperm is of the nature of bile, there is an enema of milk cooked with curds, **Malay beechwood** and **liquorice**. One should also apply a paste (*kalka*) of **white dammer tree** and **axlewood** in the vagina. There is an oily enema (*anuvāsana*) of sesame oil cooked with **liquorice**; in the same way, it should only be applied as a urethral instillation.¹⁹⁸ One should make him swallow ghee cooked with **wild sugar cane**, **common smilax**, **heart-leaved moonseed**, **white teak**, **false daisy**, and the **five roots**.
- 6.3 When the sperm is of the nature of phlegm, there is an enema (*āsthāpana*) consisting of a decoction (*kaṣāya*) of **golden shower tree**. And one should also apply an oily enema (*anuvāsana*) of sesame oil cooked with **long pepper**, **embelia** and honey; and it should only be applied as a urethral instillation. One should make him drink a ghee cooked with **hairy bergenia**, **white teak**, **emblic myrobalan**, **long pepper**, **bearded premna**, and **prickly chaff-flower**.

¹⁹⁵ Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.6 (**Su 1938**: 345) noted that “unction and sweating” indicates the “five treatments”: वमन, विरेचन, अनिरूह, अनुवासन and उत्तरबस्ति. He noted that the explicit mention of urethral enema in the verse was for the purpose of highlighting its priority. However, a natural reading of the verse does not suggest that these distinctions were in the author’s mind.

¹⁹⁶ These three recipes are not present in the vulgate text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

¹⁹⁷ -विपक्व “well cooked with...” might be interpreted as “with ripe...”.

¹⁹⁸ By specifying “upper (i.e., urethral) instillation” the author is clarifying that this is not a rectal enema.

3.2.7 And there are verses about this.

When there is blood in the sperm, the physician should give the person ghee cooked with flowers of the *fire-flame bush*, *catechu*, *pomegranate*, and *arjun*.

3.2.8 When it smells like a corpse, he should drink ghee cooked with the *sal group of trees*. †When clumps appear, it is cooked with stones, or also in ash from a *flame-of-the-forest*.¹⁹⁹

9 And also, when it resembles pus, it is treated with items such as *phalsa* and *banyan*. When the sperm is deficient it should be treated as was stated before and also as will be described.²⁰⁰

10 When it looks like feces, he should be made to drink ghee together with *leadwort*, *vetiver* and *devil's dung*.

10.1 In these six cases, a wise person should carry out the sequence that starts with oleation.²⁰¹

to what?

10.2–3 It deteriorates as a result of not having sex with women for a long time as well as from the use of actions, and from overusing the drugs that are astringent, spicy and sharp, that are acidic (*amla*), salty, sere (*rūkṣa*), sour (*śukta*) or stale (*paryuṣita*), and because of suppressing (*vegāghāta*) the impulses in vaginas and from intercourse (*gamana*).²⁰²

10.4 When there is a defect (*doṣa*) in the menstrual blood (*ārtava*) one should advise the therapy starting with oleation.
And one should use a urethral instillation (*uttaravasti*) exactly as was described before.

199 The Nepalese text and translation of this sentence are uncertain. The vulgate text reads, 3.2.8 (Su 1938: 345): ग्रन्थिभूते शटीसिद्धं पालाशे वा ऽपि भस्मनि “If clumps appear, it is cooked with *śaṭī* or in ash from a *palāśa*.” The vulgate edition notes in a footnote that some vulgate manuscripts add an extra line, स्नेहादिश्च क्रमः षट्प्रेतासु विजानता. The Nepalese manuscripts read this line two verses further down.

200 Dalhaṇa on 3.2.9 (Su 1938: 345) noted that “what was stated before” refers to the स्व-योनिवर्धन section, i.e., *Suśrutasamhitā* 1.15.10 (Su 1938: 69), and that “what will be described” refers to *Suśrutasamhitā* 4.26 (Su 1938: 496), the chapter on weakness and strength (क्षीणबलीय).

201 It is difficult to know which six cases the author intended. Dalhaṇa on 3.2.10 (Su 1938)

202 This passage is hard to interpret and there are no parallels, commentary or meaningful alternate readings.

And there is a verse about this:

To purify the menstrual blood (ārtava), one should apply the procedure that finishes with a urethral installation.

From

Therapies for menstrual blood

- 12cd For purifying the menstrual blood one should follow the procedure, the last of which is a urethral instillation (*uttarabasti*).²⁰³
- 13 One should use a paste (*kalka*) as well as cloths and a salutary lavages (*ācamana*).²⁰⁴
- 14 In case of a bad smell and the appearance of pus, or the appearance of marrow in the blood.
- 15 He should drink a decoction (*kvātha*) of **white sandalwood** or a decoction of red **sandalwood**.²⁰⁵
- 14ab When clumps (*granthi*) appear, he should drink **velvet-leaf**, **three heating spices**, and **Indrajao**.²⁰⁶
- 14a He should drink a a decoction (*niḥkvātha*) that is the extracted juice (*surasa*) of a caustic (*kṣāra*), **dried ginger**, and **devil's dung**.
- ...
- 24 Thus a man has unblemished semen and a woman has pure menstrual blood.²⁰⁷

²⁰³ The “procedure ending with a urethral instillation” probably refers to verse 6 above (see page 81).

²⁰⁴ The word आचमन, normally “sipping water from the palm” is here translated “lavage” following the context and Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.13 (*Su* 1938: 345), who described it as “water for washing the vagina” (योनिप्रक्षालनोदक). This treatment may be intended for the condition mentioned in 12cd, but in the vulgate text there is a preceding half verse stating that the treatment is for the “four disorders of menstrual blood.”

²⁰⁵ The name चन्दन may refer to several types of sandalwood; presumably one is meant here that is different from white sandalwood, i.e., perhaps *Pterocarpus santalinus* Linn. f. The vulgate has an extra half-śloka here.

²⁰⁶ On ग्रन्थि, see note 190.

²⁰⁷ On this and the following texts, cf. Smets 2010: 389 et passim.

During menstruation

- 25 During the season (*ṛtu*), starting from the first day onwards, the chaste woman (*brahmacārīṇī*) foregoes bathing, anointments, ornaments and grooming (*vilekhana*).²⁰⁸ She should abstain from sleeping during the day, collyriums, weeping tears (*aśrupāta*), massages, cutting her nails, taking showers, laughing, telling stories, hearing too much noise and from exertion.²⁰⁹
- For what reason? By sleeping during the day, the fetus becomes **deaf**.²¹⁰ From collyrium he becomes blind. From weeping, his vision is impaired. From bathing and anointing, he becomes badly behaved. From massage with oil he gets a pallid skin disease (*kuṣṭha*).²¹¹ From cutting the nails he gets ugly nails (*kunakha*). From smearing an unguent he becomes bald. From habitually exercising in the open air he goes mad. For this reason one should avoid these.
- For three days of ritual food, the husband should protect ($\sqrt{rakṣ}$) the woman. She lies on a layer of **halfa grass**, and eats a different kind of food from the palm of her hand, or from a plate or from a leaf.²¹²
- On the forth day, one should show to the husband the woman who has had a purifying bath, is wearing unstitched clothes, is ornamented and who has chanted a benediction and recited a blessing.²¹³
- What is the reason for that?
- 26 And there is a verse on this.

A woman has a bath after her period. The type of man she sees after that determines the type of son to whom she will give birth. She may then show her son to her husband.

208 The word ऋतु “season” in āyurvedic texts can, according to context, refer either to the period of menstruation or else to the period of fecundity following menstruation (Das 2003: 15 ff., note 27, *et passim*). Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.25 (Su 1938: 347) noted that the woman’s abstention should last three days from the first appearance of her menses.

209 On the similar prohibitions relating to a menstruating woman as described in Dharmaśāstra literature, as well as the similar defects accruing from disobedience (see Leslie 1989: 284–287).

210 Here, the vulgate reads स्वप्नशीलः “he tends to sleep.”

211 On translating कुष्ठ in Āyurvedic texts, see Emmerick 1984: 96 ff.

212 This sentence is hard to construe because हविष्यं “ritual food” cannot agree with - भोजिनीं.

213 See Wujastyk et al. 2023: 58 and fn. 167.

- 27 *Next, the priest (upādhyāya) should perform the appropriate ritual for producing a son. At the end of the ritual, the expert (vicakṣaṇa) should anticipate the following procedure.*
- 28 Next, after the man has eaten a rice porridge with ghee and milk in the afternoon, having been celibate for a month, at night he should sexually approach the woman who has had a diet rich in oil and mung beans. He then soothes her in a friendly way and he may go to her optionally on the fourth, sixth, eighth, tenth or twelfth day.²¹⁴
- 31 Henceforth, he should approach after a month
[At this point there is a misplaced folio in MS N]
- 32 **And when conception has occurred in this way**
During one of these nights, the pregnant woman should press three or four drops of juice from one or other of the following: *convolvulus*, *banyan*, *Indian bat tree*, *country mallow*, *carray cheddie*. Then she should administer them in the right nostril if she desires a son and in the left if she wants a girl, and she should not sneeze them out.²¹⁵
- 33 *For certain, in the presence of these four, a fetus that follows the rules will come into being, just like a sprout is from a combination of field, seed, water and grass.*²¹⁶
- 34 Children born in this manner are beautiful, of noble character and enjoy long lives.²¹⁷ They provide release from obligation (*ṛṇa*) and they

29, 30 missing?

Problematic passage in the edition.

214 In the Nepalese version, this text presents a general rule for lovemaking on even days. In the vulgate, the word पुत्रकाम is added, making this a specific rule for conceiving a male child. After this text, sections 29, 30 and 31 of the vulgate are not present in the Nepalese version. These verses state that the above-mentioned special days are beneficial, that odd days lead to the conception of a girl child, and finally the vulgate gives a list of the consequences of conceiving a child with a menstruating woman.

215 There is a textual problem at the start of this passage.

216 The Nepalese version reads क्षेत्रबीजोदकतृणाम् “of field, seed, water and grass” in contrast to the vulgate’s ऋतुक्षेत्रामुबीजानाम् “of season, field, water and seed.” This gives the two versions quite different meanings. In the Nepalese version, the author is referring to the four plants mentioned in the previous verse, *convolvulus*, *banyan*, *Indian bat tree*, *country mallow*, and *carray cheddie*. Then the author presents a simple agricultural simile. In the vulgate version, the words of the compound each have a double meaning: they can refer to the agricultural simile, but they can also be construed to mean “menstrual season, womb, nourishing bodily fluids, and male and female semen,” a parallelism not present in the Nepalese transmission. This is how Ḍalhaṇa interpreted the verse.

217 We translate महासत्त्वाः as “noble character;” Ḍalhaṇa, commenting on the vulgate

themselves have children, benefitting their parents.²¹⁸

- 35 In that context, the element of heat (*tejas*) is the most important factor as far as complexion (*varṇa*) is concerned. That being granted, at the moment the fetus is formed, when the food has water as its chief element, then the fetus is fair.²¹⁹ When earth is the predominant element, it is dark (*kṛṣṇa*). When earth and ether are the chief elements, it is dark brown (*śyāma*).²²⁰ Some people say that the newborn (*prasava*) has the same colour as the colour of the food that the pregnant woman commonly eats. Similarly, creatures like snakes, scorpions and large geckos that inhabit black, yellow or white habitats are black, yellow or white.²²¹ In that context, congenital blindness (*jātyandha*) is caused by the element of brilliance (*tejas*) not reaching the location of eye (*dṛṣṭi*). Similarly, red eyes are a consequence of blood, white eyes are a consequence of phlegm, yellow eyes are a consequence of bile, and dysfunctional eyes (*vikṛtākṣa*) are a consequence of wind.²²²

- 35.1–4 And on this, there are the following:²²³

If a pure wind affects someone's eyes, they become sunken, blue and dark.

When bile mixed with phlegm, with no impurity, goes into someone's eyes, their eyes are termed "yellowish-red."

reading सत्त्ववन्तः, refers to the गुणस्, interpreting the expression as "not strongly influenced by रजस् and तमस्."

- 218 Children born in this manner fulfil their parent's obligation to have children and they themselves have children, thus continuing the family. The three debts are normally understood as being to the gods, the ancestors and to sages. But Ḍalhaṇa's phrasing is odd in that he says पितृणामृणत्रयमोक्षणशीला: "behaving so as to provide release from the three debts to the ancestors."

- 219 The food of the mother, that is.

- 220 The terms कृष्ण and श्याम often mean more or less the same, a dark blue or black colour. The latter can shade into brown or dark green.

- 221 Cf. also n., p. 214. Cf. HIML: IA, 70 and notes on these poisonous animals as described in the *Carakasamhitā*, and Meulenbeld 1974b: 455-456 on the names *kṛkalāsa/kṛkalāśaka*, *śaya* and *saraṭa* and the confusion surrounding this topic and the indigenous names of some species such as *ṭikṭikī*, *jyeṣṭhi*, *jyaishṭhi*, *girgiṭ*.

- 222 The term विकृताक्ष was known to Kātyāyana (*Mahābhāṣya* on P.6.3.3, (*Mahābhāṣya*: 3, 142)).

- 223 The next four verses are absent in the vulgate; they were reproduced by the editor in a footnote (Su 1938: 348a, n. 3).

The phrase "and here are some verses" appears in the vulgate before 3.2.36.

*When phlegm that is free of any impurity moves to the eyes, their eyes shine with a white circle within a circle.*²²⁴

When blood mixed with phlegm moves into the eyes, those people have eyes that become pigeon-blue, or else bloodshot.

- 3.2.36 Just as the ghee in a pot placed on a fire melts, so the menstrual blood of a woman may flow out after sex with a man.²²⁵
- 3.2.37 But when the wind splits the seed (*bīja*), two lives (*jīva*) come into the belly (*kukṣi*). They are called “twins (*yama*),” being created from preceding virtue (*dharma*) or its opposite.²²⁶
- 3.2.37.1 *When the mixing is happening, if the man’s semen (retas) is plentiful and pure then the pregnant woman gives birth to two boys.*
- 3.2.37.2 *When the mixing is happening, if the woman has a lot of semen (śukra) then the pregnant woman gives birth to two girls. There is no doubt about this.*

Types of persons

- 3.2.38 The term for men and women who have diminished seed is *Āsekya*.²²⁷ Without doubt, after eating something white (*śukla*), his flag is raised.²²⁸

²²⁴ Perhaps this describes the appearance of arcus senilis.

²²⁵ It is difficult to know what the author means here, since menstruation is not physiologically caused by intercourse.

Note that the text actually says “a pot of ghee ... melts.” But it’s not the pot that melts, but the ghee. This may explain the vulgate reading घृतपिण्ड “a lump of ghee.” The reviser did not like the imprecise idea of a pot melting.

²²⁶ Note the adverbial -पुरा at the end of a Bahuvrīhi.

The commentator Gayadāsa (cited here by Ḍalhaṇa) disagreed with this interpretation. He preferred to understand धर्मेत्तर not as “dharma and its opposite,” but as “the opposite of dharma.” He explained that according to both scripture and tradition, twins are the result of अधर्म “sin,” and that is why penances are necessary after the birth of twins (on 3.2.27 (Su 1938: 348)).

The next two verses are absent in the vulgate; they were reproduced by the editor in a footnote (Su 1938: 348b, n. 3).

²²⁷ Etymologically, “to be poured into.” On this and the following typologies, see the brief treatment by Meulenbeld (1997: 216–217).

²²⁸ Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.38 (Su 1938: 348) made it clear that this is a metaphor for having a penile erection.

- 39 Someone who is born in a foul womb is termed a *Saugandhika*. That person gains strength from smelling a vagina and a penis.²²⁹
- 40abc A man, who has activity in his own anus because of being celibate and then has activity amongst his own women is known as a *Kumbhika*.²³⁰
- 40d–41abc Hear about the next one, the *Īrṣyaka*. Someone who has sexual activity after seeing the copulation of other people is termed an *Īrṣyaka*.²³¹

“Eating something white” may refer to शुक्र “sperm,” as the vulgate reads. But note that works on aphrodisiacs and fertility (वाजीकरण) in āyurveda and rasaśāstra routinely recommend white substances such as milk for strengthening reproductive ability. See, for example, *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 4.26.27–31ab (Su 1938: 498) and *Carakasamhitā* 6.2, all of sub-chapter 2 (Ca 1941: 392–394).

The vulgate has a different reading for the first half of this verse, stating that such a man is a product of parents with deficient seed. Ḍalhaṇa also gave a detailed description of a man eating the semen ejaculated by another man, and he stated that the terms षण्ड and मुखयोनि were synonyms for such a person.

The term आसेक्य is given in MW: 161 as “impotent, a man of slight generative power.” This is wrong. It is the referent of the term, not its meaning. Cf. *Mahākośa*: 1, 98.

Some of the features referred to by the term षण्ड षण्ड may have included conditions today covered by Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome and Morris syndrome. The central idea in the Sanskrit usages was that such a person cannot produce children.

229 Etymologically, “Sweet Smelling.”

230 The vulgate adds an avagraha before ब्रह्मचर्याद्, meaning “because of *not* being celibate.” Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.40abc (Su 1938: 348–349) read the text this way, paraphrasing अब्रह्मचर्यात्, thus inverting the meaning but not clarifying what he thought it meant. But he then cited a passage from “others” that read ब्रह्मचर्यात्, i.e., the anal sex followed or was caused by celibacy, ब्रह्मचर्यात् क्लैब्यवशसंजाताप्रवृत्तित्वात् “because of celibacy, that is, because of being unable to perform because of the effect of impotence.” These unnamed commentators also referred explicitly to erectile dysfunction, शिथिलेनैव मेहनेन, as the result of this celibacy and proposed that a man could get an erection through abnormal (विप्रकृत्या) means and as a result could have sex as a male with a woman. Ḍalhaṇa also stated that the origin of a person with such a condition was described “in another book” (तन्त्रान्तरे), and proceeded to cite *Carakasamhitā* 4.2.20 (Ca 1941: 303). Ḍalhaṇa then also cited another verse from Gayadāsa, who himself ascribed it to Kāśyapa (HIML: IA, 164–166), saying that, “A Kumbhila (*sic*) is born when a man with phlegm has sex with a woman who is not passionate (or not menstruating) during her season, when the love is attached to another.” (Also cited in *Mahākośa*: 1, 220a–b.)

It is noteworthy that the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* is factual and descriptive in these passages, as befits a medical work, while the commentators introduce a moralistic and critical tone.

231 Etymologically “one who envies.”

Here again, Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.40–41 (Su 1938: 349) cited the opinion of “another book”

- 41d–42 Hear about the fifth, the *Ṣaṇḍhaka*. A man who, out of delusion, has sexual activity with a young girl (*kaumārī*) during her season as if he were a woman. In such a case, a male is born who looks and behaves like a woman. He is termed a *Ṣaṇḍha*.²³²
- 43 Moreover, if a woman, during her season, has sexual activity like a man, then if a girl is born she will have the behaviours of a man.
- 44 The *Āsekya*, the *Sugandhin*, the *Kumbhika* and the *Īrṣyaka* are known to have semen. The man with no semen is termed a *Ṣaṇḍha*.²³³
- 45 In both of these cases, they have a semen-carrying vessel that dilates as a result of unnatural excitement.²³⁴ Then the flag may be raised.²³⁵

Birth irregularities

- 46 The **appearance**, behaviour and mentality that is associated with a man and a woman is also the same as that which their **offspring** (*garbha*) has.²³⁶

and cited a passage from *Carakasamhitā* 4.2.20 (Ca 1941: 303) that covers similar ground. The description of the *Carakasamhitā* is causally framed in terms of the factors वायु and अग्नि.

- 232 The vulgate's भार्या "woman, wife" for the Nepalese version's कौमारी "girl" is probably bowdlerization.

- 233 It remains a question as to whether the authors meant the absence of an ejaculate or the clinical observation of childlessness even in the presence of an ejaculate. For a discussion of the present passages and further literature on षण्ड, see Das 2003: 581–584; on आसेक्य, see *ibid.*, 527. See also M. J. Sweet and Zwilling 1993: 593–597, *et passim*; Zwilling and M. J. Sweet 2000; Zwilling and M. J. Sweet 2010.

- 234 Dalhaṇa on 3.5.45 (Su 1938: 349) cited the expression नरनारीषण्डौ from the *Carakasamhitā* (Ca 4.2.17303, reads -नारि) to establish that women too may have these unnatural excitements.

We have emended the Nepalese verb to the singular, because witness H clearly has शुक्रवहा सिरा "semen-carry vessel" in the singular. Does Ayurvedic anatomy have a single vessel or many? *Carakasamhitā* 3.5.8 (Ca 1941: 250) has a plural, शुक्रवहानां स्रोतसां. But the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 3.9.12 (Su 1938: 3.9.12) has a clear statement that there are two ducts (*srotas*) that carry semen: शुक्रवहे द्वे तयोर्मूलं स्तनौ वृषणौ च "there are two vessels that carry semen. They are rooted in the breasts and the testicles." The Ayurvedic Man painting has a single शुक्रमार्ग (Wujastyk 2008: 233, 243). The Jaina *Tandulaveyāliya* lists 10 sperm-carrying vessels (दस सिराओ सुक्खधारिणीओ, Schubring 1969: 145 ff; Cailat 2019: 5; I am grateful to Jan Gerris for this reference).

- 235 On this euphemism, see footnote 228 above.

- 236 The vulgate has "food" for the Nepalese version's आकार "appearance," and "son" for "offspring." The Nepalese version seems more perceptive on this point of heredity.

- 47 Whenever a woman and a woman have sex together, they release semen on each other. Then a being without bones comes into being.²³⁷
- 50 **Offspring** (*garbha*) of a deformed shape like a gourd, a scorpion or a snake and others of the same type are known to be often brought about by sin.²³⁸
- 51 Offspring that is *vimānitaḥ* by irritation of wind and by pregnant longing may become hunchbacked, have a shrivelled hand (*kūṇi*), be lame, mute or have a stutter.²³⁹
- 52 The newborn may have abnormalities because of the bad behaviour of its mother and father and because of bad actions from the past, by means of the irritation of wind etc.²⁴⁰
- 53 The child in the womb does not make wind, urine and feces because it has little impurity and because the wind in the stomach is not functioning.
- 54 The child in the womb does not cry out because the movement of the wind is obstructed since the mouth is covered by the caul and the throat is surrounded by phlegm.

unsolved
problem

237 The grammar of the Nepalese and vulgate versions of this verse are quite different. This striking verse has been discussed by several scholars (e.g., Smets 2006: 232–233). The concept of a being born with flesh but no bone and vice versa occurs in *Jaiminīy-abrāhmaṇa* 1.259 and *Ṣaḍvīmśabrāhmaṇa* 2.1.1 (Kolhatkar 2005) and later in Purāṇic literature (O’Flaherty 1980).

The Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā* does not have the following two verses that occur in the vulgate. Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.48–48 (Su 1938: 349) said that Jejjāṭa did not read these two verses. Thus, the Nepalese version is the same as Jejjāṭa’s version, as far as this omission is concerned.

238 The vulgate version of this text says that it is sinful behaviour of women that causes abnormalities. The Nepalese version is quite different, simply attributing deformity to sin and not blaming women at all.

239 The Nepalese version has कूनि while the vulgate reads कुणि. Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.51 (Su 1938: 349) felt the need to explain the unusual term, saying कुणि: विकलपाणि: “having a crippled hand,” but Y. T. Ācārya and N. Śarman (Su 1939: footnote 5) noted a variant विकृतपाणि:, suggesting some instability in the interpretation of this term. Cakrapāṇidatta on 8.2.21 (Su 1939: 690) gave the meaning कुब्जितकर: “having a hunched hand” (where there is also a variant reading नष्टकर:), cf. *Mahākośa*: 1, 216. The Tamil lexemes *kūṇ* means “bend, curve, hump on the back, humpback” and *kūṇi* means “... become hunchbacked” (DED₂:#1927). It seems likely that this is a Dravidian word that has been absorbed into Ayurvedic terminology at an early period.

240 Ḍalhaṇa on 3.2.52 (Su 1938: 349) took the position that the bad actions were those of the parents, not the child.

- 55 The inward and outward breathing, movement and sleep that the fetus adopts conform to the inward and outward breathing, movement and sleep of the mother.
- 56 The composition of the body parts, the descent and appearance of the teeth, the absence of hair on the palms all happen by themselves.²⁴¹
- 57 Those cultivated people who in previous embodiments were constantly aware of the scriptures are rich in sattva and have memory of their previous births.²⁴²

Here ends the second chapter that is the anatomy.

²⁴¹ The text reads शरीराणाम् “of the bodies” that we have translated “of the body parts,” following Ḍalhaṇa’s interpretation. He also said that “palms” included the soles of the feet.

²⁴² The vulgate text adds a final verse about how the karma of a previous embodiment follows a person to his new life. Witness L adds yet another verse that says the lack of hair on the palms is because they come from the mother, while the areas of the body from the father have much hair.

Śārīrasthāna 3: On Conception and the Development of the Embryo

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.²⁴³ Important subsequent studies of the chapter include those of Das and of Kritzer.²⁴⁴

²⁴³ [HIML](#): IA, 247–247.

²⁴⁴ Das [2003](#): ch. 8, *et passim*; Kritzer [2009](#); [2013](#).

Translation

- 1 We shall now explain the anatomy that is the descent of the embryo.
- 3 Semen is of the nature of Soma (*saumya*) and menstrual blood is of the nature of Agni (*āgneya*).²⁴⁵ Furthermore, in this context there also exists a proximity of the other elements (*bhūta*), by way of a minute special property, because they help one another and they enter into one another.²⁴⁶
- 4 In this case, when there is a union of **a husband and wife**, the heat from the body stimulates the wind.
In that case, because of the combination (*sannipāta*) of fire and wind, the semen that is ejaculated finds its way to the vagina.
It is commingled with menstrual blood (*ārtava*), then because of the joining together of Agni and Soma, what is being mingled together arrives in the receptacle of the fetus.
He is referred to by names that express synonyms such as, the knower of the field, the sentient, the toucher, the smeller, the seer, the hearer, the taster, the human, the goer, the witness, the creator, the speaker, **the one who is, “who is the one that is life at the start?”**²⁴⁷
Driven by fate, and impelled by wind, the imperishable, unchanging, inconceivable elemental self (*bhūtātman*) enters into the uterus (*garbhāśaya*) together with sattva, rajas and tamas, gods and demons, and other entities.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁵ On the Saumya–Agni classification, see Das 2003: 521–527; Wujastyk 2004; Angermeier 2021. The fiery nature of menstrual blood is already stated in 1.14.7 (Su 1938: 59), “...but menstrual blood is of the nature of Agni, because the embryo is of the nature of fire and water.”

²⁴⁶ Ḍalhaṇa on 3.3.3 (Su 1938: 350) glossed अणुना विशेषेण “by way of a minute special property” as सूक्ष्मप्रकारेण “in an attenuated manner.”

Ḍalhaṇa on 3.3.3 (Su 1938: 350) drew attention to 3.1.21ab (Su 1938: 343) where the idea of this interpenetration (अनुप्रवेश) is mentioned.

²⁴⁷ The last phrase is awkward. It translates यः कोऽसावाद्य आयुरिति, which could be paraphrased, “the one who is the answer to the question ‘who is the one who is life at the outset?’” or “...‘who is that first one who is life?’” The text differs from the vulgate’s यः कोऽसाव् इति, that omits आद्य आयुर् (3.3.4 (Su 1938: 350)). Most other early editions print योऽसाविति (e.g., S. M. Gupta 1835–36: v. 1, 320; Su 1889: 313; Śarmā 1895–99: v. 2, 635; Bhaṭṭācārya 1908–11: v. 3, 30. Ghāṇekara (1936–41: v. 2, 65) read यः कोऽसावित्यु). No other translators translate this phrase, nor does Ḍalhaṇa gloss it.

²⁴⁸ In the vulgate, भूतात्मन् “elemental self” is not the subject of the sentence, which then reads less clearly overall.

- 5 In that context, a predominance of sperm leads to a male, a predominance of menstrual blood leads to a female, and equality of the two leads to a person who is neither male nor female (*napuṃsaka*).
- 6ab In that context, there is a twelve-night period that is the season (*ṛtu*).²⁴⁹
- 3.3.6.1 †In that context, approaching a woman in season for intercourse during the first day is not conducive to long life (*anāyusya*); a man comes into being.²⁵⁰ To the extent that the fetus is deposited at that time, because of being expelled it is lost.²⁵¹ †
- And on the third day, similarly, the body is incomplete and has little duration of life. For that reason, one should avoid the third night. And seed and menses do not develop the proper quality as expected. †Just as an object thrown into a river against the flow does not come back. † Sperm should be seen the same way. Therefore the restricted third night should be avoided. In this context, after seeing the twelve nights of the season, she has no menses.
- 6cd Some call such women, “having invisible menses.”
- 3.3.9 And on this:
- When the day is over, the lotus inevitably closes. In the same way, when the season is over, the woman’s uterus closes.²⁵²
- 3.3.7–8 One may know that a woman has her season because she has a full, clear face, a moist body, mouth and teeth, she desires a man, she speaks nicely, and she has relaxed belly, eyes, and hair. Her arms, breasts, loins, navel, thighs, hips and bottom are vibrant and she has the utmost excitement and eagerness.

249 Slaje (1995) clarified the misconception in early Indological scholarship that ऋतु referred to the period of the menses rather than this longer period of menses and ovulation.

250 This passage appears in the Nepalese version at this point, and is absent from the vulgate version. MS H is the sole witness to the Nepalese version at this point and it is damaged, making the interpretation of this passage difficult. In this sentence, a nominative would read better than the accusative अनायुष्यम्.

251 In this and the following sentences, parts of witness H are damaged and impossible to read.

252 The √*kuc* “close, contract” appears in this sense in the *Dhātupāṭha* (1.199 संकोचने) but it is not common in literature. The more common word in this sense would be from √*kuñc* “contract,” although *kuc* is probably the primary IE form (EWA: 1, 361). “Given by the grammarians as two distinct roots, not without some justification,” Whitney 1885: 19.

- 3.3.10 At the right time, what has accumulated over a month and has come via the two pipes (*dhamanī*) is led by wind towards the mouth of uterus.²⁵³ It is slightly dark and smells.²⁵⁴
- 3.3.11 From twelve years onwards, blood is present periodically. It ceases after fifty amongst those whose bodies are old and aged.
- 3.3.12 It is declared that there will be a male on even days and a female otherwise. Therefore a clean man who wants descendants should approach the woman at the time of her flower.²⁵⁵
- 3.3.13 In that context, women who have recently become pregnant experience tiredness, fatigue, thirst, heaviness of the legs, flatulence, clogging of semen and blood, and a rough pulsation of the vagina.

253 “Pipes” (धमनी) are defined in the *Suśrutasamhitā* at 3.9.8–11 (Su 1938: 385). This verse was discussed by Das (2003: 64–66) (see some corrective remarks by C. Vogel (2005).) On the “pipes” and other conduits in the āyurvedic body, see also Wujastyk 2022: 404–406.

254 The reading of the vulgate text contains the object of the sentence, menses (*ārtava*), explicitly. The commentators take “at the right time” to indicate the onset of menses in a young woman.

255 “Flower” referring to the twelve-day period that has been discussed earlier. Ḍalhaṇa on 3.3.12 (Su 1938: 352) noted the conflict between the idea presented in passage 5 above and the present idea about odd and even days. He quoted passages by the ancient authorities Videha (see footnote 610) and Bhoja (footnote 16) that squared the circle by asserting that there are greater amounts of semen on even days, and greater amounts of menstrual blood on odd days, etc. See tr. by P. V. Sharma (1999–2001: 2, 143).

Part 4. Cikitsāsthāna

Cikitsāsthāna 4: On the Treatment of Wind Diseases

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.²⁵⁶

Translation

- 1 Now we shall describe the treatment of wind diseases.
weight
- 3 When the wind enters the stomach, one should sequentially give to the patient, **who has vomited**, the formulation (*yoga*) with six-units (*ṣaḍ-dharaṇa*), together with tepid water, for seven nights.²⁵⁷

²⁵⁶ [HIML](#): IA, 265–266.

²⁵⁷ The vulgate has the reading छर्दयित्वा which means “after making [him] vomit”. Thus, vomiting is a part of the treatment. Whereas छर्दित in the H manuscript is ambiguous: vomiting may be part of the treatment or a symptom of the ailment.

The expression “six units” refers to the six ingredients listed in the next passage. Ḍalhaṇa on 4.4.3 ([Su 1938](#): 420) noted that धरण in this context means a particular weight characterized as equivalent to 21 medium-sized [hyacinth beans](#). P. V. Sharma (1999–2001: 303) proposed that that the formulation contains six ingredients each the weight of a *dharaṇa*. See 4.31.7 ([Su 1938](#): 508) where the term धरण is defined in terms of other weights. (In epigraphical Sanskrit, a धरण may be a silver or gold coin ([Sircar 1966](#): 91).)

Aṣṭāṅgaḥṛdayasaṃhitā 4.21.14 ([Ah 1939](#): 723) is the same verse, mutatis mutandis, but the editor noted (f.n. 6) a variant reading षट्करण in the commentary of Śrīkaṇṭha. There seems to be some confusion about this expression.

Ḍalhaṇa also noted that सुखाम्बु (“pleasant water”) means “slightly warm water.”

- 4 “Six-unit” is traditionally the formulation that is [leadwort](#), [Indrajao](#), [velvet-leaf](#), [kutki](#), [Indian aconite](#), and [myrobalan](#). It cures serious diseases.
- 5 When the wind has entered the abdomen (*pakvāśa*) one should treat it with an oil purge. One should also treat it with cleansing enemas and very salty foods.
- 6 When the wind has entered the bladder, a cleansing enema method should be carried out. And once an inflamed wind is in the ears and the like, a procedure that destroys wind should be done.
- 7 When the wind has reached the skin, flesh, and [blood](#), one should do an oil rub (*abhyāṅga*), apply a poultice (*upanāha*), rubbing (*mardana*) and ointments (*ālepana*). One should also perform blood-letting.²⁵⁸
- 8 When the wind has got into the ligaments, joints, and bones, an expert should apply oleation (*sneha*), a poultice (*upanāha*), cauterization (*agnikarma*), binding, and rubbing (*unmardana*).
- 9 When the wind is deep within the bone, then a strong physician should insert a tube (*nāḍī*) into the bone, which has been split open by manual agitation (*pāṇimantha*), and suck out the wind.²⁵⁹
- 10ab When the wind has reached the semen, one should perform the treatment for the defects of the semen.²⁶⁰
- 10cd–11 When the wind has reached the whole body, an intelligent person should conquer it by means of immersion, sauna (*kuṭī*), trench sweating (*karṣū*), blanket sweating (*prastara*), oil massage, enema, and blood-letting.²⁶¹ Or, if is located in a single limb and is stuck there, a

258 On the translation of methods of medical touch, such as अभ्यङ्ग and संवाहन, see Brooks 2021b: 122–131. मर्दन, उन्मर्दन mean “pressing or vigorous rubbing.” The vulgate includes ducts (*sirā*) as an added place that wind can enter.

259 The expression “which is split” could be construed with “wind.” The word order is not obvious. Ḍalhaṇa on 4.4.9 (Su 1938: 420) interpreted पाणिमन्थ as the name of a particular awl and described the bone being pierced by this awl so that a double-headed tube can be inserted into the resulting opening.

This verse is in *na vipulā* metre.

260 Ḍalhaṇa comments (Su 1938: 421) that this treatment for the defects of the semen is mentioned [earlier] as the शुक्रशोणितशुद्धि, the purification of the semen and the blood. This is the *Śārīrasthāna* Ch. 2, शुक्रशोणितविशुद्धि.

261 These forms of sweating treatment are described in the *Carakasamhitā* (1.14.39–63 (Ca 1941: 90–92)).

Regarding blood-letting, Ḍalhaṇa on 4.4.11 (Su 1938: 421) commented that because the verse has the plural form सिरामोक्षैः, five blood vessels have to be drained of blood

- thoughtful physician may conquer it with cow-horns.²⁶²
- 12 Or, if it is mingled with phlegm (*balāsa*), bile, and blood, the physician should treat it with non-hostile remedies.²⁶³ However, when the wind is inactive, he should perform blood-letting many times.²⁶⁴
- 13 And one should lick the milk cooked in ?? together with salt and soot from the chimney (*āgāradhūma*), mixed with oil and also a juice (*rasa*) that has the sourness of a fruit.²⁶⁵
- 14–15 Alternatively, cereal soup with a good amount of ghee is a wholesome food that repels wind. However, “*Sālvala*” is well-known to be a luke-warm and very salty substance that is the *cottony jujube* group combined with an item that repels wind and together with all the sour drugs and the meat of creatures from marshes and water that have all the oils.²⁶⁶
- 16ab One should always apply a bandage with that to people who are ill with wind.
- 16cd-18ab One should tightly bind someone who is bent, afflicted by pain, or whose limbs are stabdha (*numb*), with a paṭṭa (*strip of cloth*) made of bark, cotton or wool (*ūrṇa*).
Alternatively, one should put it into a skin sack
Or, after massaging the affected body part and applying the *sālvala*²⁶⁷

if the wind is not pacified by oil massage, etc.

262 शृङ्ग “cow-horns” refers to bloodletting by horn; see the description at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.13.5 (*Su* 1938: 55).

263 The word बलास is used here in the slightly unusual meaning “phlegm;” see Ḍalhaṇa on 1.45.70, 6.61.33 (*Su* 1938: 202, 802) and *Mahākośa*: 553.

264 We read सुप्तवाते with witness H, but Ḍalhaṇa glossed सुप्ति-, the reading of the vulgate, “it is wind characterized by drowsiness (*supti*) caused by a covering of blood.”

265 The vulgate reading दिह्यात् for the Nepalese लिह्यात् changes the meaning to “one should smear.”

Ḍalhaṇa on 4.4.13 (*Su* 1938: 421) glossed पञ्चमूली as optionally the first or the second five roots. On this therapy, cf. Cakrapāṇi’s commentary on 1.5.3 (*Ca* 1941: 36) for a similar therapy.

The “juice” (रस) was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa as specifically being a meat broth (*māṃsarasa*). He said that the sourness may come from fruits such as pomegranate. रसाम्ल may mean a vinegar made from fruit (*MW*: 70), so the expression फलाम्लो रसः in the text here may mean a vinegar made from sour fruit. Cf. धान्याम्ल.

266 Cf. साल्वण “sweat from a poultice” in *Mahākośa*: 898. *Aṣṭāṅgasaṅgraha* 1.26.3a (*As* 1980: 188) describes a poultice called “*sālvala*” made with numerous ingredients (the commentator Indu elaborates, p. 189).

267 This seems to be the correct spelling as against the unclarity in the earlier verses.

poultice on it, one should insert it into a sack made of the hide of a cat, mongoose, *udra*²⁶⁸, or deer.

18cd–19 Vomiting and an errhine done skilfully alleviate the wind that has entered the chest, between the shoulder-blades (*trika*), the shoulders, or the nape of the neck.²⁶⁹ The wind located in the head is defeated by blood-letting and by the application of oil to the head (*śirobasti*).

20–21ab In that context, one should let the oil remain carefully for a one thousand measures (*mātrā*).²⁷⁰ Only an enema (*basti*) can curtail the wind, whether it is throughout the whole body or in just one limb. Its force (*vega*) is like the wind.²⁷¹

21cd–26 Oils, perspiration, oil massage, enema, unctuous purging of the bowels, *śirobasti*, oiling the head, unctuous smoke, gargling with lukewarm water, *nasya*, unctuous paste, milks, meats²⁷², soups, oils²⁷³, any unctuous substance, unctuous and salty meals that are made sour by fruits, bathing with lukewarm water, massages, saffron, agarwood, malabathrum, costus, cardamom, crape jasmine, garments made of silk, wool, and fur, soft cotton garments, inner rooms with sunlight, no wind flow, and a soft bed, taking the warmth of fire, and celibacy, etc. are to be collectively employed for patients with wind diseases.

Perhaps
kalka here
could also
mean the
Terminalia
Bellerica
(विभीतक).

Draft tr. from here

21cd–26 Oils, perspiration, oil massage, enema, unctuous purging of the bowels, *śirobasti*, oiling the head, unctuous smoke, gargling with lukewarm water, *nasya*, unctuous paste, milks, meats²⁷⁴, soups, oils²⁷⁵, any unctuous substance, unctuous

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268 some aquatic animal

269 On त्रिक, see *Mahākośa*: 1, 387, citing Ḍaḥaṇa on 3.6.26 (*Su* 1938: 374) “the junction between the shoulder-blades and the neck.”

270 Ḍaḥaṇa on 4.2.20 (*Su* 1938: 422) interpreted मात्रा as a measure of time, citing an un-attributed verse defining it as the time of a blink, a snap of the fingers or the utterance of a single vowel. The expression might possibly be taken to refer to a measure of the oil’s volume.

271 This phrase is awkward. The idea here seems to be that an enema decisively stops the wind. The vulgate revised this to make it more obvious: “only an enema can block the force of the wind, like a mountain.”

272 The plural indicates milk and meat from various animals.

273 This is the second occurrence of the word सेहा: in this sentence. This seems to be an anomaly.

274 The plural indicates milk and meat from various animals.

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and salty meals that are made sour by fruits, bathing with lukewarm water, massages, saffron, agarwood, malabathrum, costus, cardamom, crape jasmine, garments made of silk, wool, and fur, soft cotton garments, inner rooms with sunlight, no wind flow, and a soft bed, taking the warmth of fire, and celibacy, etc. are to be collectively employed for patients with wind diseases.

- 27 One should take *akṣa* quantities of unguent pastes²⁷⁶ of turpeth,²⁷⁷ red physic nut, ??, ??, the three myrobalans, and embelia, a Bengal quince fruit equivalent measure of viburnum-root and ??, two *pātra* quantities of both triphalā-decoction²⁷⁸ and yogurt, and one *pātra* measure of ghee.²⁷⁹ One should mix these ingredients all at once and cook the mixture properly. This (resultant) is viburnum-ghee. Unctuous purging of bowels is prescribed for treating wind disorders.²⁸⁰

This procedure of making viburnum-ghee should also be referred for making Asoka tree-ghee and ??-ghee.²⁸¹

- 28 One should collect the wooden logs of the instruments that have been used for a long time for extracting oil from sesame seeds. One should then have them chopped into very tiny pieces and then pound those pieces. Next, one should put them in a big vessel, submerge them in water, and boil them. Thereafter, one should collect the oil from the surface of the water with a goblet or by hand. Thereafter, one should properly cook wind-alleviating herbs with this oil that was effectively cooked.²⁸² This is the *anutaṭila*

276 कल्क also means an unguent paste. Refer to Apte's dictionary.

277 In H, perhaps it should have been त्रिवृद् instead of तृवृत्.

278 त्रिफलारस is here taken to mean a decoction of triphalā.

279 The exact measurements of *akṣa* and *pātra* are given in Ḍalhaṇa's commentary in Su 1938: 422.

280 It should be understood here that the unctuous substance to be used for purging the bowels is the viburnum-ghee.

281 अशोक and रम्यक are the Ashoka and Chinaberry respectively.

282 In H, the word दन्तप्रतीवायं in the compound word वातघ्नौषधदन्तप्रतीवायं does not appear to make sense. Perhaps the syllable य should be प, thus making the word प्रतीवापं that refers to an admixture of substances to medicines either during or after decoction. Refer to Monier-Williams's Sanskrit dictionary.

(अनुतैल)²⁸³ that is mentioned in wind disorders. It is called *anutaīla* because it is produced from tiny oily objects.²⁸⁴

- 29 Alternatively, one should burn a great amount of ??-wood on the ground for one night. When the fire gets extinguished the ash should be removed. Then, the ground that is relieved of the fire should be soaked with a hundred pots of oil cooked with ??, ??, and other herbs, and left in that condition for one night. Thereafter, one should take all the earth that is oily²⁸⁵ in a big vessel and totally cover it with water.²⁸⁶ The oil that rises up in that vessel should be taken out with both hands and kept nicely covered. Thereafter, one should properly cook that oil for as long as possible²⁸⁷ with one thousand parts of each of the following---a decoction of wind-alleviating herbs, meat soup, milk, and *kāñjika*²⁸⁸---and thus prepare the *sahasra-pāka* (that which is cooked with thousands). The admixture added to the oil contains the *hemavata* herbs²⁸⁹, herbs of the southern region, *Withania*, and other wind-alleviating herbs.

While the oil is being cooked, conchshells should be blown loudly, umbrellas should be held, huge drums should be resounded, and whisk fans should be waved.²⁹⁰ Thereafter, the perfectly cooked oil should be poured into a golden or silver pot and stored. This *sahasra-pāka* is the oil possessing undiminishing potency and is fit for kings.

283 The न् should be read ण्.

284 The word अनु in the compound word अनुतैलद्रव्येभ्यः should be read अण्.

285 In H, the word यावन् should have been यावान्.

286 The reading in H, कटाहेभ्यः सिंचेत्, does not make sense here. Thus, we have accepted the vulgate reading कटाहे ऽभ्यासिंचेत् for the translation.

287 The phrase "यावता कालेन शक्नुयात् पक्तुम्" appears as a part of a new sentence in H. But, we should take it to be a part of the earlier sentence for it to make proper sense.

288 Ḍalhaṇa comments (Su 1938: 423) that the word अम्ल here means काञ्जिक which is the water drained after boiling rice and is a little fermented. Refer Monier Williams's Sanskrit Dictionary.

289 The word should be हैमवताः as in the vulgate. It means "the herbs of the snowy mountains". Ḍalhaṇa comments (Su 1938: 423) that हैमवताः refers to the herbs that grow in the northern region.

290 These activities are a symbolic way of showing reverence.

Thus, that which is cooked with a thousand parts is called *sahasra-pāka*.

- 30 One should collect fresh leaves of *castor oil tree*, ??, ??, *weaver's beam tree*, *Indian beech*, ??, and *leadwort*.²⁹¹ These leaves should be completely pounded along with salt in a mortar. This mixture should be put in a pot filled with oil²⁹². It (pot) should be smeared²⁹³ with cow-dung. Thereafter, the pot should be heated.²⁹⁴ This (resultant) is the *patra-lavaṇa* (leaf-salt) that is mentioned in wind disorders.
- 31 In the same way, one should pound the stalks of *oleander spurge* and eggplants smeared with salt and fill a pot with it.²⁹⁵ In that pot, one should add ghee, oil, fat, and marrow. Then, one should smear it²⁹⁶ and heat it as earlier. This (resultant) is the *sneha-lavaṇa* (fat-salt) that is mentioned in wind disorders.
- 32 One should collect the fresh fruits, roots, leaves, and branches of all the twenty [herbs]: ??, *flame-of-the-forest*, *Tellicherry bark*, *Bengal quince*, *purple calotropis*, *oleander spurge*, ??, *weaver's beam tree*, *corky coral tree*, ??, ??, ??, ??, ??, ??, *Indian beech*, ??, *hairy-fruited eggplant*, ??, *marking-nut tree*, *Asoka tree*, ??. One should then mix them with salt and heat them as earlier.²⁹⁷ The oil on top should be poured out completely with the salty mixture intact [at the bottom]. This mixture should be cooked thoroughly. The admixture added to it consists of *long pepper*, etc. This (resultant) is the salt called *kalyāṇaka* that is mentioned in wind disorders and in meals and drinks

Euphorbia
An-
tiquorum
(Antique
spurge)

²⁹¹ In H, the ending नाम् should be णाम् due to sandhi.

²⁹² सेहघट can also mean a pot filled with ghee

²⁹³ The H or vulgate do not specify with words that it is the pot to be smeared. But, it is to be understood.

²⁹⁴ The word दाहयेत् usually refers to burning, but sometimes it can refer to heating.

²⁹⁵ In H, there should be a *visarga* after लवणा.

²⁹⁶ As earlier, the pot should be smeared with cow-dung.

²⁹⁷ It is to be understood that all these fresh branches, leaves, fruits, and roots of the herbs should be completely pounded together with salt. The mixture should then be put into a pot filled with oil or ghee. The pot should be smeared with cow-dung and then heated.

for the patients troubled by *plīhāgnisaṃga*, indigestion, loss of appetite, and piles.
Thus ends the fourth chapter on the treatment of wind diseases.

Cikitsāsthāna 5: On the Treatment of Serious Wind Diseases

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.²⁹⁸

Translation

- 1 Now we shall describe the treatment of serious wind diseases.
- 2
- 3 One group says that the blood afflicted by wind (wind-blood) (*vāta-rakta*) is of two types: spreading out over a surface (उत्तान) and deep (अवगाढ).²⁹⁹ However, this is not correct.³⁰⁰ Why? Just as leprosy, after spreading over a surface it (afflicted blood) becomes deeply situated. Therefore, its being of two different types is refuted.
- 4 When the wind is aggravated by fighting a strong person, etc.³⁰¹, one's corrupted blood caused by eating heavy or hot food before the last meal is digested blocks the path of the aggravated wind. It then combines with the wind and simultaneously creates pain due to the wind-blood.

²⁹⁸ [HIML](#): IA, 266.

²⁹⁹ Ḍalhaṇa commented ([Su 1938](#): 424) that उत्तान refers to being situated in the skin and flesh, and अवगाढ refers to being situated internally.

³⁰⁰ In H, the word तन् should be तत्.

³⁰¹ These factors that aggravate the wind are mentioned in *Nidānasthāna*, Ch. 12, text 6.

This [condition] is called wind-blood (*vāta-śoṇita*). At first, it is situated in the hands and feet.³⁰² Later, it spreads throughout the body. Its early forms are pricking pain, burning, itching, ulcer, trembling³⁰³, roughness of the skin, pulsation in the blood vessels, tendons, and tubular vessels³⁰⁴, weakness of the thighs, as well as the sudden appearance of dark brown, tawny, or red spots on the soles of the feet, fingers, ankles, and wrists. The disease becomes fully manifest in the person who does not undertake the means to revert the disease or applies a wrong treatment. Its symptoms have been mentioned. Among them, weakness occurs for the one who does not counter the disease.

- 5 Generally, wind-blood occurs in those who are very delicate, those who eat the wrong foods and enjoy improperly, those who are fat, and even in those who indulge in pleasure.
- 6 In that regard, one should treat the patient who is not degenerating due to wasting of life air, thirst, fever, unconsciousness, dyspnea, trembling, and loss of appetite, is not oppressed by the contraction [of limbs], is strong, composed, and has the means.
- 7 In the treatment, at the beginning itself one should do blood-letting of the wind-affected body part little by little and more than once. That (slow blood-letting) is because of the danger of further aggravation of wind. One should avoid doing blood-letting of the part hardened or weakened by excessive wind.³⁰⁵ Thereafter, one should make the patient do the remedies of vomiting, etc. If the wind that is mixed [with blood] or separated is very aggravated then one should make him consume aged ghee or goat-milk. Or, [one can give him] half a measure of oil added with an *akṣa* of liquorice and cooked with hare foot uraria³⁰⁶, or the oil that is sweetened by sugar and honey and cooked with dried ginger and bulrush. Or, one should boil milk with an eight times volume of the decoction of the following herbs: beautyberry, grey orchid, ??, hare foot uraria³⁰⁷, ??, wild asparagus, ??, and ??. This milk should then be used to cook oil with the admixture of pastes of ??, ??,

302 In H, the word तन् should be तत्.

303 In H, there should not have been the स् after स्तम्भ.

304 In addition to blood vessels, it would also include the nerves.

305 In H, the reading अम्लान does not make sense given the context. Therefore, we have accepted the vulgate reading म्लान for the translation.

306 Ḍalhaṇa glossed (Su 1938: 425) *śṛgālavinnā* as *prśniparṇī*.

307 According to Ḍalhaṇa, *śṛgālavinnā* is *prśniparṇī*.

??, ??, deodar, sweet flag, and ??. This (resultant) should be utilised in drinks, etc. Or, one should use the oil that is cooked with a decoction of wild asparagus, prickly chaff-flower³⁰⁸, ??, liquorice, giant potato, heart-leaf sida, country mallow, and ??³⁰⁹, with the admixture of cottony jujube, etc. Or, one should use the heart-leaf sida-oil that is cooked as *śatapāka*.³¹⁰ Or, [the affected body part] should be moistened with milk that is boiled with the roots of wind-alleviating herbs, or it should be moistened with sour things.³¹¹ In that regard, five remedies prepared with milk are described. For preparing a poultice, milk should be cooked in ghee, oil, fat, marrow, and *dugdha*³¹² separately with each of these powdered grains or pulses—barley, wheat, sesame, mung beans, or green gram—that is mixed with unctuous pastes of cottony jujube, purple roscoe, ??, ??, heart-leaf sida, country mallow, hare foot uraria³¹³, ??, ??, sugar, bulrush³¹⁴, ??, and sweet flag. Or, the essence of unctuous fruits³¹⁵ can be used as a poultice. Or, a *veśavāra*³¹⁶ prepared from the flesh of a fat *cilicima* fish³¹⁷ can be used instead. Or, [one

308 Ḍalhaṇa glossed (Su 1938: 425) *mayūraka* as *apāmārga*.

309 Ḍalhaṇa commented (Su 1938: 425) that *halfa grass*, ??, ??, *halfa grass*, ??, and ?? are called *tr̥ṇa* (grass).

310 *Śatapāka* seems to be an oil that is prepared with a hundred parts of some things similar to *sahasrapāka* that is prepared with one thousand parts of some herbs. Refer *Cikitsāsthāna* Ch. 4 text 29 for the preparation of *sahasrapāka*.

311 Ḍalhaṇa commented (Su 1938: 425) that the sour things (*amla*) are ??, Indian jujube, ??-water, etc. *Surā* is some kind of liquor, *sauvīraka* is perhaps the fruit of the jujube tree, and *tuṣa* is perhaps *Terminalia Bellerica* (विभीतक).

312 In the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, the word for milk is *kṣīra* or *payas* but not *dugdha*. Therefore, the word *dugdha* here can mean the sap of plants or something that is extracted.

313 *śṛṅgālavinnā*

314 For *kaśerukā*

315 Ḍalhaṇa commented (Su 1938: 425) that the unctuous fruits mentioned here are sesame, castor, flax, ??, etc.

316 In H, the reading वैशवारो does not make sense. It should have been वेशवारो, as shown in the vulgate, which is the reading we have accepted here.

Veśavāra is boneless meat minced, steamed, and added with spices, ghee, etc. Refer to 'Ayurveda Medical Dictionary' by Ranganayakulu Potturu.

Perhaps the word वैशवार is an earlier form of the word वेशवार.

317 H has the compound word नलपीनमत्स्य. नलमीन is a particular fish known as *cilicima* (चिलिचिमः). See *Amarakośa*. Also, if the name is नलमत्स्य then the word पीन (fat) within the name is not according to proper Sanskrit. But, it can be allowed because the word मत्स्य (fish), instead of being a part of the name, can be considered to mean fish in general and thus the word पीन becomes its modifier. Thus, नलपीनमत्स्य can mean "a

The webpage
https://hindi.shabd.in/vairagya-
shatakam-
bhag-
acharya-
arjun-
tiwari/post/117629
says that
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belongs
to the
Nītiratna. I
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can use] the poultice containing Bengal quince-rind³¹⁸, crape jasmine, deodar, ??, grey orchid, peas, costus, ??, liquor, yogurt, and whey. Or, [one can use] the ointment prepared by mixing citron, amla³¹⁹, salt, and ghee with honey and horseradish tree-root. Or else, [one can use] the unctuous sesame paste.

- 8 When the [condition of wind-blood] has a predominance of bile, the patient should be made to drink a decoction of grapes, ??-fruit, Indian ipecac, liquorice, sandalwood, and white teak. This decoction is sweetened with honey and sugar before consumption. Or, the decoction of wild asparagus, pointed gourd, malabathrum, triphalā, ??, and heart-leaved moonseed should be given. [The patient should be administered] ghee that is prepared with sweet, bitter, and astringent [remedies].³²⁰

[The patient] should be sprinkled with a decoction of ??, lotus stalk, white sandalwood, and wild Himalayan cherry mixed with goat-milk³²¹, or with rice water that is mixed with milk, sugarcane juice, honey, and sugar, or with whey and sour rice gruel mixed with a decoction of grapes and sugarcane. Or else, [the patient] should be sprinkled with ghee that is prepared with *jīvanīya*³²² or sprinkled with ghee that is purified for one hundred times.

The poultice [to be applied] should be made of rice flour or of the paste of sour rice gruel mixed with ??, pussywillow, scrambleberry³²³, ??, ??, turmeric, horned pondweed, sacred lotus, etc. The poultice should be mixed with ghee.

fat fish that is a नल (*cilicima*)”.

Ḍalhaṇa says in his comment (Su 1938: 425) that नलमीन is a type of रोहित (*rohita*). Monier Williams says that *rohita* is a kind of fish: Cyprinus Rohitaka. Regarding the *rohita* fish, there is a *subhāṣita*: अगाधजलसञ्चारी न गर्व याति रोहितः | अङ्गुष्ठोदकमात्रेण शफरी फर्फरायते || This indicates that *rohita* is a deep water fish.

318 The word पेसिका in H should be read पेशिका.

319 Perhaps it could mean vinegar or sour curds. Refer to Monier Williams Sanskrit Dictionary.

320 Ḍalhaṇa commented (Su 1938: 425) that the sweet remedies are cottony jujube, etc., bitter remedies are pointed gourd, etc., and astringent remedies are triphalā, etc.

321 The compound word ending with कषायेण is taken to be a *bahuvrīhi* for अजाक्षीरेण (goat-milk).

322 *Jīvanīya* seems to be a group of medicinal herbs. There is an Ayurvedic preparation called *jīvanīya-ghṛta*. Refer to the *Āyurvedīya Śabdakośa* vol. 1.

323 तालीस should be read तालीश

- 9 The [condition of wind-blood] with a predominance of blood should be treated in the same way. Also, blood-letting should be done repeatedly.
- 10 However, when the [condition of wind-blood] has a predominance of phlegm, the patient should be made to consume a decoction of **emblic myrobalan** and **turmeric** that is sweetened with honey, or a decoction of *triphalā*, or a paste of **liquorice**, ??, **chebulic myrobalan**, and ??. He should be made to drink **chebulic myrobalan** with water mixed with a little urine. He should be sprinkled with oil, urine, salty water, and liquor that are acidic³²⁴. Or, he should be sprinkled with a decoction of **golden shower tree**, etc.
- The patient should be massaged with ghee cooked with sour cream, urine, liquor, ??³²⁵, **liquorice**, ??³²⁶, and **wild Himalayan cherry**.
- The poultice should be made of either the paste of white mustard, or the paste of sesame and **Withania**, or the paste of ??³²⁷, **Indian cherry**, and **wood-apple**, or the paste of honey, **horseradish tree**, and **hogweed**,³²⁸ or the paste of dry ginger, long pepper, black pepper,³²⁹ **hare foot uraria**, and **hairy-fruited eggplant**.³³⁰ These five poultices are prepared with salty water. Thus, they have been described.
- 11 In case of combined aggravation of two humours or simultaneous aggravation of all three humours, the stated methods of treating those aggravations should be combined.³³¹
- 12 In all [aggravations], one should consume **chebulic myrobalan** with jaggery. Or, one should have a diet of rice cooked in milk for ten days and should drink a mixture of **long peppers** crushed in milk, with increasing by five **long peppers** each night. Then one should reduce them again by the order of five more [each night].³³² In this way, one should

The provisional edition should be modified accordingly.

324 Reading the word सुक्त in H as शुक्त

325 Monier Williams states Rumex Vesicarius for śuktā

326 DCS has this entry: Cryptolepsis buchananii Roem. et Schult. (Surapāla (1988), 453)
Decalepis hamiltonii Wight et Arn. (Surapāla (1988), 453)

327 According to V. S. Apte, दारु can mean देवदारु.

328 H has a short अ at the end instead of the long आ.

329 व्योषतिक्ता refers to the group of these three pungent spices. Also see *Sūtrasthāna* 14.35.

330 In H, the Sanskrit syntax does not match up with what the author is trying to say. The name of the fifth paste should also have been in the nominative case, as the other four pastes.

331 It means that the respective methods of treating the aggravation of individual humours should be combined.

332 In H, the letter अ् in भूयञ्च should have been श्.

[reduce] all the long peppers. This is called *Pippalīvarddhamānakam* (Increasing Long Peppers). It indeed cures wind-blood, intense fever,³³³ loss of appetite, jaundice, abdominal affection, piles, heavy breathing, cough, wasting disease, weak digestion, and heart disease.

The poultice is a paste of bluebell barleria, sandalwood, rajmahal hemp, ??, wild asparagus, bulrush,³³⁴ country mallow, wild Himalayan cherry, liquorice, Indian dill, ??, ??, ??, heart-leaf sida, country mallow, and *Holostemma creeper* mixed with milk. Or it is a paste of white teak, liquorice, and ?? mixed with ghee and cream. Or it is olibanum cooked with milk that is mixed with ??, ??, resin of white dammer tree, liquorice and the group of sweet herbs.

Old ghee that is cooked with emblic myrobalan and chir pine and sweetened with sugar and honey is for drinking. Old ghee that is cooked with *jīvanīya* or that is cooked with a decoction of ?? is for sprinkling. Cooked heart-leaf sida oil is for sprinkling, bathing, enema, and eating³³⁵. One should eat food preparations made of rice, ??, barley and wheat accompanied with milk, meat soup, or mung beans soup that is not sour. Blood-letting also [should be done]. The treatments of vomiting, purging of bowels, enema, and oily enema should be conducted when the humours are highly aggravated.

13

14 There are verses in this regard.³³⁶

There is immediate relief by the application of remedies such as these by which the physicians cure the chronic condition of wind-blood.

15-16 Poultice, sprinkling [oil], plaster, oil massage,³³⁷ spacious and comfortable rooms³³⁸ with no wind, soft pillows, comfortable beds,

333 Perhaps विषमज्वर could mean irregular fever.

334 H has कशेरुका.

335 Perhaps it means that one should eat foods cooked in that oil.

336 The word भवति in H should have been भवन्ति.

337 In H, the part व्यजनानिला: does not make proper sense in the verse. Emending it to व्यजनानि च could be a consideration, but fanning (व्यजन) a patient with wind-blood is not good, as understood from the recommendation that such a patient should stay in a non-windy room. Therefore, we have accepted the vulgate reading for the first half of this verse.

338 In H, read the स सरणानि as श.

and soft massages are recommended in the condition of wind-blood.

- 17 Exercise, mating, anger, eating hot, sour, or salty foods, sleeping during the day, and food that is slimy or heavy should be avoided.
- 18 One should treat the person who is affected with spasmodic contraction,³³⁹ who does not have droopy eyes and crooked eyebrows, whose fingers have not become rigid, who is not perspiring or trembling, who is not in a state of delirium, who is not bed-ridden,³⁴⁰ and who is not restrained externally. There at the beginning itself,³⁴¹ after rubbing the patient with oil and making him perspire, one should treat him with a strong *avapīḍa*³⁴² in order to clear his head. Then, the patient should be made to drink filtered ghee that is properly cooked with a decoction of *beggarweed* and other herbs, sugarcane juice, milk, and yogurt. In that way, the wind does not spread exceedingly. Thereafter, one should gather wind-alleviating herbs such as *deodar*, etc. and other constituent parts, along with *barley*, ??, and *horse gram*, and the flesh of a freshwater aquatic creature all at one place and prepare a decoction of them. One should take this decoction and mix it properly with sour substances and milk, and then cook the *pratīvāpa*³⁴³ of *liquorice* in this mixture along with ghee, oil, body fat, and bone marrow. This is *trivṛt* that should be recommended in treatments of sprinkling, oil massage, applying a poultice, oral consumption, oily enema, and errhine for patients having spasmodic contractions. The patient should then be made to sweat by the methods described earlier. If the wind is stronger then the patient should be immersed in [a vessel] filled with lukewarm fluid used for sprinkling (*trivṛt*). Or he should be kept in the hot fireplace of a blacksmith.³⁴⁴ Or else he should

There, Dalhana commented that de-liberation on *avapīḍa* had been done earlier when it was mentioned. Find that description to know more details.

339 In H, the reading अपताकिनम् should have been अपतानकिनम्.

340 V. S. Apte has खट्वयति. The *Āyurvedīya Śabdakośa* has the entry खट्वापातिन् which means “one who is inclined to fall from bed.” Perhaps the reading in H has an error of the letter या which should have been पा.

341 In H, प्रागैव should have been प्रागेव.

342 The *Āyurvedīya Śabdakośa* has the entry अवपीड that means administering an oily paste through the nose. Refer *SS Cikitsāsthāna* Ch. 40 text 44 for a better understanding of *avapīḍa*.

343 It refers to an admixture of substances to medicines either during or after decoction. Refer to Monier-Williams’s Sanskrit dictionary.

344 H has the reading रथाकारचुल्ल्याम् that means “fireplace shaped like a chariot”, but the

be made to sweat by [a mixture of] ??, *veśavāra*,³⁴⁵ and milk.

Oil cooked with the juice of *radish*, ??, ??, *spurge*, and ?? should be used in sprinkling, etc. for patients with spasmodic contractions.³⁴⁶ Sour yogurt mixed with *black pepper* and drunk on an empty stomach alleviates spasmodic contractions. Or else, ghee, oil, body fat, or bone marrow [can be consumed on an empty stomach].

This procedure of treatment thus described is for spasmodic contractions caused only by wind. When mixed humours cause it then the treatment should also be mixed. And when the spasms subside the patient should be given *avapīḍa*-s. One should also consider the fats of cock, crab, black fish, and porpoise.³⁴⁷ Milk prepared with wind-alleviating medicines. Gruel prepared with barley, ??, *horse gram*, *radish*, yogurt, ghee, and oil.

One should treat this recurring spasm for ten nights with oil massage, purging of bowels, enemas, and oily enemas. One should also look up the treatment of diseases caused by wind. One should also undertake preventive measures.

- 19 One should treat the paralytic (hemiplegic) patient whose limbs are not languid, who is in pain, and who is self-composed. There, at the beginning itself the patient should be massaged with oil and made to sweat. After cleansing the patient with a mild purifier,³⁴⁸ he should be administered with an oily enema and then a non-oily enema. Then at the appropriate time, he should be treated with special enemas of the brain and the head according to the method prescribed in the treatment of *ākṣepaka*.³⁴⁹ *Anutaila* should be used for massage.³⁵⁰ *Sālvala* should be used for poultice.³⁵¹ *heart-leaf sida* oil should be used for oily enema. In this way, the unremitting patient should take the treatment for three to four months.

Search for the section where the treatment of *ākṣepaka* is described.

Make the first letter of sentence capital.

vulgate reading रथकारचुल्लयाम् makes more sense here. Thus, we have accepted it.

345 Refer the above text no.7 for *veśavāra*. In H, the syllable वै should have been वे.

346 The word तैलम् is not present in H but is present in the vulgate. We have accepted it.

347 H has the reading रसान् which means “juices”. It seems unrealistic that juice would be extracted by crushing these whole animals. Vulgate has the reading वसाः instead of रसान् which appears to be the more probable reading. Thus, we have accepted it.

348 According to P. V. Sharma, this refers to mild evacuatives (purgatives).

349 Refer *Nidānasthāna* 1.50-51 for *ākṣepaka*.

350 For the procedure of preparing *anutaila*, refer *Cikitsāsthāna* 4.28.

351 For the procedure of preparing *sālvala*, refer *Cikitsāsthāna* 4.14-15.

20

21

- 22 One should treat the patient with *ardita*³⁵² who is strong and possesses the means with the method prescribed in treating wind diseases. The unique thing is the treatment with enemas of the brain and the head, errhine, smoke, poultice, and steam bath through tubes. Then, one should take the great five roots (*pañcamūlī*) with grass and prepare its decoction in milk mixed with twice the water. Then, the decoction with the milk remaining³⁵³ should be brought down [the stove] and filtered. It should then be mixed with a *prastha*³⁵⁴ of oil and again placed over fire and cooked thoroughly. Then, the oil mixed with milk should be brought down [the stove] and then churned after it cools down. This is called *kṣīrataila* that should be used in drinks, etc. for patients with *ardita*.
- 23 In the diseases of *gr̥dhrasī*, *viścañcī*, *kroṣṭukaśīrṣa*, *paṅgukalāya*, lameness, *vātakaṇṭaka*, burning sensation in the foot, numbness of the foot, *avabāhuka*, deafness, and *dhamanīvāta*, one should pierce the blood vessel as described earlier and, barring the case of *avabāhuka*, one should look up the treatment for wind diseases.
- 24 However, in the case of *karṇamūla*,³⁵⁵ lukewarm juice of ??³⁵⁶ mixed with *liquorice*, oil, and salt should be put into the ears.³⁵⁷ Or else one can use goat urine, *liquorice*, and oil. Or else one can use oil that is cooked with *citron*, *pomegranate*, ?? juice, and urine.³⁵⁸ Or else one can use oil that is cooked with sour liquor, buttermilk, and urine. One should also make the patient sweat with a steam bath through tubes. One should also look up the treatment for wind diseases. More will be said later.

352 Refer *Nidānasthāna* 1.71-72 for *ardita*.

353 It means that the water has evaporated.

354 Ḍalhana commented (*Su* 1938: 425) that a *prastha* is a measure of weight that is equal to 32 *pala*-s.

355 The vulgate has the reading कर्णशूले which appears to be a more credible reading according to the context.

356 शृङ्गवेर appears to be a name of ginger. Refer to the Sanskrit dictionary of Monier Williams.

357 In H, the reading रसैः does not seem to make sense here. Hence we have accepted the vulgate reading रसम्.

358 In H, the word तैल should have been तैलम् to make proper sense. The vulgate has this reading. Thus we have accepted it.

- 25 In the case of *tūnī* and *pratitūnī*, one should make the patient drink ghee and salt with hot water. Or else one should administer the powder of long pepper and other herbs with hot water. Or else one should make the patient drink ghee that is made thick with asafoetida and barley ash.³⁵⁹ One should also treat the patient with enemas.
- 26 In the case of *ādhmāna*,³⁶⁰ however, one should do *avatarpaṇa*,³⁶¹ heating the hands, *phalavartikriyā*,³⁶² stimulation of digestion, and [administer] digestives. One should also employ the purging of bowels and enemas. In the case of *pratyādhmāna*,³⁶³ one should employ vomiting, fasting, and stimulation of digestion.
- 27 In the case of *aṣṭhīlā* and *pratyāṣṭhīlā*,³⁶⁴ the procedure is that of *gulma* and internal abscess.
- 28 The beneficial asafoetida, the three pungent spices (long pepper, black pepper, and dry ginger), sweet flag, ?? grains, wild spider flower, pomegranate, ??, velvet-leaf, leadwort, ??, rock salt, ??, ??, barley ash, natron, long pepper root, ??, ??, ??, ?? (juniper berry), and ?? (cumin seeds) should be powdered. This powder should be mixed with a lot of citron juice. Then it should be made into pills each weighing one *akṣa*. Thereafter the patient of wind disease should consume one pill every morning. This medicine indeed cures *gulma*, rapid breathing, cough, loss of appetite, heart disease, *ādhmāna*, *pārśvodara*, *bastīsūla*, *an-āhamūtra*, painful piles, *plīhodara*, and *pāṇḍuroga*. Also, this medicine is excessively used in cases of *tūnī* and *pratitūnī*.
- 29 There are verses in this regard.

The wind that has entered into the body tissues should be correctly

359 यवक्षार is an alkali prepared from the ashes of burnt green barleycorns. Refer to the Sanskrit dictionary of Monier Williams.

360 Refer to *Nidānasthāna* 1.88. V. S. Apte explains it as “swelling of the belly”. P.V. Sharma has translated it as flatulence.

361 We are unclear about its meaning. The vulgate has the reading अपतर्पण that means fasting.

362 The entry फलवर्ति has the meaning “suppository” in the Sanskrit dictionary of Monier Williams. The Cambridge dictionary explains suppository as “a small, solid pill containing a drug that is put inside the anus, where it dissolves easily.” Refer to the link <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/suppository>. Last accessed 30-Oct-2023.

363 Refer to *Nidānasthāna* 1.89. According to the Sanskrit dictionary of Monier Williams, it is a kind of tympanites or wind-dropsy.

364 Refer to *Nidānasthāna* 1.90 and 1.91.

understood as either pure or vitiated by humours³⁶⁵ and should be cured accordingly.

- 30 *The wind that is accompanied by fat causes a swelling that is painful, hard, and cold. The physician should properly treat it like a treating a swelling.*
- 31 *When the wind accompanied by phlegm and fat enters the thighs, it causes pain in and immobility of the thighs due to numbness, pain, and fever.*
- 32 *Also, the thighs become pained, stiff, cold, and do not quiver due to sleep. They become heavy and as if belonging to someone else.³⁶⁶*
- 33 *That is called ūrūstambha. Others call it āḍhyaṁvāta. In that case, one should drink the ṣaṇḍharāṇa powder with cool water.*
- 34 *Similarly, consuming the powder of long pepper and other herbs with hot water is beneficial. Or else, one should consume the powder of triphalā with honey and kutki.*
- 35-38 *Or else, one should drink the best Indian bdellium-tree or ?? with urine. Such a person cures the wind that is afflicted by phlegm and accompanied by fat, as well as heart disease, loss of appetite, gulma, and internal abscess.*
One should employ salty urine [therapy], sudation, and hard rubbing. One should also apply [the paste of] mustard and pongame oiltree fruits mixed with urine.³⁶⁷
One should eat old ??s, ??, ??, etc. along with uncooked³⁶⁸ flesh of wild animals and unsalted vegetables that are beneficial.
- 39 *When the phlegm and fat become amply reduced one should again employ the treatment of oil massage, etc. for the patient.*

365 In H, the reading लक्षणोन्यामंश्च does not make sense. Hence I cannot translate it. Perhaps the correct reading could be लक्षणाभ्याञ्च. This would connect with the two conditions of the wind as stated in the verse.

366 In H, the verb वर्तते should have been in the dual. Also, the word आस्थिरौ does not make sense. The vulgate has the sensible reading अस्थिरौ which we have accepted here.

367 The word दिहेत् in H is not a proper Sanskrit word. We have taken its proper form दिह्यात् as given in the vulgate.

368 The vulgate has the reading अघृतैः that means without ghee.

Cikitsāsthāna 15: On Difficult Delivery

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter on fetal malpresentation and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.³⁶⁹ Das made observations about the afterbirth (*aparā*) that is mentioned in 4.15.17 ([Su 1938](#): 432).³⁷⁰ Selby has explored gynecological narratives in ayurveda.³⁷¹

Translation

- 1 And now we shall explain the difficult delivery medically treated.
- 3 Nothing else is more difficult than the extraction of a foetus since it has to be performed in the region of vagina, liver, spleen, intestines and the uterus. Actions like pushing up, pulling down, cutting off, incising, removing, pressing and straightening must be done using one hand, without hurting the foetus or the pregnant woman, Therefore, having considered that and obtaining permission, one should proceed with care.
- 4 Eight types of the positions of difficult foetus have earlier been mentioned briefly. Even if, in the natural birth process also the large / wrong way of the head, shoulders or hips of a foetus / child cling firmly in the passage.

³⁶⁹ [HIML](#): IA, 271–272.

³⁷⁰ Das [2003](#): 517.

³⁷¹ Selby [2005a,b](#).

- 5 In the case of a live foetus, the delivering ladies should attempt to deliver it. And, during this process, they should be made to hear the sacred verses repeatedly meant for expulsion of a foetus.

6 *O beautiful woman, may the divine nectar and the moon and the sun and Uccaiśravas reside icumbhalakan your house.*

7 *O lady, may this nectar extracted from the water release this tiny foetus of yours. May the fire, wind, sun and Indra together with the ocean bestow upon you the peace.*

- 9 And, as mentioned before (3.10.16-20) the medicine should be administered. In the case of a dead fetus, (the physician) having inserted (his) hand lubricated with the *dhanvaka*, *mṛttikā* – soil, the *śālmālī*- the *seemul* and ghee into the vagina of a woman lying on her back, whose thighs are bent with the elevated waist with the support of the cloth of *cumbhalaka* should take away the fetus. In the case, the fetus coming out with both the thighs, should be stretched out in a normal way. If the fetus has reached with only one thigh, spreading out its other thigh it should be taken out. If the fetus is coming out with its buttocks portion, squeezing the buttocks upward, spreading the thighs it should be taken out. A fetus having come in a transverse position like an oblique (तिर्यक्चीनस्य ?) iron club, lifting upward its half of the lower part from behind, straightening its half of the upper part, bringing it to the passage of vagina, it should be taken out. The last two positions of the dead fetus cannot be accomplished. Thus, in this state, instrument should be employed / surgery should be undertaken.

- 10 But, the live fetus should not be torn apart in any case. As, the live fetus may kill the mother and self soon.

- 12 Next, assuring safety to the lady, cutting the head of the fetus with the instrument that has disc on the top (मण्डलाग्र) or finger shaped instrument (अङ्गुलिशस्त्र); removing the skull, the fetus should be taken out holding the forceps at its chest and armpit. If the head of the fetus is not separated, the fetus should be drawn out from its orbital regions or cheek (with the forceps); if the shoulders are stuck up in the passage, the fetus should be taken out by cutting its arm / arms at the shoulder region; tearing the abdomen when bloated with wind just like a stretched leather bag used for holding water, casting off the intestine,

the loosened fetus should be taken out. Or else, if its thighs are adhered to the passage, the bones of the thighs should be cut and fetus is removed.

- 13 The fetus is adhered to the passage from whichever its body part, the physician by separating that part should remove the fetus carefully and by all means the woman should be protected.
 - 14 For, irritated wind causes different movements of the fetus. In this situation, the wise physician should act intelligently.
 - 15 And, the learned physician should not delay even for moment in removing the dead fetus as it kills mother in no time like a breathless animal.
- If impacted with hip, the hip bones should be cut and then delivered.

Part 5. Kalpasthāna

Kalpasthāna: Introduction

The *Kalpasthāna* of the *Compendium of Suśruta* is one of the most important treatises on toxicology surviving from the ancient world.³⁷² Other treatises, such as the *θηριακά* (*On Beasts*) and *Ἀλεξίφάρμακα* (*Antidotes*) of Nicander of Colophon (fl. second century BCE) or the *Περὶ τῶν ἰοβολῶν θηρίων καὶ δηλητηρίων φαρμάκων* (*On Venomous Beasts and Poisonous Drugs*) by Aelius Promotus (fl. ca. first century BCE–first century CE) do not approach the *Kalpasthāna* in length, taxonomic detail or organization.³⁷³

The Sequence of Chapters

The Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* reverses the sequence of chapters six and seven (see Table 2). This difference in sequence does not have an immediately obvious significance, but it appears to be the most original known sequence of chapters, since it was already known to Jejjāṭa.³⁷⁴

The Spread of Indian Toxicological Lore to Medieval Islamic Authors

The *Suśrutasaṃhitā* was translated into Persian or Arabic at the Abbasid court in the late eighth century by an Indian physician who is often known

³⁷² Liu (2021) provides a valuable overview of poison treatises in the ancient world, inexplicably omitting mention of the *Kalpasthāna*.

³⁷³ On Nicander, see Gow and Scholfield 1953 and the facsimile of MS Paris BNF Greek suppl. 247 published by Touwaide et al. (1997). On Aelius Promotus, see W. Smith 1870: 29; Gostomiris 1897: 363–368; Ihm 1995.

³⁷⁴ See note 634 below.

Table 2: Chapters of the *Kalpasthāna*.

Chapter title	Nepalese	vulgate
Annapānarakṣākalpa	1	1
Sthāvaraviṣavijñāna	2	2
Jaṅgamaviṣavijñāna	3	3
Sarppadaṣṭavijñāna	4	4
Sarppadaṣṭacikitsita	5	5
Mūṣikākalpa	6	7
Dundubhisvana	7	6
Kīṭakalpa	8	8

by the name Mankah.³⁷⁵ The principle source of information about this translation is the *‘Uyūn al-anbā’ fī ṭabaqāt al-aṭibbā* of Ibn Abī Uṣaybi‘ah, Aḥmad ibn al-Qāsim (1201–1270):³⁷⁶

Mankah al-Hindī was knowledgeable about the art of medicine, skilled in treating disease, and moderate in his methods; a philosopher of the previously mentioned group in the Indian sciences. He was also conversant with the Sanskrit and Persian languages: it was he who translated Shānāq’s *On poisons* from Sanskrit to Persian. Mankah was a contemporary of Hārūn al-Rashīd, and during the latter’s caliphate he travelled from India to Iraq, where he met with the caliph and treated him.³⁷⁷

‘Abī Uṣayb’iah himself then went on to cite a passage that he relied on, taken from *The History of the Caliphs and the Barmakids* (*Akhbār al-Barāmikah*) written by Abū Ḥafṣ al-Kirmānī (fl. ca. 800).³⁷⁸

HIML: IA, 352 Langermann 2018

Levey (1966: Introduction) on

- translation of the *Suśrutasamhitā* under the Barmakids (Pramukhas) in eighth-ninth-century Baghdad:

³⁷⁵ On the name and its variants, see HIML: IB, 202, notes 2, 3.

³⁷⁶ On ‘Abī Uṣayb’iah, see Hilloowala 2019.

³⁷⁷ Translation from Savage-Smith et al. 2019: 3.2, 991–993.

³⁷⁸ This treatise is unfortunately lost to history and known only through citations in other authors. See further, Bosworth 1994; van Bladel 2011.

Much more important is the fact that Mankah is known as the translator of the *Susruta samhita*, a huge medical compendium, for Yahya b. Khalid. Ibn abi Usaibi'a (1203/4–1270) also discussed Mankah as an important Indian physician. Al-Jaiz (d. 868/9) knew of Mankah.' ...

Yahya ibn Khalid, a Barmecide, was famous in his day in the field of science. In ibn al-Nadim, it is related that Yah. ya sent a scholar to India to study Indian drugs and religion, and brought Indian physicians and philosophers westward so that he might learn from them. Caliph al-Ma'mun also was interested in the sciences and so brought many scientists to his court from Jundishapur where there were not only Greek men of science but also Indians who had brought their science and wisdom.³⁷⁹

- ibn Wahshiya's Book on Poisons (ca. 950).

Not much is known of Shanaq himself. However, what is one of the earliest mentions of him is made in ibn Wahshiya's Book on Poisons (ca. 950). He refers to Shanaq's book as great and important. This statement is attested to by the fact that much of Shanaq's work was used by ibn Wahshiya. It was not, however, a base upon which the latter's work was built, as Strauss has claimed.³⁸⁰

- The Poison book of Cāṇakya.³⁸¹
- The Poison Book of Maimonides (ca. 1198 CE):
"Moses Maimonides' Treatise on Poisons,"³⁸² was written in approximately July 1198 at the request of his patron, al-Qadi al-Fadil (1135–1200) who served in Cairo under the Fatimid and Ayyubid administrations.³⁸³

379 Levey 1966: 6

380 Idem.

381 Strauss 1934.

382 Rosner 1968.

383 Kraemer 2005: 31.

Kalpasthāna 1: Protecting the King from Poison

Introduction

The meaning of “kalpa”

What does “*kalpa*” mean in the context of this section of the *Suśrutasamhitā*? In medical contexts, this polysemic term can mean an appropriate drug recipe, a suitable medication, or any proper therapy. The present section of the *Suśrutasamhitā* deals with poisonous herbs, animals and insects, so one might expect the term to refer to antidotes or at least drugs. However, the usage here points more to the sense “procedure,” or “formal procedure,” a sense that, in a secular context, echoes the *kalpa* of the *Kalpasūtras*, the “formal procedures” of Vedic ritual.³⁸⁴ The twelfth-century author Aruṇadatta,³⁸⁵ glossed कल्प simply as प्रयोग: “procedure” and as योजनम्.³⁸⁶

Chapter 1 of the Kalpasthāna

The first chapter of the Kalpasthāna of the *Suśrutasamhitā* addresses the topic of protecting a king from those who would assassinate him using poison. The king’s kitchen is presented as the site of greatest vulnerability.

³⁸⁴ Winternitz (1981–85: 252) translated कल्प in the Vedic context simply as “ritual.” He went on to describe the *Kalpasūtras* as, “born out of the necessity to compile the rules for the sacrificial ritual...for the practical purposes of the priests.” Gonda (1977: 467) also used “ritual practice,” giving useful further notes from classical authors in footnote 8.

³⁸⁵ “A learned man with a great command of a number of sciences,” (HIML: 1A, 661).

³⁸⁶ *Sarvāṅgasundarī* on *Aṣṭāṅgaḥṛdayasamhitā* 1.16.17ab (Ah 1939: 246) and 5.1 *gadyasūtre* 2 (Ah 1939: 735) respectively.

The staff in the kitchen must be vetted carefully and watched for signs of dissimulation. The description of the body-language that tells a poisoner (verses 18–25) are engaging and vivid. These verses are closely parallel in sense to a passage in the *Arthaśāstra* that says,

The signs of a poisoner, on the other hand, are as follow: dry and dark look on the face, stuttering speech, excessive perspiration and yawning, trembling, stumbling, looking around while speaking, agitation while working, and not remaining in his place.³⁸⁷

Next, the text discusses the signs of poison in toothbrushes, in food, drink, massage oil and other items that are likely to come into physical contact with the king. In passages that are again paralleled in the *Arthaśāstra* the work describes how poisoned food kills insects and crackles in a fire, flashing blue and the reactions of various birds to poison are described.³⁸⁸

The work then moves on to the various symptoms experienced by the king after being poisoned, and remedies appropriate to each case. Poison exhibits characteristic signs when added to milk and other drinks.³⁸⁹ Further forms of poisoning, their symptoms and treatments are described and finally the king is advised to live amongst trusted friends and to protect his heart by drinking various ghee compounds. He should eat the meat and soup made from various animals, including peacock, mongoose, alligator, deer. The chapter ends with the description of an emetic.

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.³⁹⁰ Translations of this chapter since Meulenbeld's listing have appeared by Wujastyk (2003b: 131–139), P. V. Sharma (1999–2001: 3, 1–15), and Srikantha Murthy (2000–02).³⁹¹

³⁸⁷ *Arthaśāstra* 1.21.8 (Kangle 1965: 1, 30), translation by Olivelle (2013: 97).

³⁸⁸ Cf. *Arthaśāstra* 1.21.6, *ibid.*, Olivelle (2013: 96).

³⁸⁹ Cf. *Arthaśāstra* 1.21.6 again.

³⁹⁰ HIML: IA, 289–290.

³⁹¹ For a bibliography of translations to 2002, including Latin (1847), English (1877), Gujarati (1963) and Japanese (1971), see HIML: IB, 314–315. Singhal and Dwivedi (1976) translated this sthāna.

Manuscript notes

- MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333 has foliation letter numerals, for example on f. 323a, that are similar to MS Cambridge CUL Add.1693,³⁹² dated to 1165 CE.³⁹³

³⁹² Scan at cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-ADD-01693/1.

³⁹³ See Bendall's chart of Nepalese letter-numerals (Bendall 1883: Lithograph V, after p. 225).

Translation

Is Dh. the
teacher of
Su. else-
where?

- 1–2 And now I shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) for safeguarding food and drink, as were declared by the Venerable Dhanvantari.³⁹⁴
- 3 Divodāsa, the king of the earth, was the foremost supporter of religious discipline and virtue. With unblemished instruction he taught his students, of whom Suśruta was the leader.³⁹⁵

[Threats to the king]

- 4–5 Evil-hearted enemies who have plucked up their courage, may seek to harm the king, who knows nothing of it. He may be assailed with poisons by or by his own people who have been subverted, wishing to pour the poison of their anger into any vulnerability they can find.³⁹⁶
- 6 Therefore, a king should always be protected from poison by a physician.

³⁹⁴ MS H adds in the margin अथ खलु वत्स सुश्रुतः “Now begins Vatsa Suśruta.” This phrase has been copied here by the scribe from the beginning of the *Suśrutasamhitā* chapter in the *sūtrasthāna* on the rules about food and drink (1.46.3 (Su 1938: 214)). The scribe presumably felt, not unreasonably, that this section had common subject matter with the present chapter. Further, SS 1.46.3 is one of the few places in the Nepalese transmission of the *Suśrutasamhitā* that names Dhanvantari and integrates him into the narrative of the *Suśrutasamhitā* as the teacher of Suśruta.

The mention of Dhanvantari here is one of the few times in the Nepalese transmission that this authority is cited as the source of Ayurvedic teaching, and the unique occurrence of this actual phrase, “as was declared by the Venerable Dhanvantari.” See the discussion by Klebanov (2021a: 28–32), who concluded that the earliest recoverable recension of the *Suśrutasamhitā* may have had the phrase only at this point and not elsewhere in the work. See the further discussion by Birch et al. (2021). “Dhanvantari” is mentioned in the Nepalese version at 1.1.21, 1.19.37, 1.46.3, 1.29.71, 1.34.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.7.3, 3.19.13.3, 4.2.3, (5.1.2, note), 5.4.3, 6.60.2, 6.64.84.

³⁹⁵ This is a quite different statement from the vulgate which has Dhanvantari as the teacher, and calls him the Lord of Kāśī (*kāśīpati*) (Su 1938: 559). Ḍalhaṇa followed the vulgate but explicitly noted the reading before us with small differences: दिवोदासः क्षितिपतिस्तपोधर्मश्रुताकरः “Divodāsa, the king of the earth, was a mine of traditions about discipline and virtue.”

³⁹⁶ Verses about the use of Venemous Virgins as a weapon do not appear in the Nepalese manuscripts. Cf. Wujastyk 2003b: 81 f., 132. This material is present in the commentary of Gayadāsa.

- 7 The racehorse-like fickleness of men's minds is well known. And for this reason, a king should never trust anyone.³⁹⁷
- 8–11 He should employ a doctor in his kitchen (*mahānasa*) who is respected by experts, who belongs to a good family, is orthodox, sympathetic, not emaciated, and always busy.
- 12–13 The kitchen should be constructed at a recommended location and orientation. It should have a lot of light,³⁹⁸ have clean utensils and be staffed by men and women who have been vetted.³⁹⁹
- 17–18ab The chefs, bearers (*voḍhāra*), and makers of boiled rice soups and cakes and whoever else might be there, must all be under the strict control of the doctor.⁴⁰⁰
- 18cd–19ab An expert knows people's body language (*iṅgita*) through abnormalities in voice, movement and facial expression. He should be able to identify a poisoner by the following signs.
- 19cd–23 Wanting to speak, he gets confused, when asked a question, he never arrives at an answer, and he talks a lot of confused nonsense, like a fool. He laughs for no reason, cracks his knuckles and scratches at the ground. He gets the shakes and glances nervously from one person to another. His face is drained of colour, he is grimy (*dhyāma*) and he cuts at things with his nails.⁴⁰¹ A poisoner goes the wrong way and is absent-minded.
- 25–27 I shall explain the signs to look for in toothbrush twigs, in food and drink as well as in massage oil (*abhyāṅga*) and combs (*avalekhana*); in dry rubs (*utsādana*) and showers, in decoctions (*kaṣāya*) and massage ointment (*anulepana*); in garlands (*sraja*), clothes, beds, armour and ornaments; in slippers and footstools, and on the backs of elephants and horses; in snuff (*nasya*), inhaled smoke (*dhūma*), eye make-up (*añjana*), etc., and any other things which are commonly poisoned. Then, I shall

Cf.
Arthasāstra
1.21.8.

397 The verb √ śvas is conjugated as a first class root in the Nepalese manuscripts.

398 We read महच्छुचिः with the Nepalese manuscripts and against the vulgate's महच्छुचि.

We understand शुचिस् as a neuter noun meaning "light" following Apte (Apte: 1050a).

399 Verses detailing the ideal staff are omitted in the Nepalese manuscripts. Cf. Su 1938: 560; Wujastyk 2003b: 132.

400 The word सौपोदनैकपूपिक "chefs for the boiled rice soups and cakes" is grammatically interesting. The term सूपोदन (as opposed to सूपौदन) is attested in the *Bodhāyanīya-grhyasūtra* 2.10.54 (Shastri 1920: 68). More pertinently, perhaps, सूपोदन is attested in the Bower Manuscript, part II, leaf 11r, line 3 (Hoernle 1893–1912: vol. 1, p. 43).

401 The word ध्याम is glossed by Ḍalhaṇa (in a variant reading) as someone who is the colour of dirty clothes 5.1 (Su 1938: 560).

- also explain the remedy.
- 28 Flies or crows or other creatures that eat a poisonous morsel (*bali*) served from the king's portion, die on the spot.
- 29 Such food makes a fire crackle violently, and gives it an overpowering colour like a peacock's throat.
- 30–33 After a *chukar partridge* partridge looks at food which has poison mingled with it, its eyes are promptly drained of colour; *grey peacock-pheasant* drops dead. A *koel* changes its song and the *common crane* rises up excitedly.⁴⁰² It will excite a *Indian peafowl* and the terrified *parakeet* and the *hill myna* screech. The *swan* trembles very much, and the *racket-tailed drongo* churrs.⁴⁰³ The *bull* sheds tears and the monkey releases excrement.⁴⁰⁴
- 34cd Vapour rising from tainted food gives rise to a pain in the heart, it makes the eyes roll, and it gives one a headache.⁴⁰⁵
- 35, 36cd In such a case, an *errhine* and a *collyrium* that are *costus*, *??*, *spikenard* and *honey* (*madhus*);⁴⁰⁶ a paste of sandalwood on the heart may also

402 The verb अर्च्छति "rises up" is a rare form best known from epic Sanskrit (see Oberlies 2003: 212, §7.6.1). The transmitted form क्रौञ्च is obviously a colloquial version of Sanskrit क्रौञ्च. Commenting on 1.7.10 (Su 1938: 31), Ḍalhaṇa interestingly gave the colloquial versions of several Sanskrit bird names, even singling out pronunciation in the specific location of Kānyakubja. For क्रौञ्च he said that people pronounce it कुरञ्च and कोचि. The form कोञ्च is found in Pāli (see Cone 2001: 731, who notes that Ardhamaṅgadhī has the same form). Elsewhere, Ḍalhaṇa called the bird क्रौञ्चिर, क्रौञ्चि, and कैचर (1.46.105 (Su 1938: 223), 6.31.154 (Su 1938: 684) and (6.58.44 (Su 1938: 790) respectively).

403 Ḍalhaṇa seemed confused about the *racket-tailed drongo* (*bhṛṅgarāja*). He called it a generic drongo (भ्रमरक), a word that can also mean "bee" (Dave 1985: 62), and then he said that it is like the *black drongo* (*dhūmyāṭa*) (for a nice explanation of this name, see Dave 1985: 62–63) and that people call it "the king of birds."

404 MS Kathmandu KL 699 reads "bull (*vṛṣabha*)" for "chital deer (*prṣata*)." The latter may perhaps be mistaken for the former in the Nēwa script, although the reading of MS Kathmandu KL 699 is hard to read at this point.

405 "Tainted" translates उपक्षिप्त. The word's semantic field includes "to hurl, throw against," and especially "to insult verbally, insinuate, accuse." The commentator Ḍalhaṇa glossed the term as, "spoiled food given to be eaten" (विदूषितस्यान्नस्य भोक्तुं दत्तस्य), but he noted that some people read "उखाक्षिप्त" or "thrown into a pan." Other translators have commonly translated it as "served," perhaps influenced by Ḍalhaṇa's "given (दत्त)."

406 The vulgate supplies another phrase and verb at this point that is not present in the Nepalese transmission, but that makes the text flow more easily.

- provide relief.⁴⁰⁷
- 37 Held in the hand, it makes the hand burn, and the nails fall out. In such a case, the ointment (*pralepa*) is **beautyberry**, **velvet-mite**, soma and **blue water-lily**.⁴⁰⁸
- 38–39 If he eats that food, through inattention or by mistake, then his tongue will feel like a pebble (*aṣṭhīlā*) and it will lose its sense of taste. It stings and burns, and his saliva (*śleṣman*) dribbles out.⁴⁰⁹ In such a case, he should apply the treatment recommended above for vapour (*bāṣpa*), and what will be stated below under “toothbrush twigs”.⁴¹⁰
- 40 On reaching his stomach, it causes stupor (*mūrcchā*), vomiting, the hair stands on end, there is distension, a burning feeling and an impairment of the senses.⁴¹¹

407 Singhal et al. (1972–82: 350) discussed the difficulties in identifying लामञ्ज, a plant cited more often in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* than in the *Carakasaṃhitā*; Ḍalhaṇa adopted the common view that it is a type of *uśīra* or vetiver grass. The grammatical neuter form मधुस् “sweetness” of the Nepalese manuscripts is less common than neuter मधु “honey, sweetness, liquorice.”

408 “Beautyberry” (*Callicarpa macrophylla* Vahl.) is one identification of श्यामा, but vaidyas and commentators have different ideas about the plant’s identity (see glossary). On translating इन्द्रगोप as “velvet-mite,” see Lienhard 1978. Ḍalhaṇa’s remarks show that he had a reading इन्द्रगोपा before him, and he tries to explain इन्द्रा and गोपा as separate plants. But he also says that some people read इन्द्रगोप. Ḍalhaṇa curiously parsed the name सोमा (f.) out of the compound; this feminine noun is almost unknown to Ayurvedic literature. Some dictionaries and commentators consider it a synonym for गुडूची, others for ब्राह्मी or चन्द्रतरु. Ḍalhaṇa also mentioned that some people think the word refers to the soma creeper (सोमलता), which might explain his choice to take the word as feminine. But the compounded word is far more likely to be सोम (m.), the well-known mystery plant (see Wujastyk 2003b: 76–78, 125). If this can be taken as rue (*Ruta graveolens*, L.), as some assert, one can point to a pleasing passage in Dioscorides where rue plays an antitoxic role: “...it is a counterpoison of serpents, the stinging of Scorpions, Bees, Hornets and Wasps; and it is reported that if a man be anointed with the juice of the Rue, these will not hurt him; and that the serpent is driven away at the smell thereof when it is burned; insomuch that when the weasel is to fight with the serpent she armeth herself by eating Rue, against the might of the serpent” (cited from Potter: 262; not found in Osbaldeston and Wood 2000).

409 The word अष्टील is normally feminine. The Nepalese manuscripts read it with a short अ- ending. Gayadāsa noticed that some manuscripts read अष्टील with a short -अ ending (MS Bikaner RORI 5157, f. 5v:7–8) and Ḍalhaṇa reproduced his observation. The vulgate reading चास्यात् “and from his mouth” is more obvious (*lectio faciliior*), but is not attested in the Nepalese manuscripts.

410 Poisoned toothbrushes are discussed in verses 48 ff. below.

411 I translate मूर्च्छा in the light of the metaphors discussed by Meulenbeld (2011), that

- 41 In this case, vomiting must quickly be induced using the fruits of **emetic nut, gourd, red gourd**, and ??, taken with milk and **watered buttermilk**, or alternatively with rice-water.
- 42 Reaching the intestines (*pakvāśaya*), it causes a burning feeling, stupor, diarrhoea, thirst, impairment of the senses, flatulence (*āṭopa*) and it makes him pallid and thin.
- 43 In such a case, purgation with the fruit of indigo (*nīlī*), together with ghee, is best. And ‘slow-acting poison antidote (*dūṣīviṣāri*)’ should be drunk with honey and curds (*dadhi*).⁴¹²
- 44 When poison is in any liquid substances such as milk, wine or water, there are various streaks, and foam and bubbles form.
- 45 And no reflections are visible or, however, if they can be seen once more, they are distorted, fractured, or tenuous and distorted too.⁴¹³
- 46 Vegetables, soups, food and meat are soggy and tasteless. They seem to go stale suddenly, and they have no aroma.
- 47 All edibles lack aroma, colour or taste. Ripe fruits rapidly rot (*prā√kuth*) and unripe ones ripen.⁴¹⁴
- 48 When a toothbrush twig has poison on it, the bristles are corroded and the flesh of the tongue, gums and lips swells up.⁴¹⁵
- 49 Then, once his swelling is lanced, one should rub (*pratisāraṇa*) it with **fire-flame bush** flowers **jambul, mango** stones and **chebulic myrobalan** fruit mixed with honey.⁴¹⁶
- 50 Alternatively, the rubbing (*pratisāraṇa*) can be done with either the roots of **sage-leaved alangium**, the bark of **blackboard tree** or **siris**

I'm still unhappy about this verse.

Mention this in the introduction as an example of the scribe knowing the vulgate.

fn about sadyas+

include thickening and losing consciousness.

412 The ‘slow-acting poison’ is discussed at 5.2.25 ff. (Su 1938: 565).

413 Both Nepalese witnesses read विकृत (distorted) twice, which is tautologous. In the first occurrence both read विकृता without proper termination. One might read the sandhi in the second occurrence as or not distorted (*vāvikṛtā*), but this gives no better sense. The scribe of MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333, apparently the original hand, added in the margin the alternate reading “double (*yamalā*)” as in the vulgate. Perhaps the scribe too was troubled by the tautology. It is also evidence that he was aware of a witness with variant readings similar to the vulgate. We emend for grammar but retain the *lectio difficilior*.

414 The root *√कुथ्* “stink, putrify, rot” is apparently known only from its few uses in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.

415 Gayadāsa and Ḍalhaṇa pointed out that “tooth socket (दन्तवेष्ट)” and “gum (दन्तमांस)” have the same meaning (2.16.14–26 (Su 1938: 331–332)).

416 This recipe is different from the vulgate.

- seeds.⁴¹⁷
- 51ab One should give advice about a poisoned tongue-scraper or mouth-wash (*kavala*) in the same way as for a toothbrush twig.
- 51cd Massage oil that has been laced with poison is slimy, thick and discoloured.
- 52 When the massage oil has been contaminated with poison, boils arise, pain, a discharge (*srāva*), inflammation of the skin, and sweating.⁴¹⁸ And the flesh splits open.
- 53–54 In such a case, sandalwood, *crape jasmine*, *costus*, and *vetiver*, *bamboo leaves*, *heart-leaved moonseed* and *heart-leaved moonseed*, *white clitoria*, *sacred lotus*, and *Indian barberry* should be made into an ointment (*anulepana*) for the patient, who has been sprinkled with cold water. That is also recommended as a drink with the juice and leaves of *wood-apple*.⁴¹⁹
- 55 In the case of a dry rub (*utsādana*), a shower (*parīṣeka*), an infusion, a massage ointment (*anulepana*), or in beds, clothes, or armour, the physician should understand that it is the same as for oil massage (*abhyāṅga*).⁴²⁰
- 56–58 When a comb has poison in it, the hair falls out, the head aches and blood oozes from the follicles (*kha*) and lumps (*granthi*) appear on the head. In such a case, one should repeatedly apply an ointment of black earth soaked with *bear's bile*,⁴²¹ ghee, *beautyberry*,⁴²² *black creeper*, and *amaranth*. Good alternatives are either the fluid extract of cow-dung, or the juice of *royal jasmine*, the juice of *purging nut tree*, or household soot.⁴²³

Bear's bile
instead of
deer's bile.

417 The spelling of the name अङ्गोल्ल varies अङ्गोट, अङ्गोठ, अङ्गोल (GVDB: 5); Ḍalhaṇa noted that the form अङ्गोल्ल is a colloquialism (1.37.12 (Su 1938: 161)). The sentence is awkward and we have emended शिरीषमाषक to be a plural, as in the vulgate, rather than the ablative singular of the Nepalese witnesses. We follow Ḍalhaṇa in interpreting the compound to refer to the distinctive bean-like siris seeds, rather than to *mung beans* (5.1.50 (Su 1938: 562)).

418 The feminine स्फोट for “boils” is unattested.

419 This compound could be interpreted as “wood apple juice and *malabathrum*.” Note that this recipe differs from that of the vulgate, which requires urine.

420 See verse 52 above.

421 Ḍalhaṇa comments here that ‘bile is that fluid which goes along inside the tube attached to the liver’ (कालखण्डलग्नलिकामध्यगतजलं पित्तम्) 5.1.57 (Su 1938: 562).

422 See note 408.

423 The plant identifications in this passage follow Ḍalhaṇa’s glosses, although he noted

- 59 If either massage oil for the head, or a helmet for the head, in a wash, turban, or garlands that are contaminated with poison, then one should treat it in the same way as a comb.
- 60–61 When face make-up is poisoned, the face becomes dark and has the symptoms found with poisoned massage oil. It is covered with spots (*kaṇṭaka*) that are like lotus-spots (*padminīkaṇṭaka*).⁴²⁴ In this case, the drink is honey and ghee, and the ointment (*pralepa*) is sandalwood with ghee, curds, honey, **verbena**, **scarlet mallow** and **hogweed**.⁴²⁵
- 62–63ab Elephants and the like become ill and they dribble saliva. And the rider gets spots (*sphoṭa*) and a discharge on his scrotum, penis, and rectum. In this case, one prescribes the same therapy as for poisoned massage oil for both the rider and the mount.
- 63cd–65ab When there is poison in snuff (*nasya*) or smoke, the symptom (*liṅga*) is blood coming out of the apertures of the head (*kha*), a headache, a flow of mucus (*kapha*) and impairment of the senses. In such a case, ghee of cows etc., boiled up with their milk and **Indian aconite**, is prescribed, with **henna**, as a cold drink or errhine.
- 65cd–66 Flowers lose their fragrance and colour, and wilt. On smelling them, he gets a headache and his eyes fill with water. In this case, the treatment is what was proposed above for vapour (*bāṣpa*) and that which is traditional for face make-up.
- 67–68 When it is in ear-oil, there is degeneration in the ear, and painful swelling. There is also a discharge from the ear and in such a case it needs to be irrigated (*pratipūraṇa*) promptly with ghee and honey. Extracted juice (*svarasa*) of **wild asparagus** and very cold juice of **white cutch tree** are also recommended as something good.⁴²⁶

punarnavā
in the N &
K MSS

śrita for
śrta

explain
more

a difference of opinion on the identity of **purging nut tree** (lit. “mouse-ear”).

The expression धूमो वागारसंज्ञितः ‘...or the smoke termed “house”’ is commonly interpreted by translators and in Ayurvedic dictionaries as ‘household soot,’ and this does seem to be the meaning, in context. The term was comprehensively discussed by Meulenbeld (2008b: 443). Cf. note 525, p. 161.

424 See the description of this condition at 2.13.40 (*Su* 1938: 323), where the skin on the face is characterized as having pale circular patches that are itchy and have spots.

425 The common plant-name पुनर्नवा is read as पुनर्णवा in both Nepalese witnesses. This unusual form is technically-speaking legal according to Pāṇini 8.4.3, but is not attested in published texts. पुनर्णवा is found rarely in some other Nepalese manuscripts such as the *Brahmayāmala* (a.k.a. *Picumata*, 44.81, transcription thanks to Shaman Hatley), and elsewhere (e.g., in Gaṇapatiśāstrī 1920–25: 20, where it is the name of a constellation).

426 The syntax of the Nepalese version is slightly unclear, but the vulgate has smoothed

- 69 When poison is mixed in with eye make-up (*añjana*), he gets tears and rheum (*upadeha*), with a burning feeling, pain, faulty vision (*dr̥ṣṭivibhrama*), and possibly even blindness.⁴²⁷
- 70–71 In this case, one must immediately drink ghee and have it also in an eyewash (*tarpaṇa*) with long pepper. One should have an eye ointment (*añjana*) of the juice of periploca of the woods and have the extract (*niryāsa*) of three-leaved caper, wood-apple and periploca of the woods and the flower of marking-nut tree.
- 72–73 Because of poisoned slippers there will definitely be a swelling, numbness (*svāpa*), a discharge (*srāva*) and an outbreak of spots (*sphoṭa*) on the feet. One should clean (*pra√sādh*) footstools together with slippers.
- 74 Ornaments lose their lustre, and they do not shine as they used to. They damage their respective locations with burning, sepsis (*pāka*), and fis-suring (*avadāraṇa*).⁴²⁸
- 75ab One should apply the stated procedure for massage oil (*abhyāṅga*) to poisoned slippers and ornaments.
- 75cd–76 In the case of the affliction (*upasarga*) by poison which has been described above, starting from ‘vapour’ and ending with ‘ornaments,’ the physician should observe the side-effects (*upadrava*) and then prescribe the therapy called the Great Fragrance (*mahāsugandha*) antidote, which I shall describe.⁴²⁹
- 77–78ab He should prescribe it in drinks, liniments (*ālepana*), errhines (*nasya*), and in eye ointment (*añjana*). Also, he should use sharp purgatives and emetics. If bleeding is present, he should have the indicated veins pierced.
- 78cd–79ab If either purging nut or a fern is tied on to the King’s wrist, then all food that is mixed with poison will be rendered free of poison.⁴³⁰

out the difficulties.

427 The term translated as “faulty vision” could also mean “rolling eyes.” “Eye make-up” is normally made of Indian barberry.

428 The reading अवदारण in MS Kathmandu KL 699 is not attested elsewhere in Sanskrit literature. On “sepsis” for पाक, see Wujastyk 2003b: xlv–xlv.

429 This antidote is indeed described later, in dramatic terms, at 5.6.14–27 (Su 1938: 581). A recipe with eighty-five ingredients including cow’s bile, it is praised as chief of all antidotes, one that can drag the patient back from the very jaws of death, from even the poisonous fangs of Vāsuki. A useful survey of the meanings of उपसर्ग (“affliction”) was given by HIML: IB, 332

430 In early Ayurvedic literature, the plant अजरुह is mentioned only here and its identity is unknown. It may be a fern of the Nephrodium family, according to T. B. Singh and

Medical difference from Sharma.

example where the vulgate clarifies that these should be used separately; appears to be a gloss inserted into the vulgate text.

The two uses of prāpta are hard to translate. prāptāh → kṣiprāṇ is an example of the vulgate banalizing the Sanskrit text to make sense of a difficult passage.

√ vyadh not √ vedh (also elsewhere and for the ears), causative optative.

- 79cd–80 He should always guard his heart when amongst **people who are not his friends**.⁴³¹ Before eating, he should drink the kinds of ghee called “Invincible” and “Immortal”.⁴³² He should drink ghee (*sarpiṣ*), **honey**, curds (*dadhi*), milk (*payas*), or cold water.
- 81 He should consume monitor lizard, peacock, **mongoose**, **chital deer**, and **blackbuck** too, that destroy poison, and their juices.
- 82 As discerning person should add well-crushed **black creeper**,⁴³³ **liquorice**, and sugar to the meats of **Indian monitor lizard**, **mongoose** and **blackbuck** too.
- 83 Add sugar and **Indian aconite** to peacock flesh, together with **ginger**. And for meat from a **chital deer**, he should add **long pepper**, with **ginger**.
- 84ab **A cold neem** broth with honey and ghee is wholesome too.
- 84cd A discerning person should partake of hard and soft foods that counteract poison.⁴³⁴
- 85 If poison might have been drunk, a person who has protected his heart should make himself vomit using **long pepper**, **liquorice**, **honey**, **sugar**, **sugar cane** juice, and water.

The first chapter in the Kalpas.

Chunekar (GVDB:7). Ḍalhaṇa, on 5.1.78 (Su 1938: 563), cited a description of the two plants from the little-known authority Uśanas (HIML:IA, 660 et passim) who described अजरुहा as a white root with spots on it that looks like collyrium when it is split; when drunk with sandalwood it causes poison to be digested.

431 The *Carakasamhitā* described “protecting the heart” (हृदयावरण) as drinking several sweet, oily drinks to surround the heart and keep it safe (6.23.46 (Ca 1941: 574)). Ḍalhaṇa on 5.1.79–81 (Su 1938: 563) explained it as taking a number of anti-toxic medicines, including those listed in the present passage, in order to cover or hide (प्रच्छादन) the heart. Note that the Nepalese version reads the opposite of the vulgate: one should guard one’s heart when amongst enemies, not friends. This is far more logical; it is also the reading known to the 1.8.89a (As 1980: 79).

432 These ghee compounds are described in later chapters: see 5.2.47–49 (Su 1938: 566) and 5.6.13 (Su 1938: 581).

433 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.1.82 (Su 1938: 563) equated this with **turpeth**.

434 On this expression, see Yagi 1994.

Kalpasthāna 2: Poisonous Plants

Introduction

This section begins with several lists of poisonous plants. The Sanskrit names for these plants are mostly not standard or familiar from anywhere in Sanskrit or ethnobotanical literature. It remains a historical puzzle why these particular names are so difficult to interpret. However, we are not the first to encounter these difficulties.

In the eleventh century, Cakrapāṇidatta commentated on a similar list of poisons in the *Carakasamhitā*, and referred to the *Suśrutasamhitā* on the topic.⁴³⁵ He also noted that,

In assigning the names to these plants, the main authorities are the Kirātas and Śabarās, who know about these things because they can explain these matters on the basis of a succession of teachers.⁴³⁶

About a century later, the learned commentator on the *Suśrutasamhitā*, Ḍalhaṇa, remarked,

In spite of having made the greatest effort, it has been impossible to identify these plants. In the Himalayan regions, Kirātas and Śabarās are able to identify them.⁴³⁷

From the view of Sanskrit authors, Kirātas and Śabarās were tribal peoples.⁴³⁸

⁴³⁵ Cakrapāṇidatta on 6.23.11 ([Su 1939](#): 571).

⁴³⁶ Cakrapāṇidatta on *Carakasamhitā* 6.23.11 ([Su 1938](#): 571).

⁴³⁷ After *Suśrutasamhitā*, *kalpasthāna* 2.5 ([Su 1938](#): 564).

⁴³⁸ Both communities are mentioned in Sanskrit literature from antiquity. The Kirātas

Interestingly, the author Bhikṣu Govinda (tenth or eleventh century), cast his alchemical treatise as a dialogue with a Kirāta king called Madana who was a master of the alchemical art.⁴³⁹ So there was an awareness amongst Sanskrit medical and alchemical authors of that period that socially different populations were a source of specialized knowledge in these domains, and the Sanskrit authors were open to these sources and indeed depended on them.

Ḍalhaṇa also recorded variant readings of these poison names from the manuscripts that he consulted of the lost commentary of Gayadāsa (fl. c. CE 1000). The identities of these poisons have thus been in doubt for at least a thousand years.⁴⁴⁰ Firm identification has in many cases been equally impossible for us today.

One path for exploration in this situation is to attempt to reverse-engineer some identifications by considering the known toxic plants of India.⁴⁴¹

Shock

An important new topic introduced in this chapter (34–39) is that of “toxic shock” (*vega*). When a patient has been poisoned, the effect of the toxin is expressed in their body in seven waves or pulses, *vegas*. At each stage, symptoms are slightly different and a different therapeutic regime is prescribed (40–44).

The Sanskrit term *vega* has a range of uses, from “impulse” to “urge, jerk, rush, speed,” or “impetus.” It appears in the well-known passage in

are associated especially with Eastern Nepal, the Himalayan and north-eastern regions of South Asia, while the Śabara people are mainly associated with Odisha and West Bengal. Representative studies on these communities include Elwin (1955), Roy (1970), Chatterji (1974), G. P. Singh (1990), Subba (1999), G. P. Singh (2008), and R. Rai (2019).

439 HIML: IIA, 620.

440 See Wujastyk 2003b: 80–81.

441 Valuable reference sources on Indian plant toxicology in general include Pillay 2013: chs. 10, 11 and Barceloux 2008: parts 1.II, 3 and 4. More generally Bown (NEH: 41 et passim) comments usefully of herbs in general that “it goes without saying that if they can do good, they must contain substances that in excess can poison.”

the *Carakasamhitā* about avoiding illness not ignoring or suppressing “natural urges,” *vegas*, such as the desire to urinate.⁴⁴²

According to the author of the *Aṣṭāṅgasanġraha*, Ālambāyana was the ancient authority who declared that the seven pulses (*vega*) of toxic shocks affect, successively, the seven substrata (*āśraya*) of the body, from blood to semen, and Dhanvantari originated the idea that this applied to victims of snake-bite.⁴⁴³

The commentator Indu (fl. 1000–1150) cited verses by Ālambāyana asserting that the pipes in the body carry poison to the heart, but that the heart can be protected by ghee.⁴⁴⁴

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.⁴⁴⁵

442 See *Carakasamhitā* 1.7 (Ca 1941: 49–55), discussed and translated in Wujastyk 2003b: 7–8, 15–17.

443 *Aṣṭāṅgasanġraha* 6.40.35a (As 1980: 844): सप्तेति वेगा मूर्च्छाद्या विदेहपतिना स्मृताः ॥३४॥ रक्तमांसवसास्त्रायु तथाऽस्थ्याद्यास्त्रयः क्रमात् । आश्रयाः सप्त सप्तानामित्यालम्बायनोऽब्रवीत् ॥३५॥. The following verse named Dhanvantari as the originator of the idea that toxic pulses are experienced specifically by a person bitten by a snake (वेगान्धन्वन्तरिस्तद्वत्सर्पदष्टस्य मन्यते । 36ab). The commentator Indu noted that Dhanvantari was the teacher of Suśruta, i.e., that “Dhanvantari” was shorthand for *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. On Ālambāyana, see p. 194, note 656.

444 *Aṣṭāṅgasanġraha* 6.40.60a (As 1980): याः सिराः सर्वगात्रेषु हृदये सम्प्रतिष्ठिताः । ताभिरस्य विषं सर्वं हृदयं सम्प्रधावति ॥ घृतेन तु प्रतिच्छिन्नं विषं नाति प्रपीडयेत् । निर्वाणजननं सर्पिः प्राणिनां प्राणवर्द्धनम् ॥ हृदयावरणास्तद्वद्वक्ष्या भोज्याश्च सागदाः ॥

445 HIML: IA, 290–291.

Translation

- 1 And now I shall explain **required knowledge** (*vijñānīya*) about stationary poisons.⁴⁴⁶
- 3 It is said that there are two kinds of poisons, stationary (*sthāvara*) and mobile (*jaṅgama*). The former dwells in ten sites, the latter in sixteen places.
- 4 Traditionally, the ten are: root, leaf, fruit, flower, bark, milky sap (*kṣīra*), pith (*sāra*), resin (*niryāsa*), the elements (*dhātu*), and the tuber.
- 5 In that context,
 - the eight root-poisons are:⁴⁴⁷
 1. liquorice (?),⁴⁴⁸
 2. sweet-scented oleander,⁴⁴⁹
 3. jequirity,⁴⁵⁰
 4. false daisy,⁴⁵¹
 5. emetic nut (?),⁴⁵² and ending with
 6. leadwort,⁴⁵³

446 No reference is made to Dhanvantari (see Birch et al. 2021). “Stationary” here is a term contrasted with “moving,” and signifies plants as opposed to animals and insects.

447 Some South Asian plants with poisonous roots that we would expect to see in this list include *Croton tiglium*, L., *Calotropis* spp., *Citrullus colocynthus* L. Schrad., and *Ricinus communis* L. (CIPP).

448 Liquorice eaten in excess can be poisonous, but it is unlikely to be the plant intended here. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 124) noted that the poisonous root mentioned in this passage, “remains to be identified.”

449 The roots of sweet-scented oleander are highly toxic, as are most parts of the plant (Pillay and Sasidharan 2019).

450 Jequirity contains a dangerous toxin called Abrin in its seeds and to a lesser extent in its leaves, but apparently not in its roots or bulb. Abrin is not harmful if eaten, but an infusion of the bruised (not boiled) seeds injected or rubbed in the eyes can be fatal (NK: # 6). The dose can be quite small.

451 The plant is usually called just *bhaṅgurā* without the prefix *su-* “good.” However, there is no reported toxicity associated with *E. prostrata*. The vulgate reads सुगन्धा (*snakeroot*).

452 This poisonous root cannot at present be securely identified. Similar-sounding candidates include *karkaṭaka*, *karahāṭa* (emetic nut), and *karaghāṭa*, but since this is a prose passage, there would be no reason to alter the word to fit a metre. Monier-Williams et al. (MW: 255) cite an unknown lexical source that equates *karaṭa* (mn.) with safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*, L.), but this plant does not have a poisonous root.

453 The roots of both rose and white leadwort are very toxic.

7. country sarsaparilla (?),⁴⁵⁴ and
8. medhshingi,⁴⁵⁵

- the leaf-poisons include:
 - aconite leaf (?),
 - drum-giver (?),
 - thorn apple, and
 - big thorn apple;
- the fruits of items like: jequirity, marking-nut tree, and poison-altar (?) are
 - water snowflake (?),
 - pollen (?),
 - bluebell barleria,
 - unknown fruit poison,
 - thorn apple
 - big thorn apple (?)
 - spurge (?),
 - crow (?),
- the flower-poisons include those of:
 - musk mallow,
 - Indian fumitory,⁴⁵⁶
 - thorn apple, and
 - big thorn apple (?).

454 The text reads masculine *ananta*, which is not a plant name. Gayī's commentary on 5.2.5 (Su 1938: 564) noted a variant reading of feminine *anantā* in place of *gargaraka*, earlier in the compound. But the feminine *anantā*, country sarsaparilla, is not a poisonous plant.

455 Meulenbeld (1989: 61, n. 3) argued that our text reads a masculine or neuter noun *vijaya*, which never signifies cannabis. However, unlike the vulgate, the unanimous readings of the Nepalese manuscripts give feminine *vijayā*. Nevertheless, even the feminine form only started to signify *Cannabis sativa* L. after the end of the first millennium (Meulenbeld 1989; Wujastyk 2002; McHugh 2021). The *Sauśrutaniḥṣaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā*, almost none of which have any poisonous parts (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann (ADPS: 518), a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (NK: #862). This identification is tenuous.

456 रेणु and रेणुक are different plants. MS K reads the first; the scribe of MS H added an additional -क in the margin.

- the bark, pith (*sāra*) and resin (*niryāsa*) of:

- gourd,
- emetic nut,
- thorn apple, and
- munj grass;

- the milky sap (*kṣīra*) of:

- water snowflake (?),⁴⁵⁷
- red physic nut,
- oleander spurge, and
- luffa

- the mineral (*dhātu*) poisons include:⁴⁵⁸

- orpiment,
- cuttle-fish bone (?),
- ashes, and
- vermilion.⁴⁵⁹

- the tubers poisons are:

- jequirity,
- Indian aconite,
- Indian mustard,
- leadwort,
- muddy (?),
- ‘Virāṭa’s plant’,
- nutgrass,
- atis root,
- long-stamen Wendlandia (?),
- radish,
- ‘alas, alas’ (?),
- big poison (?), and
- galls (?)

⁴⁵⁷ While the identity of this plant is uncertain, the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā* does not present the hopeless problem of the vulgate’s reading कुमुदग्री.

⁴⁵⁸ These identifications are more than usually uncertain. Note that the vulgate text specifies that there are two mineral poisons.

⁴⁵⁹ If this identification as vermilion (cinnabar) is correct, it is an unexpectedly early mention of the substance.

The effects of poisons

Symptoms of root poisoning

- 7–10 People should know that root-poisons cause writhing (*udveṣṭana*), ranting (*pralāpa*), and delirium (*moha*), and leaf-poisons cause yawning, writhing, and wheezing (*śvāsa*).
 Fruit-poisons cause swelling of the scrotum, a burning feeling and writhing. Flower-poisons will cause vomiting, distension (*ādhmāna*) and sleep (*svāpa*).
 The consumption of poisons from bark, pith (*sāra*) and resin (*niryāsa*) will cause foul breath, hoarseness (*pāruṣya*), a headache, and a discharge of phlegm (*kapha*).⁴⁶⁰
 The milky sap (*kṣīra*)-poisons make one froth at the mouth, cause loose stool, and make the tongue feel heavy.⁴⁶¹ The element (*dhātu*)-poisons give one a crushing pain in the chest, make one faint and cause a burning feeling on the palate.
 These poisons are classified as ones which are generally speaking lethal after a period of time.

11–17 Symptoms of tuber poisoning

The tuber-poisons, though, are severe. I shall talk about them in detail.⁴⁶²
 With **jequirity**, there is numbness and very severe trembling.
 With **Indian aconite**, there is rigidity of the neck, and the faeces, and urine become yellow.
 With **marking nut tree (?)**, the wind becomes defective (*vātavaiguṇya*), there is constipation (*ānāha*), and lumps (*granthi*) start to appear.
 With **leadwort**, there is weakness in the neck, and speech gets jumbled.⁴⁶³

460 At 1.2.6 (Su 1938: 11), Ḍalhaṇa glossed hoarseness (*pāruṣya*) as *vāgrūkṣatā*, “a rough, dry voice.”

461 At 6.54.10 (Su 1938: 773), Ḍalhaṇa glossed loose stool (*viḍbheda*) as *dravapurīṣatā*, “having liquid stool.”

462 See Ḍalhaṇa’s comments on the impossibility of identifying the following plants, p. 141 above.

463 The verse in the Nepalese version ends with a plural verb that does not agree with the dual of the sentence subject.

With the one called **muddy** (?), there is a discharge (*praseka*), the faeces pour out, and the eyes turn yellow.

The ‘**Virāṭa’s plant**’ (*vairāṭaka*) causes pain in the body and illness in the head.

Paralysis of one’s arms and legs and trembling are said to be caused by **nutgrass**.⁴⁶⁴

15b With **big poison** (?), one’s limbs grow weak, there is a burning feeling and swelling of the belly.⁴⁶⁵

16a With **white lotus**, one’s eyes go red, and one’s belly becomes distended.⁴⁶⁶

16b With **radish**, one’s body is drained of colour and the limbs are paralysed.⁴⁶⁷

17a With ‘**alas, alas**’ (?), a man turns a dark colour (*dhyāma*), and gasps.⁴⁶⁸

17b With **atis root** one gets violent knots (*granthi*) and stabbing pains in the heart.⁴⁶⁹

18a With **monkey** (?), one leaps up, laughs, and bites.

18b-19a Experts have said that one should know that the thirteen highly potent tuber-poisons, which are mentioned here, have ten qualities (*guṇa*).

19b-20a The ten are:

464 The substitution in MS NAK 5-333 affecting 15cd is caused by an eye-skip to the word *viṣeṇa* in 2.17.

Mustaka commonly refers to *Cyperus rotundus*, L.; the root is used in āyurveda but is not poisonous. However other dictionaries list *mustaka* amongst serious poisons, for example *Rājānighaṇṭu* (22 v. 42) and *Rasaratnasamuccaya* 16, v. 80. However, its ancient identity is still doubtful.

465 The poisonous root **big poison** (?) (*mahāviṣa*) is not clearly identifiable, although *viṣā* is commonly aconite. Verse 6 above notes that there are several kinds of aconite.

466 The word *puṇḍarīka* very commonly means white lotus. The entire plant is edible and cannot be the poison intended here. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 252) noted that this poison is unidentified and that it is also listed as a poison in *Carakasamhitā* 23.12.

467 The word *mūlaka* very commonly means the radish, *Raphanus sativus*, L. The root is edible and cannot be the poison intended here. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 317) noted that this poison is unidentified.

468 Identification of *hālāhala* is uncertain. It may simply be a mythical poison, or its specific identity may have been lost over the centuries. Late *nighaṇṭus* identify it as *stomaka* = *vatsanābha*, i.e., *Aconitum napellus*, L. (*Soḍhalanighaṇṭu* p. 43).

Ḍalhaṇa on 5.2.17 (Su 1938: 564) interpreted our “gasps” as “the man laughs and grinds his teeth.” But this gloss is probably displaced and intended to apply to verse 2.18.

469 T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 407) noted that *vatsanābha* and *śṛṅgviṣa* are two different varieties of poisonous Aconites that are difficult to distinguish.

- dry (*rūkṣa*),
- hot,
- sharp,
- rarefied (*sūkṣma*),
- fast-acting,
- pervasive (*vyavāyin*),
- expansive (*vikāsin*),
- limpid (*viśada*),
- light, and
- indigestible.

- 20b Because of dryness, it may cause inflammation of the wind; because of heat it inflames the choler and blood. Because of the sharpness it unhinges the mind, and it cuts through the connections with the sensitive points (*marman*). Because it is rarified it can infiltrate and distort the parts of the body.⁴⁷⁰
- 22 Because it is fast-acting it kills quickly, and because of its pervasiveness it affects one's whole physical constitution (*prakṛti*).⁴⁷¹ Because of its expansiveness it enters into the humour (*doṣa*)s, bodily constituents (*dhātu*)s, and even the impurities. Because it is limpid it overflows, and because it is light it is difficult to treat. Because it is indigestible it is hard to eliminate. Therefore, it causes suffering for a long time.
- 24 Any poison that is instantly lethal, whether it be stationary, mobile, or artificial, will be known to have all ten of these qualities.

Slow-acting poison

- 25cd–26 A poison that is old or destroyed by anti-toxic medicines, or else dried up by blazing fire, wind, or sunshine, or which has just spontaneously lost its features,⁴⁷² becomes a slow-acting poison (*dūṣīviṣa*).⁴⁷³ Because it has lost its potency it is no longer perceived. Because it is surrounded by phlegm (*kapha*) it has an aftermath that lasts for a very long time.

⁴⁷⁰ We read the active *vikaroti* with Ḍalhaṇa against the transmitted passive *vikriyeta*, since it must be the parts of the body that are distorted, not the poison.

⁴⁷¹ Ḍalhaṇa on 5.2.22 (*Su* 1938: 565) explained this as “takes the form of pervading the whole body (*akhiladehavyāptirūpam*).”

⁴⁷² Ḍalhaṇa specified that this refers to the ten qualities that are mentioned above (5.2.26 (*Su* 1938: 565)).

⁴⁷³ Ḍalhaṇa cited this verse at 1.46.83 (*Su* 1938: 222) while explaining *dūṣīviṣa* (see p. 151).

- 27 If he is suffering from this, the colour of his stools changes, he gets a sour, bad taste and is very thirsty. Speaking nonsensically and close to death, wandering about, he may feel faint, giddy, and aroused.⁴⁷⁴
- 28 If it lodges in his stomach (*āmāsaya*), he becomes sick because of wind and phlegm; if it lodges in his intestines (*pakvāsaya*), he becomes sick because of wind and choler. A man's hair and limbs fall away and he looks like a bird whose wings have been chopped off.
- 29a–c If it lodges in one of the body tissues such as chyle (*rasa*), it causes the diseases arising from the body tissues, that have been said to be wrong.⁴⁷⁵ and it rapidly becomes inflamed on days that are nasty because of cold and wind.
- 29d–31 Listen to its initial symptoms (*liṅga*): it causes heaviness due to sleep, yawning, disjunction (*viśleṣa*) and horripilation (*harṣa*) and a bruising of the limbs (*aṅgamarda*).⁴⁷⁶ Next, it causes intoxication from food (*an-namada*) and indigestion, loss of appetite (*arocaka*), the condition of having a skin disease (*koṭha*) with round blotches (*maṇḍala*),⁴⁷⁷ **dwindling away (*kṣaya*) of flesh**, swelling of the feet, hands, and face, **the fever called *pralepaka***, vomiting and diarrhoea.⁴⁷⁸ The slow-acting poison might cause **wheezing, thirst and fever, and it might also cause distension of the abdomen**.
- 32 These various disorders are of many different types: one poison may produce madness, while another one may cause constipation (*ānāha*), and yet another may ruin the semen. One may cause **emaciation**, while another pallid skin disease (*kuṣṭha*).
- 33 Something is “corrupted” by repetitively keeping to bad locations, times, foods, and sleeping in the daytime. Or, traditionally, “corrupting poison” (slow-acting poison (*dūṣī-viṣa*)) is so called because it may corrupt (*dūṣayet*) the body tissue (*dhātu*)s.

474 Similar symptoms of slow-acting poison are described at 2.7.11–13 (Su 1938: 296) in the context of contamination dropsy (*duṣyodara*). This this may explain why the vulgate inserted reference to this disease at this point.

475 The expression *ayathāyathoktān* “stated to be unsuitable” is hard to understand here, but is clearly transmitted in the Nepalese version.

476 Ḍalhaṇa 5.2.30ab (Su 1938: 565) glossed “disjunction” as the loss of function of the joints in regard to movement.

477 The last ailment could perhaps be ringworm.

478 The *pralepaka* fever was described by Ḍalhaṇa, at 6.39.52 (Su 1938: 675), as an accumulation of phlegm in the joints. Its symptoms are described in 6.39.54

34- The stages of toxic shock

- In the first shock of having taken a stationary poison, a person's tongue becomes dark brown and stiff, he grows faint, and panics.
- 35 In the second, he trembles, feels exhausted, has a burning feeling, as well as a sore throat. When the poison reaches the stomach (*āmāśaya*), it causes pain in the chest (*hṛd*).
- 36 In the third, his palate goes dry, he gets violent pain (*śūla*) in the stomach (*āmāśaya*), and his eyes become weak, swollen and yellow.
- 37 In the fourth shock, it causes the intestines and stomach to be exhausted (*sāda*), he gets hiccups, a cough, a rumbling in the gut (*antra*), and his head becomes heavy too.
- 38 In the fifth he dribbles phlegm (*kapha*), goes a bad colour, his ribs crack (*parśvabheda*), all his humours are irritated, and he also has a pain in his intestines (*pakvādhāna*).
- 39a In the sixth, he loses consciousness and he completely loses control of his bowels.
- 39b In the seventh, there are breaks in his shoulders, back and loins, and he stops breathing.⁴⁷⁹

Remedies for the stages of slow poisoning

- 40 In the first shock of the poison, the physician should make the man, who has vomited and been sprinkled with cold water, drink an antidote (*agada*) mixed with with honey and ghee.
- 41a In the second, he should make the man who has vomited and been purged drink as before;
- 41b on the third, drink an antidote and a beneficial nasal medicine (*nasya*) as well as an eye salve (*añjana*).
- 42a In the fourth, the physician should make him drink an antidote that is salt with a little oil.⁴⁸⁰
- 42b In the fifth, he should be prescribed the antidote together with a decoction (*kvātha*) of honey and liquorice.

⁴⁷⁹ Here at 5.2.24 (*Su* 1938: 566) Ḍalhaṇa glossed *sannirodha* as “complete cessation, i.e., of breath” (*sannirodhaḥ samyānnirodhaḥ, ucchvāsasya iti śeṣaḥ*). The manuscripts all read *skanda* where *skandha* must be intended; this confusion is known from Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit (Edgerton 1953: 2, 608).

⁴⁸⁰ At 6.52.30 (*Su* 1938: 769) Ḍalhaṇa noted that *sindhu* can be interpreted as salt (*saindhava*).

- 43 In the sixth, the cure (*siddhi*) is the same as for diarrhoea. And in the seventh, he perishes.⁴⁸¹
- 44 In between any one of these shocks, once the above treatment has been done, he should give the patient the following cold gruel (*yavāgū*) together with ghee and honey, that will take away the poison.
- 45–46 A gruel (*yavāgū*) made of the following items in a stewed juice (*niḥ-kvātha*) destroys the two poisons: luffa,⁴⁸² wild celery,⁴⁸³ velvet-leaf, sunflower,⁴⁸⁴ heart-leaved moonseed, myrobalan siris, and Indian cherry, white siris, the two kinds of turmeric,⁴⁸⁵ and the two kinds of hairy-fruited eggplant,⁴⁸⁶ hogweed, peas, the three heating spices, the

481 The vulgate text here is quite different, recommending that the patient have medicated powder blown up his nose. It may be possible to detect the evolution of the Nepalese अवसीदेत् to the vulgate's अवपीडश्. The vulgate version is hard to construe, and we see Ḍalhaṇa struggling to interpret it in his commentary on 5.2.43ab (Su 1938: 566). This sternutatory is, however, recommended in the Nepalese version at 5.5.30ab (Su 1938: 576), for the seventh shock of poisoning by a striped snake (*rājimat*). It is possible the text migrated from that location to this.

Another difference at this point is that the Nepalese version also does not support the vulgate's passage on the crow's foot (*kākapada*) therapy (Wujastyk 2003b: 145, n. 106). The same is the case at 5.5.24 (Su 1938: 575) and the clear description at 5.5.45 (Su 1938: 577), in neither of which is the therapy supported in the Nepalese version. This therapy seems unknown to the Nepalese transmission. The therapy may have migrated into the vulgate *Suśrutasamhitā* from the *Carakasamhitā* 6.23.66–67 (Ca 1941: 574).

482 At 4.10.8 (Su 1938: 449) Ḍalhaṇa glossed कोशवती as देवदाली and at 4.18.20 (Su 1938: 472) as कटुकोशातकी, vocabulary pointing to *Cucumis cylindrica*, *Cucumis act-angula* or *Luffa echinata*. See glossary under ??.

483 A plant often cited in *Suśrutasamhitā*, but rarely in *Carakasamhitā* (GVDB: 4). Ḍalhaṇa glossed it here, 5.2.45 (Su 1938: 566), as *ajamodā*, wild celery, but noted that others consider it to be *morāṭa*, rajmahal hemp. There is considerable complexity surrounding the identification of *morāṭa*/*mūrvā* and related synonyms (GVDB: 314–316). Taking *agnika* as a short reference to *agnimantha*, often identified as migraine tree, might be plausible, since that is antitoxic or anti-inflammatory, but such a short reference is not known elsewhere.

484 At 5.2.45 (Su 1938: 566) Ḍalhaṇa said that this plant has leaves like the *paṭola*, pointed gourd, T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 280, 443) argued plausibly that this is a synonym for *arkapuṣpī*, panacea twiner, as Ḍalhaṇa also stated in 1.45.120 (Su 1938: 206), and the leaves of *Holostemma* and *Trichosanthes* are indeed strikingly similar. The appearance of the plant, a creeper with sun-like flowers, fits the name. But there remains much controversy about the identities of these candidates (e.g., ADPS: 195–198).

485 I.e., turmeric and Indian barberry.

486 I.e., hairy-fruited eggplant and yellow-berried nightshade.

two kinds of Indian sarsaparilla⁴⁸⁷ and blue water-lily.

The Invincible Ghee

- 47–49 There is a famous ghee called “Invincible” (*ajeya*). It rapidly destroys all poisons but is itself unconquered. It is prepared with a mash (*kalka*) of the following plants: liquorice, crape jasmine, costus, deodar, peas, Indian madder, cardamom and cherry, cobra’s saffron, blue water-lily, sugar, embelia, sandalwood, malabathrum, foxtail millet, rosha grass, the two turmeric, ⁴⁸⁸ the two Indian nightshades, ⁴⁸⁹ the two kinds of Indian sarsaparilla, ⁴⁹⁰ beggarweed, and heart-leaf sida.

Curing the ‘slow-acting’ poison

- 50–52 Someone suffering from “slow-acting poison (*dūṣṭviṣa*)” should be well sweated, and purged both top and bottom. Then he should be made to drink the following eminent antidote which removes “slow-acting poison:”
Take long pepper, rosha grass, spikenard, lodh tree, cardamom, natron, scented pavonia, red ochre, as well as gold, and pondweed.
This antitoxin, taken with honey, eliminates slow-acting poison. It is called the “enemy of slow-acting poison (*dūṣṭviṣāri*),” and it is not prohibited in other situations.
- 53–54 If there are any other side-effects (*upadrava*), such as fever, a burning feeling, hiccups, constipation (*ānāha*), depletion of the semen, distension, diarrhoea, fainting, skin problems, bellyache (*jaṭhara*), madness, trembling, then one should treat each one in its own terms, using anti-toxic medicines.
- 55 For a prudent person, the slow-acting poison can be cured (*sādhya*) immediately. It is treatable (*yāpya*) if it is of a year’s standing. Other than this, it should be avoided for the person who eats unwholesome things.

⁴⁸⁷ I.e., country sarsaparilla and black creeper.

⁴⁸⁸ I.e., turmeric and Indian barberry.

⁴⁸⁹ I.e., hairy-fruited eggplant and yellow-berried nightshade.

⁴⁹⁰ I.e., country sarsaparilla and black creeper.

Kalpasthāna 3: Poisonous Insects and Animals

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.⁴⁹¹

Translation

- 1 And now we shall explain the formal procedure (*kalpa*) that is the required knowledge about mobile poisons.⁴⁹²
- 3 The full explanation about the sixteen carriers (*adhiṣṭhāna*) of the mobile poisons, that have been mentioned by me in brief, will be stated.⁴⁹³
- 4 In that context, they are:⁴⁹⁴
 1. gaze
 2. breath,
 3. teeth,
 4. nails,
 5. mouth,
 6. urine,
 7. feces,
 8. **menstrual blood**,
 9. semen,
 10. **tail**,

Come back to the issue of "kalpa". Look up passages in the Kośa.

⁴⁹¹ [HIML](#): IA, 291–292.

⁴⁹² In contrast to stationary, plant poisons. No reference is made to Dhanvantari (see Birch et al. [2021](#)).

⁴⁹³ "Carrier" for base, foundation (*adhiṣṭhāna*) aims to capture the idea that the author will describe the creatures in which poisons inhere.

⁴⁹⁴ The content of this section is presented as a table, for clarity for the contemporary reader and mindful of the theoretical issues surrounding notational variation, including the "symbolic rewriting" and the modification of "expressive capacities" discussed by Sarukkai ([2016](#): 321 ff). For further discussion, see Wujastyk [2021](#): 81–83.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 11. contact with saliva, | 15. bones, |
| 12. nipping with the mouth | 16. bile, |
| (<i>mukhasaṃdamśā</i>), | 17. bristles (<i>śūka</i>), and |
| 13. fart (<i>avaśardhita</i>), ⁴⁹⁵ | 18. corpses. ⁴⁹⁷ |
| 14. anus, ⁴⁹⁶ | |

5 In that context,

<i>location of the poison</i>	<i>creatures</i> ⁴⁹⁸
in their breath and gaze	divine snakes
in their fangs	the ones on earth ⁴⁹⁹
in their nails, mouths and fangs a	cats, dogs, monkeys, men (<i>nara</i>), ⁵⁰⁰ crocodiles, frogs, cook-fish insect, ⁵⁰¹ monitor lizards, cone snails, 'poisonous snakes' (<i>pracalāka</i>), ⁵⁰² house geckos, ⁵⁰³ four-footed insects and others
in their urine and faeces	lice (<i>kiṭiṇa</i>), 'flat insects' (<i>picciṭā</i>), 'orange-dwellers' (<i>kaṣāyavāsika</i>), 'pepper snakes' (<i>sarṣapaka</i>), 'angry beetles' (<i>toṭaka</i>), dung beetles (<i>varcaḥkīṭa</i>), and 'pot insects' (<i>kaunḍinya</i>)

495 This interpretation comes from Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.4 (Su 1938: 567), but he reads विशर्धित.

496 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.4 (Su 1938: 567) noted this reading.

497 This list has grown in transmission by two items.

498 Many of these names are mere dubious placeholders.

499 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.5 (Su 1938: 567) cited the otherwise unknown authority Sāvitra on the topic of poisonous snakes (HIML: IA, 377, IB 497, n. 105).

500 Probably dittography from the previous word, monkey (*vānara*). But it is supported in both Nepalese witnesses, so it must go back to an earlier exemplar.

501 MS KL 699 separates the words पाक and मत्स्य with a daṇḍa, indicating that the scribe thought they were separate terms (see 213).

502 *Arthaśāstra* 14.1.14, 23 (Olivelle 2013: 448), where it might also be a chameleon; but the latter are not venomous.

503 The scribe of MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333 noted in the margin that some of his sources read गलगोडिका, which is the name of a snake known also in the *Carakasamhitā* and elsewhere in literature (cf. note 221, p. ??).

<i>location of the poison</i>	<i>creatures</i>
in their semen	mice
in their stings (<i>śūla</i>)	scorpions, 'earth scorpions' (<i>viśvambhara</i>), wasps (<i>varaki</i>), ⁵⁰⁴ fish, crabs (<i>uccīṭiṅga</i>), and 'wing-scorpions' (<i>patravṛścika</i>)
in their saliva, nails, urine, feces, blood, semen and fangs	spiders
in the bites of their mouths	flies, wasps (<i>kaṇabha</i>) and leeches
in the bites of their mouths, in their fangs, faces, †, farts, anuses and feces	'speckle-heads' (<i>citraśīrṣa</i>), 'lids' (<i>śārava</i>), 'bellied' (<i>kukṣita</i>), 'wood-enemies' (<i>dārukāri</i>), 'liquors' (<i>medaka</i>), and 'darts' (<i>śārikā</i>).
continue	continue
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Table 3: Passage 5, expressed in tabular format.

505

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Pollution of the environment

- 6 The enemies of the king pollute the waters, roads and foodstuffs in enemy territory. The experienced physician, who has learned how to purify things, should clean up those polluted things.
- 7 Polluted water is slimy and smells of tears.⁵⁰⁶ It is covered with froth and covered with streaks. The frogs and fish die, the birds are crazed and, along with the wetland creatures, they wander about aimlessly.

⁵⁰⁴ वरटी is a wasp; वरकि in the Nepalese MSS may be an alternant of this word. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.5 (Su 1938: 568) remarked that some interpreted वरकिमत्स्य as two items, "wasp and fish," others as a single one, "wasp-fish."

⁵⁰⁵ Kaur and L. Singh 2018 is unhelpful, in spite of a section on the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (pp. 61–63).

⁵⁰⁶ अस normally means "tears," but rarely means "blood."

- 8 Men, horses and elephants who swim in it experience vomiting, delusion, fever, swelling and sharp pains.⁵⁰⁷ He should try to purify that polluted water, after curing their ailments.
- 9 And so, he should burn **axlewood** and **garjan oil tree**, as well as **corky coral tree**, and **small-flowered crape myrtle** and **weaver's beam tree**, and with **golden shower tree** and **white catch tree**.⁵⁰⁸ Then he should sprinkle that ash, cold, on the waters.
- 10–11 And in the same way, putting a handful of the ash in a pot, one may also purify water that one wants. If any one of the limbs of cows, horses, elephants, men or women, touch a place on the ground that enemies have spoiled with poison, or a ford or rock or a flat surface, then it swells up and burns and its hair and nails fall out on that place.⁵⁰⁹
- 12 In that situation, he should grind up **country sarsaparilla** together with all the aromatic items, with alcoholic drinks. And then he should sprinkle the paths that need to be used with waters mixed with mud.⁵¹⁰ **And if there exists another path, he should go by that.**⁵¹¹
- 13 When grasses and foods are polluted, people collapse, fall unconscious. And others vomit. They get loose stool or they die.⁵¹² One should apply to them the therapy as described.
- 14–15 Alternatively, one should smear various musical instruments with antidotes that remove poison and then play them. What is called the most excellent paste for a musical instrument is **certain minerals**⁵¹³ together

507 On the polysemy of elephant/snake (*nāga*), see Semeka-Pankratov 1979.

508 Cf. with the recipe at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6.3 (*Su* 1938: 580) for a paste to put on drums etc., p. 203 below.

509 “Swells up” translates an unclear reading that was probably शूयति, which may be an irregular form of √शू, श्वा, श्वि (see Whitney 1885: 175–176).

510 Our “alcoholic drinks” translates सुरा. For a discussion of this term at our period see McHugh 2021: 37–39 *et passim*.

511 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.12 (*Su* 1938: 568) cited a similar reading for the fourth pāda, but with a negative particle, “and if there is no other way, one should go by that.”

512 In “they get loose stool,” the verb आर्च्छन्ति (√ऋ), transmitted in both Nepalese manuscripts, has an irregular initial strong vowel. Alternatively, and perhaps more likely, it is a combination of आ+√ऋ, conjugated unusually as a class 6 verb, but with an appropriate sense of “to fall into (misfortune).”

513 “Certain minerals” translates तारावितार, the unanimous reading of the Nepalese witnesses. But the meaning of this expression is not clear and may even refer to plants, like the other ingredients. The vulgate reads तारः सुतारः, which is also not very clear. However, Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.14 (*Su* 1938: 568) identified these as “silver” and “mercury.” This is highly unlikely to be a correct understanding of the passage. Historically, mer-

with gold and sarsaparilla, and a portion of of nutgrass equal to that, together with the bile called “brown cow”.⁵¹⁴ By the sound of the musical instrument, even terrible poisons that may be present at that place are destroyed.

- 16 If there is smoke or wind that is affected by poison then birds are dazed and fall to the ground. People get coughs, colds, and head illnesses, and acute eye diseases.⁵¹⁵
- 17 The smoke and air can be purified by putting into the air: lac, turmeric, Indian aconite, and myrobalan, with Himalayan mayapple, costus, cardamom,⁵¹⁶ as well as peas, and foxtail millet.

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ativīṣā; vulgate similar to H.

The origin of poison

- 18 As it is told, the arrogant demon called Kaiṭabha created an obstacle for lotus-born Brahmā, at the very time that he was creating these creatures.⁵¹⁷
- 19 Pitiless Fury took a body and burst out of the mouth of furious Brahmā's store of fiery energy.⁵¹⁸
- 20 He burned that great, thundering, apocalyptic demon. Then, after bringing about the annihilation of that demon, his amazing fiery energy increased.

cury is not naturally present in the South Asian peninsula (*Watt_{Diet}*: 5, 233) and the word पारद that Ḍalhaṇa used is probably a loan-word from Persian (sub *paranda*, *par-randa* Steingass 1930: 244b). Mercurial compounds are not reliably attested in South Asia until two or three centuries after the composition of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* at the earliest. The currently available “śāstric” recension of the *Arthaśāstra* that is datable to 175–300 CE (Olivelle 2013: 29–31) does not mention mercury (*ibid*, 534). See further the study by Dagmar Wujastyk (2013a: 17, *et passim*).

514 सुरेन्द्रगोप and कुरुविन्द are both uncertain, see index. Ḍalhaṇa's opinion has been followed here, but it seems fair to say that all commentators were guessing.

515 The syntax of this verse is somewhat loose; the vulgate has regularized it, smoothing out the difficulties.

516

517 At this point, the text seems to make a new beginning to the topic of toxicology, as if starting a new chapter. It is notable that no reference is made here to the famous origin story of poison in the churning of the primal milk ocean; for discussion of the sources of this account, see Bedekar 1967. For reflections on this passage, connecting it with Rudra and the *Satapathabrāhmaṇa*, see Mānasa-taraṅgiṇī 2019.

518 “Fury” is here anthropomorphised.

- 21 And so, there was a sinking down (*viṣāda*) of the Daityas. Observing that, it was named “poison (*viṣa*)” because of it’s ability to produce a “sinking down.”
- 22 After that, the Lord created beings and subsequently made that fury enter into creatures still and moving.

The working of poison

- 23–24 Water that falls from the sky to the earth has no obvious flavour. The savour of the different places it lands on enters into it. In the same way, whatever substance a poison reaches, it establishes itself there and by its nature it takes on that substance’s savour.⁵¹⁹
- 25 Generally speaking, in a poison, all the qualities are really sharp. For this reason, every poison is known to irritate all of the humours.
- 26 Irritated and afflicted by the poison, they leave their natural functions. Poison does not get digested, so it blocks the breaths.⁵²⁰
- 27 Breathing is obstructed because its pathway is blocked by phlegm. Even if life continues, a man remains without consciousness.
- 28 Similar to semen, the poison of all angry snakes pervades the whole body, and goes to the limbs like semen because of being stirred up.
- 29 The fang of snakes is like a hook. When it gets there, it sticks inside them. That is why the unagitated poison of a snake is not released.
- 30 Sprinkling with very cold water is traditional for all cases of poisoning, because poison is declared to be extremely hot and sharp.⁵²¹
- 31 Poison in insects is slow and not very hot, having a lot of wind and phlegm. So in cases of insect poisoning, sweating is not forbidden.
- 32cd In cases of a strike or a bite, the poison may, of its own accord, stay there.
- 33–35ab †Having come upon a body,⁵²² in the case of corpses that have been pierced by a poisoned arrow and bitten by a snake, someone who eats

519 The scribal emendation in MS Kathmandu NAK 5-333 of नियच्छति to निगच्छति suggests that the scribe had more than one manuscript before him, one of them representing the reading of the vulgate recension.

520 Probably a reference to the five breaths. Ḍalhana referred to winds (वात), but this does not seem correct since it is a reference to humours rather than breaths.

521 The verb पठ् “is declared, read aloud” here could possibly suggest that the author is working within a written, not oral, tradition.

522 “Having come upon” translates प्रस्थाप्य, which is hard to interpret unless it is a rare form connected with the sense “to see.”

the poisoned flesh of a recent corpse out of carelessness will suffer with illness according to the poison, or even die. And therefore, the flesh of those should not be eaten when they have just died.

It is admissable after three quarters of an hour, but without the poisoned arrow and the snakebite.

35.1 [At this point an Upajāti verse is added in the margin of K but is not fully legible; the version of the text in H is also incomplete and not fully comprehensible.]⁵²³

35.3 †When, in a wound, the poison that is connected with these qualities runs, ...Therefore, not everything that is damaged by poison and eaten causes death.⁵²⁴

35.1 [śloka in the MSS that aren't in the vulgate. The first line doesn't scan. Witness K adds a part of the start of this in the bottom margin. This material is repeated at 3.39.2 in MS H.]

35cd & 36cd One designates a person who has diarrhoea of feces looking like soot (*grhadhūma*) with wind,⁵²⁵ and who vomits foam, as "someone who has drunk poison."

37 Therefore, fire burns a heart that is pervaded by poison. For, having pervaded of its own accord the location of consciousness, it abides.⁵²⁶

Patients beyond help

38 Patients who should not be accepted include: those who have been bitten under a **peepul tree**, in a temple, in a cemetery, at an ant-hill, at

⁵²³ *Mādhavanidāna*, 69.20–21 (MN₁: 480) has verses that are directly parallel to this section: दर्वीकराणां विषम् आशुघाति सर्वाणि चोष्णे द्विगुणीभवन्ति ॥ अजीर्णपित्तातपपीडितेषु बालेषु वृद्धेषु बुभुक्षितेषु ॥२०॥ क्षीणक्षते मोहिनि कुष्ठयुक्ते रूक्षे ऽबले गर्भवतीषु चापि ॥ शस्त्रक्षते यस्य न रक्तम् एति राज्यो लताभिश्च न संभवन्ति ॥२१॥ This passage is the only occurrence in the ayurvedic text corpus that relates to the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā* at this point. This suggests that Mādhavakara (fl. ca. 700, Bengal) knew and used the Nepalese version.

⁵²⁴ At this point, witness H inserts a marginal Indravajrā verse about diseases that afflict immoral women.

⁵²⁵ गृहधूम is not a plant in this context, *pace* MW: 362. See the discussion in note 423, p. 138 above.

⁵²⁶ Ḍalhaṇa said that someone who has died from drinking poison has a heart that cannot be burned because it is pervaded by poison (5.3.37 (Su 1938: 570)). But the sense of the Nepalese MSS is the opposite.

dawn or dusk, at a crossroads, under Yama's asterism,⁵²⁷ under the Great Bear and people who have been bitten in lethal spots.

39 The poison of cobras kills rapidly. They all gain twice the intensity in those who have indigestion, those who are afflicted by bile or wind, old people, children and the hungry.

39.1 In those whose who are mad or intoxicated, or who suffer from anxiety, or who are unable to tolerate its various strengths, it becomes sharp. †...

39.2 ⁵²⁸

3.40cd–3.43ab One should reject someone overcome by poison who **does not bleed** when cut with a knife, where weals do not appear as a result of lashes,⁵²⁹ or where there is no horripilation because of cold water, whose mouth is **crooked**, whose hair is falling out of his head. A man who is fatigued and those who stammer,⁵³⁰ one who has a black and red swelling at the site of the bite, with lockjaw, should be avoided. The same goes for someone who has a solid plug emerge from their mouth and someone who has blood running from above and below. The physician should also avoid a person who has fangs that have not fallen out quickly.⁵³¹

527 याम्ये means "southerly" but Ḍaḥaṇa on 5.3.38 (Su 1938: 570) interpreted it as "in Yama's direction" as "under the seventh asterism."

528 Material corresponds to SS.1.45.205ab, where it describes how alcohol produces intoxication because it is fine, hot and sharp and travels through the vessels disturbing the senses and the mind and intoxicating the potency.

529 Ḍaḥaṇa, on 5.3.40 (Su 1938: 570), glossed लताभिस् "by means of whips," as "when the body is struck by whips."

530 nāsāvasāda & plural sakaṇṭhabhaṅgāḥ

531 The grammatical verb-form परिवर्जयित् "he should avoid," opt., 3rd, sg., is unusual. Renou (1940: 10 ff) documented such forms from the *Aitareyabrāhmaṇa* onwards. Oberlies (2003: ¶6.3.3 "Peculiar optative endings", pp. 176–177) showed that the form is well-documented in *manuscripts* of the *Mahābhārata*, but has been edited out of the printed critical edition in almost all cases. Cf. also Kulikov 2006.

The concern about a patient who "has fangs that have not fallen out" is hard to understand. The word दंष्ट्रा does not mean human teeth (दन्त). We therefore prefer to understand this as describing a patient where the fangs of a venomous creature remain in the bite-wound. This requires construing the expression as a *bahuvrīhi* compound: दंष्ट्रा or दंष्ट्र + अनिपातः.

Kalpasthāna 4: Snakes and Envenomation

Introduction

The fourth chapter of the Kalpasthāna of the *Suśrutasamhitā* addresses the topic of snake bites and snake venom. Exceptionally for the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*, the discussion is framed as a question from Suśruta to the wise Dhanvantari. Suśruta's questions are about the number of snakes, how they are classified, the symptoms of their bites and the pulses or stages of toxic shock experienced by a victim of snakebite, and related topics. The taxonomy of snakes is presented in tabular form in Figures 2 and 3.⁵³²

The *Carakasamhitā* also addressed this topic of snake taxonomy, but only included the first three of the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s five types, namely Darvīkara, Maṇḍalī and Rājimān.⁵³³ These three categories of snakes were framed within a humoral scheme, aggravating wind, bile and phlegm respectively, a scheme that was carried forward into symptoms and therapy.⁵³⁴ The *Suśrutasamhitā* did not use this snake–humour parallelism. By contrast, the system of seven pulses or toxic shocks (*vega*) that was central to the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s understanding of envenomation is absent from the *Carakasamhitā*.⁵³⁵

⁵³² On the idea of notational variants in scientific translation, see Elshakry 2008; Sarukkai 2016; Wujastyk 2021: 81–83.

⁵³³ 6.23.124 ff. (Ca 1941: 577).

⁵³⁴ *Carakasamhitā* 6.23.165–176 (Ca 1941: 579). Note that the *Carakasamhitā* then described symptoms and therapies without reference to the three-humour scheme: 6.23.177–254 (Ca 1941: 579–582).

⁵³⁵ One mention of the term in the *Carakasamhitā* refers to the peak of a tertian fever

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.⁵³⁶ There also exists a substantial herpetological literature from colonial India as well as more recent studies of snakes in the context of cultural and religious life.

Chevers (1870) gave a characteristically evidential and gripping nineteenth-century account of death by snakebite in the context of homicide. He discussed the specific species of snake most associated with envenomation and their common geographical distribution. He also provided numerous vivid case histories of envenomation as well as murder and execution by deliberate snakebite.⁵³⁷

The properly ophiological literature of the colonial period began in the late nineteenth century with the work of Fayrer, whose publication included striking colour paintings of snakes.⁵³⁸ Fayrer provided a biological taxonomy of snakes as well as chapters on mortality statistics during the nineteenth century, treatment and effects of poison, and experimental data. Ewart (1878) included descriptions of appearance and behaviour of poisonous snakes and sometimes their local names and reproducing Fayrer's illustrations.⁵³⁹ Wall (1913: 75–124) provided a useful analysis of the medical effects of snake envenomation in India arranged by the varied symptomatology of different snakes. He also discussed the difference between the symptoms of toxicity and fright (69–75) and also the difficulties arising out of uncertainty about the effects of snake-bite (124–126). The *Suśrutasamhitā* too recognized the emotional and somatic effects of fright (see note 555 below). Wall (1921) provided a wealth of detail of the snakes of Sri Lanka, including line drawings.

(6.3.70 (Ca 1941: 404). In other contexts, it had the ordinary-language meaning of a natural "impulse" or "pressure" that should not be suppressed (1.25.40 et passim (Ca 1941: 131–132)).

536 HIML: IA, 292–294. In addition to the translations mentioned by Meulenbeld (HIML: IB, 314–315), a translation of this chapter was included in P. V. Sharma 1999–2001: 3, 35–45. The classic work of Jolly (1951: ¶93) offered a short but accurate overview of Indian toxicology.

537 Chevers 1870: 368–386.

538 Fayrer 1874, first published in 1872.

539 Calling his work a supplement to Fayrer (1874), but also being cited by Fayrer, Ewart 1878 evidently also collected local indigenous knowledge from his "snake-man" (p. 22).

Semeka-Pankratov (1979) traced semiotics of the term *nāga* through Vedic, Pali and Sanskrit literature. Doniger (2015) provided a good survey of snakes as protagonists in religious literature from the *Atharvaveda* through the epics, *Purāṇas* and Buddhist literature. Slouber (2016a: 31–33 *et passim*) discussed the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s *Kalpasthāna* as a precursor and influence on later Tantric traditions of snake-bite interpretation and therapy. In particular, the Tantric *Kriyākālaguṇottara* text that Slouber presented divided snakes into two basic categories, divine and mundane, as the *Suśrutasamhitā* does.⁵⁴⁰ But unlike the *Suśrutasamhitā*, in the *Kriyākālaguṇottara* the chief taxonomic principle for both groups is the four *varṇas*.

A discussion of this chapter specifically in the light of the Nepalese manuscripts was published by Harimoto.⁵⁴¹ After a close comparative reading of lists of poisonous snakes, Harimoto concluded that, “the Nepalese version is internally consistent while the [vulgate] editions are not.” Harimoto showed how the vulgate editions had been adjusted textually to smooth over inconsistencies, and gave insights into these editorial processes.⁵⁴²

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The Seven Stages of Toxic Shock

A prominent feature the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s interpretation of envenomation symptoms is the concept of seven successive stages or pulses (*vega*) of toxic shock after a bite. This is interestingly coordinated with the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s concept of the *kalās*, which are either seven layers of skin that come into existence during embryonic development or seven interstitial tissues that separate the various parts of the body.⁵⁴³

Contemporary clinical studies of snake envenomation and treatment do not show any awareness of such a seven-stage symptomatology as found in

⁵⁴⁰ Slouber 2016a: 144–145.

⁵⁴¹ Harimoto 2011: 101–104.

⁵⁴² The two editions that Harimoto noted, Su 1938 and Su 1889, present identical texts.

⁵⁴³ The system of the कला is described at 4.4.4–20 (Su 1938: 355–357). Cf. *Mahākośa*: 1, 183–184, *Śabdasinghu*: 227–228, Kutumbiah 1962: 6, *HIML*: 1, 247–248 and notes. This system of dermal and interstitial कला was not known to the *Carakasamhitā* as such; rather, the *Carakasamhitā* mentioned six kinds of skin (त्वक्) (4.7.4 (Ca 1941: 337)), with different names and characteristics, a contradiction discussed by the commentator Cakrapāṇidatta (*idem*). It appears in later works such as the fourteenth-century *Śārṅgadharasamhitā* (1.1.60 (Śāstrī 1931: 15)).

traditional Indian medicine.⁵⁴⁴ Exceptionally, the studies by Barceloux and Özbulat et al., do identify and tabulate three stages of envenomation.⁵⁴⁵ The symptoms of these three stages are mainly characterized by increasing degrees of edema. This differs from the *Suśrutasamhitā*'s detailed characterization of changes in skin colour etc.⁵⁴⁶

Translation

- 1 Now we shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) that is required knowledge (*vijñānīya*) concerning the venom in those who have been bitten by snakes.⁵⁴⁷
- 3 Suśruta, grasping his feet, questions the wise Dhanvantari, the expert in all the sciences.
- 4 “My Lord, please speak about the number of snakes, and their divisions, the symptoms of someone who has been bitten, and the knowledge about the toxic reactions of poisoning”.⁵⁴⁸

[The Taxonomy of Snakes]

- 5 On hearing his query, that distinguished physician spoke.
“The venerable snakes such as Vāsukī and Takṣaka are uncountable.
- 6–9ab “They are snake-lords who support the earth, as bright as the ritual fire, ceaselessly roaring, raining and scorching. They hold up the earth, with its oceans, mountains and continents. If they are angered, they can destroy the whole world with a breath and a look. Honour to them. They have no role here in medicine.

544 E.g., Ellenhorn 1997; Mehta and Sashindran 2002; Weinstein et al. 2009; Pillay 2013: 1747–1749; WHO 2019: 19; Hamza et al. 2021; A. M. Deshpande et al. 2022.

545 Barceloux 2008: 1017, Table 176.3, and Özbulat et al. 2021: 7, and Table 1, broadly following Barceloux.

546 I am grateful to Prof. Jan Gerris (U. Ghent) and Prof. Jan Tytgat (KU Leuven) for assistance in finding relevant toxicological literature.

547 The *Sarvāṅgasundarī*, commenting on *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasamhitā* 1.16.17 (Ah 1939: 246), glossed कल्प as प्रयोग.

548 The expression “toxic reactions” translates वेग, which in other contexts may mean “(natural) urge.” Here, it is rather the discrete stages or phases of physiological reaction to envenomation. Cf. the symptoms of cobra poisoning described by Wall (1913: 80).

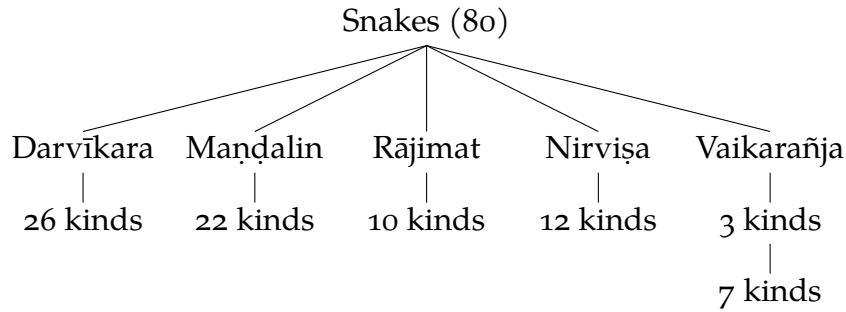


Figure 2: The taxonomy of snakes in the vulgate, 5.4.9–13ab (Su 1938: 571).

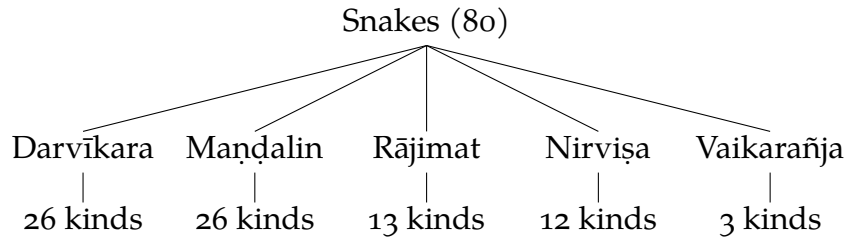


Figure 3: The taxonomy of snakes in the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

“The ones that I shall enumerate in due order are those mundane ones with poison in their fangs who bite humans.⁵⁴⁹

- 9cd–10 “There are eighty kinds of snakes and they are divided in five ways: Darvīkaras, Maṇḍalins, Rājīmat, and Nirviṣas. And Vaikarañjas that are traditionally of three kinds.⁵⁵⁰
- 11 “Of those, there are twenty and six hooded snakes, and the same number of Maṇḍalins are known. There are thirteen Rājīmat.⁵⁵¹
- 12 “There are said to be twelve Niriviṣas and, according to tradition, three Vaikarañjas.

⁵⁴⁹ The next few verses are discussed in detail by Harimoto (2011: 101–104), who shows that in the taxonomy of snakes, the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā* has greater internal coherence than the vulgate recension.

⁵⁵⁰ Harimoto (2011) translated these names as “hooded,” “spotted,” “striped,” “harmless,” and “hybrid.” Figure 2 shows the taxonomy described in the vulgate text; Figure 3 shows the different and more logical division of the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

⁵⁵¹ The phrasing of this śloka is awkward.

Or “There are 20 phanins and 6 maṇḍalins. The same number are known. There are 13 Rājīmat.” Or even, “there are 20 Phanins and six of them are Maṇḍalins.” Are phanins really the same as darvīkaras?

[Behaviours]

- 13–14ef “If they are trodden on, ill-natured or provoked or even just looking for food, those very angry snakes will bite. And that is said to happen in three ways: serpented (*sarpita*), torn (*darita*) and thirdly without venom (*nirviṣa*). Some experts on this want to add “hurt by the snake’s body”.⁵⁵²
- 15–16 “The physician can recognize the following as “ophidian (*sarpita*)”: Where a rearing snake makes one, two or more puncture-marks of its teeth, when they are deep and without much blood,⁵⁵³ accompanied by a little ring of spots (*cuñcumālaka*),⁵⁵⁴ lead to degeneration, and are close together and swollen.
- 17 Where there are streaks with blood, whether it be blue or white, the physician should recognize that to be “torn (*darita*),” having a small amount of venom.
- 18 The physician can recognize the locations of the bites of a person in a normal state as being free from poison, when the location is not swollen, and there is little corrupted blood.
- 19 The wind of a timid person who has been touched by a snake can get irritated by fear. It causes swelling.⁵⁵⁵ That is “hurt by a snake’s body.”

grammar

552 This might refer to constriction. The phrase reads like a commentarial addition rather than the main text of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.

553 The word उद्धृत “aroused” was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa at 5.4.15 (*Su* 1938: 571) as उन्मोद्य, a word not found as such in standard dictionaries (*MW*; *KEWA*; *Mahākośa*; *Apte*). Semantic considerations suggest that the word is not related to $\sqrt{muṭ}$ “break” or *mūṭa*/*mūṭa* “woven basket.” Perhaps it is related to the Tamil மோதி (*mōti*), whose meanings include “arrogance, grandeur, display” (*DED*₂: #5133) or to faintly-documented forms like *moṭyate* “is twisted” (*CDIAL*: #10186). Ḍalhaṇa’s उन्मोद्य may thus mean “twisting up” or “making an arrogant display.”

Note that पद “puncture-mark” (more literally, “footprint”) is being used in the same sense as in 1.13.19 (*Su* 1938: 57) when describing the marks on the body where a knife scarifies the skin before leeching. See footnote 64.

554 The usual dictionary lexeme is चञ्चु, not चुञ्चु as in the Nepalese witnesses. We translate “spots” following Ḍalhaṇa and Gayadāsa on 5.4.15 (*Su* 1938: 571), where they described a group of spots or swellings at the site of the bite. On the history of the word मालक, see Kieffer-Pülz 1996.

555 Wall (1913: 69) remarked on the difficulty of separating toxicity symptoms from the psychosomatic effects of terror:

The gravity of symptoms due to fright does not appear to me to be sufficiently recognised, though there is no doubt in my mind that fatal cases from this cause are abundant, especially among the timid natives of this country.

- 20 Locations bitten by sick or frightened snakes are known to have little poison. Similarly, a site bitten by very young or old snakes has little poison.
- 21 Poison does not progress in a place frequented by eagles,⁵⁵⁶ gods, holy sages, **spirits**, and saints, or in places full of herbs that destroy poison.⁵⁵⁷

[Characteristic Features of Snakes]

- 22 Darvīkara snakes are known to have hoods, to move rapidly, and to have rings, ploughs, umbrellas, crosses, and hooks on them.
- 23 Maṇḍalin snakes are known for being large and slow-moving. They are decorated with many kinds of circles. They are like a flaming fire because of their poisons.
- 24 Rājimat snakes are smooth and traditionally said to be, as it were, mottled with multicoloured streaks across and above.

[Classes of Snake]

- 25 Snakes that shine like pearls and silver, and that are amber and that shine like gold, and smell sweet are traditionally thought of as being of the Brāhmaṇa caste.
- 26 Warrior snakes, however, are those that look glossy and get very angry. They have the mark of the sun, the moon, the earth, an umbrella and **bitumen**.
- 27 Merchant snakes may traditionally be black, shine like diamond or have a red colour or be grey like pigeons.

Wall went on to give several case studies in which patients experienced syncope or even died as a result of bites from toxicologically harmless creatures.

⁵⁵⁶ Ḍalhaṇa on 5.4.21 (*Su* 1938: 571) identified the सुपर्ण as a गरुड. On the bird called सुपर्ण, Dave (1985: 72 ff, 514) too noted that it may be a synonym for Garuḍa, and in some contexts may refer to the Golden Eagle, Golden Oriole, Lammergeyer, etc. Dave (1985: 199 ff, 492) noted again that the Garuḍa is a mythical bird but may refer to the Himalayan Golden Eagle and other species of eagle. He pointed out that historically, The original physical basis for गरुड as the नागाशी (snake-eater) was most probably the Sea-Eagle who picks up sea-snakes from the sea or sand-beach and devours them on a nearby tree... (Dave 1985: 201).

Dave continued with interesting reference to Śrīharṣa's *Nāgānanda*.

⁵⁵⁷ For "spirits" the Nepalese version has भूत while the vulgate reads यक्ष.

- 28 Any snakes that are coloured like a buffalo and a tiger, with rough skin and different colours are known as servants.⁵⁵⁸
- 31 All snakes that are variegated (Rājīmats) move about during the first watch of the night. The rest, on the other hand, the Maṇḍalins and the Darvīkaras, are diurnal.⁵⁵⁹
- 29 Wind is irritated by all hooded snakes; bile by Maṇḍalins and phlegm by those with many stripes.
- 30 Because of the two classes having greater, lesser or equal class, there is the characteristic of irritating two humours.
And he will explain the opposing view that is to be known as a result of the non-union of a male and female.⁵⁶⁰

[Enumeration of Snakes]

- 34.1 In that context, here are the Darvīkaras.
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Black snake (<i>kṛṣṇasarpa</i>); | (<i>parisarpa</i>); |
| 2. The Big Black (<i>mahākṛṣṇa</i>); | 12. The Break Hood |
| 3. The Black Belly (<i>kṛṣṇodara</i>); | (<i>khaṇḍaphaṇa</i>); |
| 4. The All Black (<i>sarvakṛṣṇa</i>); ⁵⁶¹ | 13. The Kūkuṭa (<i>kūkuṭa</i>); |
| 5. The White Pigeon | 14. The Lotus (<i>padma</i>); |
| (<i>śvetakapota</i>); ⁵⁶² | 15. The Great Lotus |
| 6. The Rain Cloud (<i>valāhako</i>); | (<i>mahāpadma</i>); |
| 7. The Great Snake | 16. The Grass Flower (<i>apuṣpa</i>); |
| (<i>mahāsarpa</i>); | 17. The Curd Mouth |
| 8. The Conch Keeper | (<i>dadhimukha</i>); |
| (<i>śaṃkhapāla</i>); | 18. The Lotus Mouth |
| 9. The Red Eye (<i>lohitākṣa</i>); | (<i>puṇḍarīkamukha</i>); |
| 10. The Gavedhuka (<i>gavedhuka</i>); | 19. The Brown Hut Mouth |
| 11. The Snake Around | (<i>babhrūkuṭīmukha</i>); |

⁵⁵⁸ Presumably “different” from the earlier-mentioned castes.

The sequence of the following three verses is slightly different from the vulgate (5.4.29–31 (Su 1938: 572)).

⁵⁵⁹ The readings of the vulgate, that Rājīmats are active in the early night, the Maṇḍalins in the later night, and Darvīkaras in the day, seem clearer.

⁵⁶⁰ The sense of the last phrase here is quite different from the vulgate, which says only that “details” will be explained below.

⁵⁶¹ Not in the vulgate.

⁵⁶² The vulgate adds The Big Pigeon (*mahākapota*).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 20. The Variegated (<i>vicitra</i>); | (<i>rjusarpa</i>); |
| 21. The Flower Sprinkle Beauty | 24. The White Rip (<i>śvetadara</i>); |
| (<i>puṣpābhikīrṇnābha</i>); | 25. The Big Head (<i>mahāśīrṣa</i>); |
| 22. The Mountain Snake | and |
| (<i>girisarpa</i>); | 26. The Hungry Sting (<i>alagarda</i>); |
| 23. The Straight Snake | |

34.2 Here are the Maṇḍalins

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Mirror Ring | 13. The Morning Glory |
| (<i>ādarśamaṇḍala</i>); | (<i>pālindaka</i>); |
| 2. The White Ring | 14. The Stretch (<i>tantuka</i>); |
| (<i>śvetamaṇḍala</i>); | 15. The Pale as a Flower |
| 3. The Red Ring (<i>raktamaṇḍala</i>); | (<i>puṣpapāṇḍu</i>); |
| 4. The Speckled (<i>prṣata</i>); | 16. The Six Part (<i>ṣaḍaṅga</i>); |
| 5. The Gift of God (<i>devadinna</i>); | 17. The Flame (<i>agnika</i>); |
| 6. The Pilindaka (<i>pilindaka</i>); | 18. The Brown (<i>babhru</i>); |
| 7. The Big Cow Snout | 19. The Ochre (<i>kaśāya</i>); |
| (<i>vr̥ddhagonasa</i>); | 20. The Khaluṣa (<i>khaluṣa</i>); |
| 8. The Jackfruit (<i>panasaka</i>); | 21. The Pigeon (<i>pārāvata</i>); |
| 9. The Big Jackfruit | 22. The Hand Decoration |
| (<i>mahāpanasaka</i>); | (<i>hastābharanaka</i>); |
| 10. The Bamboo Leaf | 23. The Tatra (<i>tatra</i>); ⁵⁶³ |
| (<i>veṇupatraka</i>); | 24. The Mark (<i>citraka</i>); |
| 11. The Kid (<i>śīśuka</i>); | 25. The Deer Foot (<i>eṇīpada</i>). ⁵⁶⁴ |
| 12. The Intoxicator (<i>madanaka</i>); | |

34.3 Here are the Rājīmats.⁵⁶⁵

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Lotus (<i>puṇḍarīka</i>); | 5. The Drop Stripe (<i>bindurāji</i>); |
| 2. The Stripe Speckle (<i>rājicitra</i>); | 6. The Mud (<i>kardama</i>); |
| 3. The Finger Stripe (<i>aṅgulirāji</i>); | 7. The Grass Drier (<i>tr̥ṇaśoṣaka</i>); |
| 4. The Two Finger Stripe | 8. The White Jaw (<i>svetahanu</i>); |
| (<i>dvyāṅgulirāji</i>); | 9. The Grass Flower |

⁵⁶³ This seems implausible, but otherwise the list of Maṇḍalins would be short.

⁵⁶⁴ The list is short by one item. Perhaps the one of the snakes named in the vulgate, *citramaṇḍala*, *gonasa* or *piṅgala*, should be considered here.

⁵⁶⁵ The following list is one item short. The vulgate text, however, has several names that do not appear in the Nepalese Rājīmat list, for example *Sarṣapaka* and *Godhūmaka*.

⁵⁶⁶ Also in the Darvīkara list.

⁵⁶⁷ Also in the Darvīkara list.

- (*darbhapuṣpa*);⁵⁶⁶
10. The Red Eye (*lohitākṣa*);⁵⁶⁷
11. The Ringed (*cakraka*);
12. The Worm Eater (*kikkisāda*);
- 34.4 Here are the Nirviṣas.
1. The Rain Cloud (*valāhako*);⁵⁶⁸
2. Thei Snake Flag (*ahipatāka*);
3. The White Leaf (*śukapatra*);
4. The Goat Swallower (*ajagara*);
5. The Stimulator (*dīpyaka*);
6. The Ilikinī (*ilikinī*);
7. The Year-Snake (*varṣāhika*);
8. The Two-day (*dvyaḥika*);
9. The Milk Flower (*kṣīrikāpuṣpa*);
10. The Flower All (*puṣpasakalī*);
11. The Chariot of Light (*jyotīratha*);
12. The Little Tree (*vrkṣaka*);

[Breeding and Gender]

- 34.5 The Vaikarañjas originate out of contrary unions amongst the three colours.⁵⁶⁹ Thus:

1. The Mākuli (*mākuli*);
2. The Poṭa Throat (*poṭagala*);
3. The Oil Stripe (*snigdharāji*);

Amongst those, the Mākuli (*mākuli*); is born when a male Black Snake mates with a female Cow Snout (*gonasa*), or the reverse. The Poṭa Throat (*poṭagala*) is born when a male Rājila mates with a female Cow Snout (*gonasa*) or the reverse. The Oily Stripe (*snigdharāji*) is born when a male Black Snake mates with a female Rājimat, or the reverse. Their poison is like that of their father, because it is the superior one out of the two; but others say it is like the mother. Thus eighty of these snakes have been described.

- 35 Amongst them, males have large eyes, tongues and heads.⁵⁷⁰ Females

⁵⁶⁸ Also in the Darvīkara list.

⁵⁶⁹ The word *varṇa* in this chapter normally means “colour” not “class.” (“Class is expressed by “jāti.”) While *kṣṇasarpa* is clearly a colour-type, it is less obvious that *gonasī* is a special colour, and *rājimat* is a group of snakes.

⁵⁷⁰ The vulgate includes the snake’s mouth in this and the next list.

- have small eyes, tongues and heads. Neuters have both characteristics, and are slow to exert themselves or be angry.⁵⁷¹
- 36 In that context we shall give instruction in a general way about the sign of having been bitten by any of the snakes.
For what reason?
Because poison acts quickly, like a fire with an oblation, a honed sword, or a thunderbolt.⁵⁷² And ignored for even a period of time, it can drag the patient away. There is not even an opportunity to follow the literature.⁵⁷³
And when the symptom of being bitten is stated, there will be three ways of treating it because there are three kinds of snake. Therefore we shall explain it in three ways. “For this is good for people who are ill, and it removes confusion and in this very case it prevents all symptoms”.⁵⁷⁴

[Symptoms of snakebite]

- 37 In this context, the poison of a Darvīkara causes the skin, nails, eyes, mouth, urine, feces, and the bite-mark to be black; there is dryness, the joints hurt and the head feels heavy; the waist, back and neck feel weak; there is yawning, the voice becomes faint, there is gurgling, paralysis, dry throat, cough, wheezing, and hiccups; the wind goes upwards, the patient convulses with sharp pain, black saliva dribbles out, foam appears, the ducts (*srotas*) are blocked and every kind of pain that is due to wind.⁵⁷⁵

⁵⁷¹ The reading मन्दचेष्टाक्रोधा is an awkward compound; possibly the original reading was मन्दचेष्टाः + अक्रोधा and sandhi was applied twice.

⁵⁷² Perhaps the image suggested by “a fire with an oblation” is that of the Pravargya, in which a large flame rises suddenly from the ritual fire.

⁵⁷³ The idea seems to be that there is no time to consult the verbose āyurvedic teachings. The “extensive meaning of the collection of statements (वाक्समूहार्थविस्तार)” is singled out as one of Āyurveda’s virtues in 5.8.142 (Su 1938: 594). Alternatively, perhaps the patient is unable to understand what the doctor is saying to him.

⁵⁷⁴ In the next passage, the symptoms of snake poisoning are indeed explained under three headings.

⁵⁷⁵ Cf. the similar symptoms of snake venom poisoning by the so-called Brahmin warriors of Harmatelia, described by the classical author Diodorus Siculus (fl. ca. 30–60 BCE) (Eggermont 1975: 108).

The poison of a Maṇḍalin causes the skin, nails, eyes, teeth, mouth, urine, feces, bite mark to be yellow; there is a desire for cold, a temperature, giving off fumes,⁵⁷⁶ a burning feeling, thirst, intoxication, fainting, fever, haemorrhaging (*śonitāgamana*), and the degeneration of the flesh and fat above and below. There is swelling, suppuration of the bite, metamorphopsia (*viparītadarśana*), anger caused by the suffering, and every kind of pain that is due to bile.⁵⁷⁷

The poison of a Rājīmat causes the skin, nails, eyes, teeth, mouth, urine, feces, and bite mark to be pale; there is a cold fever, the hair stands on end, there is stiffness and swelling of the limbs including the site of the bite. There is a discharge of viscous phlegm, vomiting, itchy eyes, and a rattling sound. The breath is obstructed and there is every kind of pain due to phlegm.

- 38 In that context, “someone bitten by a male gazes upwards, by a female horizontally, and by a neuter, downwards.” One bitten by a pregnant snake has a pale face and becomes swollen (*ādhmāta*). One bitten by a recently-delivered snake is afflicted with abdominal pain and urinates with blood. One bitten by a hungry snake craves food. Those bitten by an old snake have delayed and slow reactions. And one bitten by a young snake is fast and keen. One bitten by a non-venomous snake has the characteristic mark of non-poisoning.⁵⁷⁸ Some that are bitten by a blind snake become blind. A constrictor (*ajagara*) is deadly because it swallows, not because of poison.

[Toxic reactions]

- 39 In that context, all snake toxins have seven toxic reactions.⁵⁷⁹

⁵⁷⁶ The term “giving off fumes (परिधूपयन)” is not in MW: 596 as such, although परिधूपन, परिधूमन and परिधूमायन are cited and referred to the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. “Giving off fumes (परिधूपन)” is listed at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 2.6.13 (Su 1938: 291) amongst the symptoms of urinary disease caused by phlegm. The editors note a variant reading परिधूमायन but do not tell us in which manuscript (Su 1938: 291, n. 3). Ḍalhaṇa on 2.6.13 (Su 1938: 292) glossed परिधूपन as “hot all over (समन्ततस्तापः)” and in our current passage as “hot over the whole body (सर्वाङ्गसन्तापः)” (Su 1938: 573). See also *Mahākośa*: 1, 429: धूमायन “अङ्गानां धूमोद्धमनमिव” citing the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*.

⁵⁷⁷ Ghosh et al. (2023) describes visual disturbances due to snake envenomation.

⁵⁷⁸ The grammar of अविषलिङ्गम् is not quite right; it should be a masculine or plural bahuvrīhi.

⁵⁷⁹ Cf. the same concept in the context of plants, at 151

[**Darvīkaras**] Thus, at the first pulse of the Darvīkaras the poison corrupts the blood. That corrupted blood turns black. Because of that, blackness and a feeling of ants crawling about on the body develop.⁵⁸⁰ In the second pulse, it corrupts the flesh. That causes extreme blackness and lumps.

In the third, it corrupts the fat. That causes a discharge at the bite, heaviness of the head and an eclipse of the vision.⁵⁸¹

In the fourth, it penetrates the trunk of the body (*koṣṭha*). From there, it irritates the humors, particularly phlegm. That causes exhaustion and oozing phlegm, and dislocation of the joints.

In the fifth pulse, it penetrates the bones. That causes breaking of the joints, hiccups and burning.

In the sixth pulse, it penetrates the marrow. That causes humours in the seat of fire in the gut (*grahaṇī*), heaviness of the limbs, diarrhoea, pain in the heart and fainting.⁵⁸²

In the seventh, it penetrates the semen and greatly irritates the vyāna breath (*vyāna*), and causes the phlegm (*kapha*) to run imperceptibly out of the tubes (*srotas*). That causes the appearance of mucous (*śleṣman*), breaking of the hips, back and shoulders, impediment to all movements and shortness of breath.

[**Mandalins**] Thus, at the first pulse of the Mandalins, the poison corrupts the blood. Corrupted by that, it turns yellow. That causes a yellow appearance and a feeling of heat all over (*paridāha*).

In the second pulse, it corrupts the flesh. And that causes the limbs to be very yellow and an extreme feeling of heat all over (*paridāha*), and swelling at the bite.

In the third, it corrupts the fat. That causes a discharge at the black bite and sweating.

In the fourth, it penetrates as before and brings on fever.

In the fifth, it causes heat in all the limbs.

In the sixth and seventh, it is the same as before.

⁵⁸⁰ Strictly, we would expect a dual verb here, instead of the plural of the witnesses.

⁵⁸¹ Dalhaṇa on 5.4.39 (Su 1938: 574) glossed the last expression as “blockage of the vision (दृष्ट्यवरोध).”

⁵⁸² The “seat of fire in the gut (ग्रहणी)” is an ayurvedic organ in the digestive tract that does not correspond to any specific organ known to contemporary anatomy. For discussion, see *Mahākośa*: v. 1, 304; Meulenbeld 1974b: 619; Das 2003: 544–545.

[Rājīmats] Thus, in the first pulse of the Rājīmats, the poison corrupts the blood. Corrupted by that, it turns yellow. It causes a person to have hair standing on end and a pale appearance.

In the second pulse, it corrupts the flesh. That causes him to become pale and to become extremely benumbed (*jāḍya*).

In the third, it corrupts the fat. That causes moistness of the bite and runny eyes and nose.

In the fourth, it is the same as before. After penetrating, it brings on stiffness of the neck (*manyāstambha*) and heaviness of the head.

In the fifth, speech is slurred and there is a cold fever.

In the sixth and seventh, it is the same as before.

[Summary Verses]

40 There are verses on this.

It is well known that there are seven al layers (kalā) in between the bodily tissues (dhātu). Poison passing through these one by one produces the toxic reaction (vega).⁵⁸³

41 *The interval taken by the deadly substance (kālakaḥ), propelled (√ūh) by air (samīraṇa), to cut the layers of skin is known as the "pulse interval (vegāntara)".⁵⁸⁴*

42 *In the first pulse, an animal has a swollen body, is distressed and broods.⁵⁸⁵*

In the second, it dribbles somewhat,⁵⁸⁶ the hair stands up on its body, and it has pain (√pīḍ) in the heart.

⁵⁸³ See note 543 above.

⁵⁸⁴ Ḍaḥaṇa on 5.4.41 (Su 1938: 574) glossed कालकल्प as मृत्युसदृशं विषं "the poison resembles death."

⁵⁸⁵ The verb √प्रध्वै "meditate, be thoughtful, brood" is unexpected here and in the second class, an epic form. Ḍaḥaṇa on 5.4.42 (Su 1938: 574) noted that some manuscripts did not include the text about animals from this point on. The fact that these verses are present in the Nepales witnesses testifies to their antiquity.

⁵⁸⁶ The Nepalese witnesses use लालि-, not लाला-, for "saliva."

- 43 *The third stage brings headache and it breaks the ears and necks.⁵⁸⁷
In the fourth, the bewildered creature trembles and gnashing its
teeth, it gives up life.*
- 44-45 *Some experts say that elephants have three toxic reactions.⁵⁸⁸
So, at the first toxic reaction, an bird becomes bewildered and is
confused from that point on. At the second, the bird is distressed
and, crying out, it dies.
Some people claim that where birds are concerned, there is really
just a single toxic reaction (vega) and that amongst animals like
cats and mongooses, poison does not take much effect.⁵⁸⁹*

⁵⁸⁷ The scribe of MS H emended the text to read कण्ठग्रीव with the vulgate. Intransitive use of pass. भञ्ज्.

⁵⁸⁸ On अन्तःस्वेद as “elephant,” cf. *Arthaśāstra* 9.1.46 (Kangle 1965: v.1, 219; Olivelle 2013: 351): हस्तिनो ह्यन्तःस्वेदाः कुष्ठिनो भवन्ति ॥ ४६ ॥

⁵⁸⁹ See on this subject: Brunton and Fayrer 1909: 39-40; S. A. Minton and M. R. Minton 1969: 88-89 (references taken from HIML: 1B, 399, n. 124).

Kalpasthāna 5: Therapy for those Bitten by Snakes

Introduction

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.⁵⁹⁰

⁵⁹⁰ [HIML](#): IA, 294–295. In addition to the translations mentioned by Meulenbeld ([HIML](#): IB, 314–315), a translation of this chapter was included in P. V. Sharma [1999–2001](#): 3, 35–45.

Translation

Passage numbers refer to the canonical numbering of the vulgate edition (*Su* 1938).

- 1 Now we shall explain the formal procedure (*kalpa*) that is the therapy for someone bitten by a snake.⁵⁹¹
- 3 For a person bitten on a limb by any snake, one should first of all make a strong binding, at four fingers measure above the bite.⁵⁹²
- 4 Poison does not move around into the body if it is prevented by bandages (*ariṣṭā*) or by any other soft items of cloth (*plota*), leather (*car-mānta*) or bark.⁵⁹³
- 5 Where a bandage (*bandha*) is not suitable, one should **raise the bite up** and then cauterize it.⁵⁹⁴ Suction, cutting and cauterizing are recommended in all cases.
- 6 Suction will be good after filling the mouth with **earth** (*pāṃśu*).⁵⁹⁵ Alternatively, the snake should be bitten **by the person who knows** that they have just been bitten.⁵⁹⁶

591 On कल्प, see note 547.

592 Application of a tourniquet is deprecated by modern establishment medicine, which relies on antivenom medications (e.g., Pillay 2013: 150–151 et passim in the literature). The vulgate introduces the word अरिष्टा at this point. This may be a borrowing from Ci.23.251cd (*Ca* 1941: 582).

593 It is hard to translate the word अरिष्टा otherwise than “bandage,” as referred to by बन्धियात् in the previous verse, and apparently similar to items of cloth etc., and called a बन्ध in the next verse. But in general Sanskrit literature, including medical literature, the word (in masc. gender) means either “an alcoholic tonic” or “an omen of death,” (1.30.3 (*Su* 1938: 137)), or is a plant name. This raises a question mark over its unique meaning in the present context. The *Aṣṭāṅgaḥṛdayasaṃhitā* (Utt.36.42cd (*Ah* 1939: 910)) seems to be a gloss on अरिष्टा, saying “An expert in mantras may bind using a braid made of silk etc., empowered with mantras” (see also 5.5.8 (*Su* 1938: 575)). On problems that can arise from tying a bandage too tightly, see 5.5.56 (*Su* 1938: 577) below.

594 The vulgate reads उत्कृत्य “having excised” rather than translate उद्धृत्य “having raised up.”

595 The vulgate recommends cloth, not earth (5.5.6 (*Su* 1938: 574)).

596 The syntax is odd here, and the vulgate has removed the difficulties. Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.6 (*Su* 1938: 574) noted that one should hold the snake firmly and give a good bite to its head and tail (हस्ताभ्यामुपसंगृह्य पुच्छे वक्रे च सर्पः सम्यग् दष्टव्यः). Our colleague Dr Madhu K. Paramesvaran reports that this procedure is known in Malayalam *viṣavaidya* treatises and is practiced in Kerala, though rarely: “this practice has been described as one of

- 7 Now, one should in no way cauterize someone bitten by a Maṇḍalin. Because of the over-abundance of poison in the bile (*pittaviṣa*), that bite will **be lethal** as a result of cauterization.⁵⁹⁷

The application of mantras

- 8 An expert in mantras should tie on a bandage (*ariṣṭā*) too, with mantras. But they say that a bandage that is tied on with cords and so on causes the **poison to be purified**.⁵⁹⁸
- 9 Mantrās prescribed by gods and holy sages (*brahmarṣi*), that are imbued with truth and religious power (*tapas*) are inexorable and they rapidly destroy intractable poison.
- 10 Drugs cannot eliminate poison as quickly as the application of mantras imbued with religious power (*tapas*) and imbued with truth, holiness (*brahma*) and religious power.⁵⁹⁹
- 11 The mantras should be received by a person who is abstaining from women, meat and mead (*madhu*), who has a **restricted** diet, and who is pure and lying on a bed of **halfa grass**.
- 12 For the mantras to be successful, one should diligently worship the deity (*devatā*) with perfume, garlands, and oblations (*upahāra*), as well as sacrificial offerings (*bali*), and with mantra repetition (*japa*) and rituals.⁶⁰⁰

the first-response cares for snakebite in most of the Malayalam texts of Viṣhavaidyā. I have never seen this happening in real life and my teachers used to consider it to be a method (albeit a bit outrageously dangerous) for self-reassurance by the patient.” (Paramesvaran 2023). Cf. the Viṣhavaidyā text edited by Mahādeva Śāstrī (1958).

597 Verses 5.4.29, and 37 above note that the venom of Maṇḍalins particularly irritates the bile.

598 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.8 (Su 1938: 575) clarified that on the one hand the bandage must be accompanied with mantras, but on the other hand, it may also be used without mantras. The verse seems to put two points of view.

599 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.10 (Su 1938: 575) noted that mantras like “kurukullā” and “bheruṇḍā” are explained in other treatises and therefore not explained further in his commentary. These two mantras are the names of tantric Śaiva and Buddhist goddesses. For a study on this specific subject see Slouber (2016b). HIMAL: IIB, 151, n. 344 provides a bibliography to 2002 of studies on Kurukullā, who is mentioned in Māhuka’s *Haramekhalā*, and Meulenbeld 2008a: 30–34 includes discussion of Bheruṇḍa as a bird, with related terms.

600 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.12 (Su 1938: 575) noted that उपहार includes incense, while बलि refers to sacrifice with an animal (सपशुनैवेद्य).

- 13 But mantras pronounced illicitly or that are deficient in accents (*svara*) and letters do not give success. So antitoxic (*agada*) procedures need to be employed.

Blood letting

- 14 A skilled physician should puncture a duct (*sirā*) which is located on the limb (*śākhāśrayā*), and comes from the bite and the general area. If the poison has spread, one on the forehead should be pierced.
- 15 The blood being drawn out draws away all the poison.⁶⁰¹ Therefore one should cause blood to flow, for that is his very best procedure.
- 16 After incising (*pracchāna*) the area around the bite, one should smear it with antidotes and sprinkle it with water infused with sandalwood and vetiver.⁶⁰²

Internal medications

- 17 One should make him drink various antidotes together with milk, honey and ghee. If they are unavailable, the earth of black ants can be good.⁶⁰³
- 18 Alternatively, he should consume orchid tree, siris and purple calotropis or white siris too. He should not drink sesame oil or horse gram, nor wine or Indian jujube.
- 19 But after drinking any other liquid at all, he should throw up after drinking it. For on the whole, poison is easily removed by means of vomiting.

601 The Nepalese version uses a present passive participle construction here, that is less common than the vulgate's locative absolute. The Nepalese version states that it is the blood coming out of the patient that carries away the venom; the vulgate text says merely that the venom emerges while the blood comes out.

602 प्रच्छान् is the second of the two methods of blood letting described in the vulgate text of the *Suśrutasamhitā* at 1.14.25 (Su 1938: 64); this verse does not appear in the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

603 This refers to earth taken from an anthill. In South Asia, there is a long tradition of considering such earth to be beneficial and even holy (e.g., Irwin 1982).

Therapies at each pulse of toxic reaction

- 20 In the case of hooded snakes, when there is a toxic reaction (*vega*) first one should let blood. At the second, **one** should make him drink an antidote (*agada*) together with honey and ghee.⁶⁰⁴
- 21 At the third one should use errhines and collyrium (*añjana*) that destroy poison.⁶⁰⁵ At the fourth, when he has vomited, the physician should make him drink a gruel (*yavāgū*) that destroys poison.
- 22 At the fifth and sixth toxic reactions one should make the person drink something that aids cooling, that is cleansing and sharp (*tikṣṇa*), and a well-regarded gruel too.
- 23 **But at the seventh, one should purge (*śodh*) his head with a sharp sternutatory.**⁶⁰⁶

In the case of Maṇḍalins

- 24 Amongst Maṇḍalins, the earliest toxic reaction (*vega*) should be treated in the same way as with Darvīkaras.⁶⁰⁷
- 25 **At the second, one should make him drink ghee and honey and then make him vomit.**⁶⁰⁸
- 26 At the third, one should give the purged patient healthy gruel. At the fourth and the fifth too, one should do the same as for the Darvīkara.

604 This section reproduces some of the therapies from *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.2.40–43 (Su 1938: 566) on the stages of slow poisoning (*dūṣṭviṣa*) by plant poisons; see translation on p. 151 above.

605 The rare word नस्तः “from or into the nose” in नस्तःकर्म “errhine” is supported by both Nepalese manuscripts. The term is more common in the *Carakasamhitā*, occurring eleven times, e.g., at 1.20.13 (Ca 1941: 114), 2.1.36 (Ca 1941: 203), *et passim*.

The *Carakasamhitā* describes how collyriums, especially रसाञ्जन, cause phlegm to flow, thus clearing the eyes (1.5.14–19 (Ca 1941: 38–39)). This could be appropriate in expelling poisons.

606 The vulgate adds a half-verse here recommending the application of a collyrium (*añjana*) to a cut made on the patient’s head.

607 The vulgate again adds a half-verse here, recommending the “crow’s foot” incision on the patient’s head. On this procedure, described in *Carakasamhitā* 6.23.66–67 (Ca 1941: 574), see Wujastyk 2003b: 145. This text is not supported here, as it was not in the Nepalese text at *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.2.43 (Su 1938: 566) either. See footnote 481, p. 152 above. As stated there, it appears that this procedure was known in the tradition of the *Carakasamhitā*, but not in the earliest text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.

608 Again, the vulgate text differs substantively, adding another half-verse. But the general idea of the treatment is the similar.

- 27 At the sixth, wholesome things from the group of plants starting with **cottony jujube** should be drunk and a sweet antidote.⁶⁰⁹ And at the seventh, a wholesome antidote that destroys poison in a sternutatory (*avapīḍa*).⁶¹⁰

In the case of Rājimats

- 28 **Now, Amongst Rājimats, one should let blood at the first toxic shock.**⁶¹¹
 29 At the second, a patient who has vomited should be made to drink an antidote that destroys poison. At the third, fourth and fifth, the rule that applies to the Darvīkara is suitable.
 30 At the sixth, use a very sharp collyrium (*añjana*), and at the seventh a sternutatory (*avapīḍa*). There is a prohibition on using blood-letting for pregnant women, children and the elderly.
 31ab In those who are in pain because of poison, it is advised that the prescribed procedures be applied gently.

31ab In animals

In goats and sheep, bleeding and collyriums are the same as for people.

- 32cd In cows and horses, that is twice as much; three times as much for buffaloes and camels, four times for elephants and simply (*kevala*) for all birds.⁶¹²⁶¹³

write note
on par-
isekān pra-
dehāms

609 The “group of seventeen plants beginning with **cottony jujube**” (काकोल्यादि गण) is described at *Suśrutasamhitā* 1.38.35–36 (*Su 1938*: 167). These plants pacify the bile, blood and wind and increase phlegm, body-weight, semen and breastmilk.

610 The अवपीड is described at *Suśrutasamhitā* 4.40.44–45 (*Su 1938*: 556), where it is also recommended for victims of snakebite. It is a type of head-evacuant. Commenting on that passage, Ḍalhaṇa cited “other treatises” as saying that अवपीड treatment was suitable for restoring the consciousness of those who have been poisoned. He also quoted a text by an authority called Videha, that says the same. Videha was an author known to Dr̥ḍhabala (according to Cakrapāṇidatta) and often cited in the *Madhukośa* on the topic of eye diseases (*HIML*: IA, 132 *et passim*). See also *Mahākośa*: 1, 62–63.

611 The vulgate text says that the blood-letting should be done with a **gourd**. It also has an extra half-verse here, prescribing an antitoxin to be drunk together with honey and ghee.

612 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.32 (*Su 1938*: 576) explained “simply for all birds” as meaning that birds should receive just drugs, and not blood-letting or collyriums. See p. 177 for the toxic reactions in birds and other animals.

Subsequent therapies

- 34 One should consider carefully with one's intellect the location, constitution (*prakṛti*), suitability (*sātmya*), the season, the poison, and the strength or weakness of the toxic reaction and then proceed with therapy.⁶¹⁴
- 47–48ab One should eliminate this poison completely. It is extremely hard to overcome. For even a small amount remaining can strongly bring about a toxic reaction.⁶¹⁵
- 48cd–49 Or it may lead to dejection, pallor, fever, cough and headaches, dessication, swelling, catarrh, poor vision, disinterest in food (*aruci*) or rigidity (*jāḍyātā*).⁶¹⁶ And in such cases one should apply the cure as appropriate.⁶¹⁷
- 50–51ab One should also treat the secondary ailments (*upadrava*) of a poisoned patient each as appropriate.
Now, after the bandage (*ariṣṭā*) has been removed and after the place

613 The vulgate includes several verses after this sentence that give a recipe and also a list of specific items like place and constitution that should be given careful consideration. Ḍaḥaṇa on 5.5.33 (Su 1938: 576) cited the opinions of Gayadāsa and Jejjāta on this recipe but stated that he preferred to follow the contrasting opinions of Vṛddhavāgbhaṭa (1.25.24cd–25aba (As 1980: 184)) and Suśruta (4.31.29cd–30ab (Su 1938: 511)) on this topic, as well as several citations “another work” (तन्त्रान्तर) that is unidentified.

614 The vulgate here has twelve verses not found in the Nepalese version. These verses explicitly switch subject away from assessments according to toxic reactions and to the treatment of both mobile and immobile poisons, starting from physical symptoms such as swelling and discolouration as well as humoral theory. At the point where the vulgate summarizes the extra verses, saying that cases should be treated “according to their humors” (यथादोषं), the Nepalese witnesses have “as is appropriate” (यथायोगं, 5.5.49cd (Su 1938: 577)). This suggests that the text has been edited to fit the insertion of the verses referring to humoral therapy. These verses also include therapies such as the crow's foot treatment (see footnotes 481 and 607, pp. 152, 183 above) and the beating of drums that have been smeared with antidotes, as discussed in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6 (Su 1938: 580–582) (see p. 203 below).

615 The word अवतिष्ठ “remaining” is hard to parse. It cannot be a णमुल् formation (Pāṇini 3.4.22 ff), because of the root's reduplication, and should not be a present participle because it is not neuter. However, lack of gender concord is not unknown in Epic Sanskrit; several of the examples cited by Oberlies (2003: § 10.2.1) even involve present participles without gender concord. Cf. Edgerton 1953: 1, § 6.12 for examples in BHS.

616 Ḍaḥaṇa on 5.5.49ab (Su 1938: 577) reported a reading from Jejjāta of स्तैमित्य “immobility” instead of प्रतिश्याय “catarrh.”

617 The vulgate introduces दोष theory here, which is absent in the Nepalese version.

marked by it has been quickly incised (*pracchāna*) one may see poison that has leaked out there, and a toxic reaction may strongly result.

Treatment of secondary ailments

- 52.1 Once the poison has disappeared one can conquer irritated wind using items that restrain the wind.⁶¹⁸
- 53 One can conquer bile using substances that remove bile-fever (*pittajvara*), with decoctions, oleation and purges, combined with substances that remove poison, with the exception of sesame oil (*taila*), **wine**, **horse gram**, and **mangosteen**.⁶¹⁹
- 54 One can conquer phlegm with the group that starts with **golden shower tree**, together with honey.⁶²⁰

Formal verses

- 56 If the the bandage (*ariṣṭā*) is bound tightly, or if it is incised (*pracchita*) with sharp ointment or **with the remnants of the poison**, then, when the limb swells up, the flesh weeps, smells a great deal and is **is putrid** (*śīrṇa*), it is designated “**poison-stink** (*viṣapūti*).”⁶²¹
- 57–58ab One may be certain that a person has been **struck by something poisoned** (*digdha*) if their wound immediately starts to suppurate has black blood that flows and is inflamed, as well as having black, weeping and exceptionally foul-smelling flesh coming out of the wound and also someone who has thirst, fainting (*mūrcchā*), fever and a temperature.⁶²²
- 58.1–60 One who is known to have these exact symptoms may have poison in their wound that is † given by mistake.† And they may have a wound

618 This half-verse is not present in the vulgate, but has broadly the same sense as 5.5.52cd (*Su* 1938: 577), that is not present in the Nepalese version.

619 The vulgate reads “fish” in place of “wine.”

620 The आरम्बघण is listed at *Suśrutasamhitā* 1.38.6 (*Su* 1938: 164). These herbs are there explicitly said to pacify phlegm and to remove poison, etc. (1.38.7 (*Su* 1938: 164)).

621 *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.5.16 (*Su* 1938: 575) (p. 182 above) suggests smearing an incised area with antidotes.

622 The Nepalese witnesses describe someone who has been struck or hurt (क्षत, आहत), while the vulgate describes someone who is pierced (विद्ध). Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.58ab (*Su* 1938: 576) interpreted the latter wording as being struck by a poison-smeared arrow.

that has been hit by something poisoned (*digdha*) and is full of poison. And others are sick because of a wound that stinks because of poison. The wise person debrides the excess flesh of such people and then, after removing the blood by means of leeches and after removing the humours from above and below, he should irrigate with cold bark decoctions from milky trees. And he should apply items that destroy poison such as cloths containing ointments together with cold liquids mixed with ghee.

- 61ab When the bone is **injured** by poisons, the very same rule should be followed as for bile poison.

Antitoxin drugs

- 61cd–63ab The following items are powdered, mixed with honey and stored in a horn: **turpeth**, **weaver's beam tree**, **liquorice**, the two kinds of **turmeric**, **Indian madder** and **Himalayan mayapple**,⁶²³ and all kinds of salt.⁶²⁴ This antidote, taken with drinks, collyrium (*añjana*), oil rubs (*abhyañjana*), errhines and drugs, destroys poison. With its relentless potency (*vīrya*) and as a destroyer of the toxic reaction (*vega*) to poison, it is called “mahāgada (*The Great Antidote*) and has great power.
- 63cd–65ab Very fine **embelia**, **velvet-leaf**, **the three myrobalans**, **wild celery**, and **devil's dung**, as well as **Himalayan mayapple** and **the three pungent drugs**, the whole group of salts, together with **leadwort** and honey should be placed in a cow's horn and covered with something made of cow's horn. It should be set aside for two weeks. This antidote is called “Unbeaten” because it conquers both stationary and mobile poisons.
- 65cd–68ab One should make a fine powder of the following items and place them in a horn, together with honey: **long-stamen Wendlandia** (?), **deodar**, **grey orchid**, **black creeper**, **kutki**, **Himalayan yew**, **rosha grass**, **wild Himalayan cherry**, **Alexandrian laurel**, ??, **natron**, **sedge**, **cardamom**, **blue Indian symphorema**, **powdered ruffle lichen**, **costus**, **crape jasmine**, **fox-tail millet**, **lodh tree**, **Indian bdellium-tree**, **red ochre**, **rock salt**, **long pepper**, and **dried ginger**. This antidote (*agada*) is identified as “Garuḍa

623 There is no मञ्जिष्ठा group, but there is a plant वक्र.

624 There is a लवणवर्ग, (1.46.313–321 (Su 1938: 236–237)).

- (*tārṣya*).” It can even destroy the poison of the snake prince Takṣaka (*takṣaka*).
- 69cd–72ab One should make powder of the following items and place it in a horn: spikenard, peas, the three myrobalans, horseradish tree, Indian madder, liquorice, wild Himalayan cherry, embelia, ??, Indian sarsaparilla, cardamom, cinnamon, costus, Himalayan mayapple, sandalwood, verbena, bitter gourd, white siris, velvet-leaf, colocynth, hare foot uraria, black creeper, Asoka tree, mulberry, toothed-leaf limonia, and the flower that is the blossom (*prasūna*) born from the fruit of the marking-nut.⁶²⁵ The bile derived from boars, monitor lizards, peacocks, and porcupines is to be added, with honey, and the products of civet, chital deer and mongoose.⁶²⁶ This properly-prepared antidote is called “Bull.” Someone who has it in the house is called “Bull Amongst Men.” There will be no snakes there, nor even insects: they lose their potency and their toxins too.
- 72cd–73ab Drums and tabors smeared with this rapidly destroy poison when they are sounded. Smeared flags flags being looked upon easily and quickly overcome poison.
- 73ab–75ab One should make a powder of the following items and place the collection in a cow’s horn, mixed with turmeric, and mingled with honey and ghee. As before, there is a cover: lac, the two peass, spikenard, fox-tail millet, Indian madder, liquorice and gummy gardenia. It should then be used with collyrium (*añjana*), drinks and errhines. This antidote is called “Resuscitator (*sañjīvana*)” because it brings to life the dead whose breath is almost gone.
- 75cd–76ab The best antidote for the poisons of Darvīkaras and Rājilas is Indian cherry,⁶²⁷ bayberry, citron, white clitoria, winged-stem canscora, white siris, and sugar, taken with amaranth.⁶²⁸
- 76cd–78ab The best antidote for the poison of Maṇḍalins is grapes, Withania, Indian frankincense, ground white clitoria, combined in equal amounts

625 Dalhaṇa on 5.5.70 (Su 1938: 579) glossed प्रसून more specifically as तुलसीपुष्प “the Tulasi flower.”

626 All three animals produce musk. Dalhaṇa on 5.5.71 (Su 1938: 579) remarked that some people thought शिखी was a cock, not a peacock. He also here glossed पृषत as चित्तल.

627 Dalhaṇa on 5.5.75 (Su 1938: 579) noted the common name बहुवार for श्लेष्मातकी.

628 राजिल appears to be a synonym for राजिमत्, a “striped” snake. Dalhaṇa on 5.5.76ab (Su 1938: 579) once again gives interesting local synonyms for these plant names.

and given with two parts of the leaves of holy basil, and those from wood-apple, Bengal quince and pomegranate, as well as one measure from those of white Indian symphorema sage-leaved alangium seed as well as red ochre.⁶²⁹

- 84ab–86 The following group is known as the One Essence (*ekarasa*):⁶³⁰ beauty-berry, hibiscus (?), weevil wort, and mango, as well as maloo creeper, Indian pennywort, three-leaved caper, spurge, hogweed, smooth angelica, croton tree, and Indian snakeroot as well; black earth (*bhūmī*),⁶³¹ and bluebell barleria. Whether used separately or in pairs, it removes poison.⁶³²

629 After this passage, the vulgate has five and a half verses that do not appear in the Nepalese version.

630 The vulgate reads एकसर, “one run.” Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.86 (Su 1938: 580) also read एकसर and glossed it as the proper name of a गण.

631 A hapax in this meaning *Mahākośa*: 1, 582. So glossed by Ḍalhaṇa on 5.5.86 (Su 1938: 580): भूमिः कृष्णमृत्तिका ॥;

632 Das (1983: 55–56) discussed this passage, suggesting that भूमीकुरबक may be a plant-name.

Kalpasthāna 6: Rats and Rabies

Introduction

A notable macro-difference between the vulgate and the Nepalese versions of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* is that this chapter and the next are reversed in the vulgate. In the Nepalese version, this is chapter six and the chapter on antitoxic drumming is chapter seven.⁶³³ Jejjāta too read the chapters this way round, as reported by Ḍalhaṇa.⁶³⁴

Mouse or Rat?

In 2004, Umberto Eco published a characteristically subtle and enlightening book about translation entitled *Mouse or Rat?*.⁶³⁵ The title alluded to Eco's discussion of the example of translating words for mice and rats across several European languages that do not always distinguish these animals from each other, or confuse them in other ways. In Sanskrit too, *mūṣikā*, the subject and title of this chapter, does not distinguish between mouse and rat. The same is true for MIA and NIA derivatives.⁶³⁶ It is hard to know quite how to translate the term since "rodent" is too broad a term. In what follows, I have chosen "rat" for *mūṣikā* in order to produce a working translation of a text about an animal that is viewed as potentially toxic and threatening. "Mouse" does not have quite these connotations for a contemporary English speaker.⁶³⁷

⁶³³ See p. 125 above.

⁶³⁴ Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.32 ([Su 1938](#): 582): जेज्जटस्तु मूषिककल्पानन्तरं दुन्दुभिस्वनीयं कल्पं पठति.

⁶³⁵ Eco 2004.

⁶³⁶ CDIAL: #10258.

⁶³⁷ Kunjalal Bhishagratna made the same choice (Kunjalal Bhishagratna 1907–16: 2, 728–736).

The rodents that may be described as mice or rats in contemporary South Asia and that are especially associated with the spread of disease include the house or black rat (*Rattus rattus*, L.), the brown rat (*R. norvegicus*, Berkenhout), the house mouse (*Mus musculus*, L.) and bandicoots (*Bandicota*).⁶³⁸ Also present in SA are the Indian desert gerbille (*Meriones hurrianae*, Jerdon), the Indian gerbille (*Tatera indica*, Hardwicke), the spiny field mouse (*Mus platythrix*, Bennett), the Indian field mouse (*M. booduga*, Gray), the Metad (*Millardia meltada*, Gray), the Indian bush rat (*Golunda ellioti*, Gray), the longtailed tree mouse (*Vandeleuria oleracea*, Bennett), Royle's vole (*Aticola roylei*, Gray), the Indian mole-rat (*Bandicota bengalensis*, Gray & Hardwicke),⁶³⁹ the bandicoot rat (*B. indica*, Bechstein), the shorttailed bandicoot (*Nesokia indica*, Gray & Hardwicke), the whitetailed wood rat (*Madromys blanfordi*, Thomas), the bay bamboo rat (*Cannomys badius*, Hodgson), and other similar rodents.⁶⁴⁰ However, plausibly matching these creatures to the Sanskrit names listed in this chapter is hard to impossible.⁶⁴¹ Almost no works engage directly with the representation or identity of rodents in pre-modern India.⁶⁴²

Rabies

Passages 43 ff. (p. 199) describe rabies fairly unambiguously, including the symptoms of hydrophobia.⁶⁴³ As Meulenbeld noted, the idea that the bite-victim displays the behaviours of the creature that bit them is not unique to South Asia.⁶⁴⁴

A sympathetic description was given in the seventeenth century by Emperor Jahangir, in his *Memoirs* (*Tuzuk-e-Jahangiri*), of the death of two of his elephants resulting from the bites of a mad dog.⁶⁴⁵

⁶³⁸ BIA: 194.

⁶³⁹ "Recent studies...show that the mole-rat forms 98% of the total rodent population of Calcutta," BIA: 206.

⁶⁴⁰ BIA: ill. plates 45, 46 *et passim*. See also Menon 2014: *passim*.

⁶⁴¹ Mouse-words that we do not see in this chapter include the *kirika*, *giri*, *girikā* group (EWA: 1, 353, 488, 566).

⁶⁴² One of the few is van der Geer 2008: ch. 3.

⁶⁴³ For a short historical bibliography on rabies, see HIML: IB, 400, note 163.

⁶⁴⁴ HIML: IB, 400, note 164.

⁶⁴⁵ Alvi and Rahman 1968: 132–134; Thackston 1999: 145–146.

Literature

A brief survey of this chapter's contents and reference to the limited existing research on it to 2002 was provided by Meulenbeld.⁶⁴⁶

Chevers provided a characteristically vivid nineteenth-century discussion of injuries inflicted by wild animals, including details of those killed by wolves, tigers, dogs, jackals and other animals, and in his classic survey of the diseases of India, he discussed rabies specifically.⁶⁴⁷ The experiments with cannabis anesthesia conducted by William O'Shaughnessy in Calcutta earlier in the nineteenth century were largely aimed at palliative care for rabies patients, an incurable, lethal disease.⁶⁴⁸

A rich description of Indian rodents is available by Prater, including several useful illustrations.⁶⁴⁹ Unfortunately, Prater rarely provided Indian-language names for the animals he described.

In Sanskrit literature, the *Arthaśāstra* referred to the problem of rats more than once. For example, to rid a country of the threat of rats,

When there is a danger from rats, cats and mongooses should be released. If these are captured or killed, the fine is 12 Paṇas, as also for not keeping dogs confined, except in the case of foresters. He should strew grains smeared with the milk of the Snuhi-plant or mixed with secret compounds. Or, he should institute a rat tax; or thaumaturgic ascetics should perform a pacificatory rite. On the days of the moon's change ..., moreover, he should have rites of rat worship carried out.⁶⁵⁰

⁶⁴⁶ [HIML](#): IA, 295–296. In addition to the translations mentioned by Meulenbeld ([HIML](#): IB, 314–315), a translation of this chapter was included in P. V. Sharma 1999–2001: 3, 67–77. Sekhar Namburi (2023) omitted mention of this type of poisoning, although he discussed rabies, a subsection of this chapter.

⁶⁴⁷ Chevers 1870: 359–368; 1886: 426–440.

⁶⁴⁸ Wujastyk 2002: 50–55.

⁶⁴⁹ [BIA](#): ch. 13, esp. 205–215.

⁶⁵⁰ *Arthaśāstra* 4.3.20–26, tr. Olivelle 2013: 230.

Translation

- 1 Now I shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) relating to rats (*mūṣikā*).⁶⁵¹
- 3 Learn concisely about aforementioned eighteen kinds of rats that have poison in their semen, according to their names, characteristics and the herbal treatments.⁶⁵²

The types of rat

- 4–6 The eighteen rats are traditionally called,⁶⁵³
 1. Fondling rat,
 2. Sonny rat,
 3. Black rat,
 4. Gajpipul rat,
 5. Little rat,
 6. House shrew
 7. Arala rat,⁶⁵⁴
 8. Red-toothed shrew,
 9. Bad-marked rat,
 10. Invincible rat,
 11. Fidgety rat,
 12. Brown rat,
 13. the one called Mole-rat and
 14. Tawny rat,
 15. the large black rat,
 16. White rat, together with the
 17. the large Brown rat,
 18. and the Pigeon rat-like rat.⁶⁵⁵
- 7 If a part of the body has their sperm fall on it or if they touch it with their nails or teeth, etc., that have been touched by sperm, then the blood is corrupted.⁶⁵⁶

651 The word मूषिका does not distinguish between rats and mice. See Introduction above.

652 Rats with poisonous semen were mentioned in 5.3.5 (Su 1938: 567) (see p. 157 above).

653 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.4 (Su 1938: 582) gave no comment on any of these names. The identifications are mostly guesswork and sometimes whimsical. The glossary gives lexical discussion of individual names.

654 The word अरल is a hapax legomenon and has not previously been identified as a lexeme because it did not appear in earlier editions of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. It is a loan-word from Dravidian (see glossary).

655 The Nepalese list has वसिर (Gajpipul rat) for the vulgate's हंसिर. The terms आखु, मूषिका and उन्दुरु are here used as generic names of rat/mouse rodents.

656 On this, Ḍalhaṇa on 5.7.7 (Su 1938: 582) quoted an authority called Ālambāyana who elaborated on this subject (see HIML: IA, 658 for references to this author of a lost treatise on toxicology). Ḍalhaṇa also cited Ālambāyana elsewhere on the topics of insects and spiders (HIML: IB, 722, note 5). See also the *Aṣṭāṅgasaṃgraha*'s assertion that Ālambāyana was responsible for the doctrine of toxic pulse (*vega*)s, p. 143 above. Ālambāyana, who was already known as "the famous soul of compassion" in the *Mahābhārata* (13.18.4), was also known in Buddhist literature. Book 22, tale 543 of

8–10ab It happens that there are lumps (*granthi*), swellings, small ear-like growths (*karṇika*) and rings, accumulations of severe blisters (*piṭaka*), spreading rashes (*visarpa*) and dark, rough patches of skin (*kiṭibha*).⁶⁵⁷ There are severe conditions such as pain in the joints, pain, fever, fainting, weakness, loss of appetite, exhaustion, nausea and horripilation.⁶⁵⁸

This is a concise description of the appearance of someone who has been bitten. Now listen to a longer version.

Detailed symptoms

10cd–11ab The **Fondling rat** causes a flow of saliva, vomiting and hiccups. For that, one should lick a paste of **amaranth** with honey.

11cd–12 The **Sonny rat** causes the limbs to droop and creates a pale **beauty**,⁶⁵⁹ and the body is heaped with lumps like the young of a rat.⁶⁶⁰ One should lick **siris**, **odal oil plant** and **malabathrum** with

the Jātakas includes mention of an Ālambāyana who claimed to be a doctor and specialist in snakebite poisons: *nāhaṃ diḍādhīpo homi, na diṭṭho garuḷo mayā, āsīvisena vitto ti veḷḷo maṃ brāhmaṇaṃ vidū ti* 793 (Fausbøll 1877–96: 6, 181, tr. Cowell et al. 1895–1907: 6, 95). In the same tale, there is a herbal “Ālambāyana mantra” given to an ascetic by a Garuḍa who has just caught and eaten a Nāga, thus invoking the Garuḍa-snake-poison motif (Cowell et al. 1895–1907: 6, 93–94). The Jātakas were translated into Chinese in the third century CE.

See further discussion by Slouber (2016a: 33–34), who calls the mantra “Ālambāyana,” adopting the reading of the Burmese MS Bd against the Fausbøll’s critical reading “Ālambāyana” (see Fausbøll 1877–96: 2 & 3, Preliminary remarks 3 and 7).

657 “Little ears” was strikingly described by Ḍalhaṇa on 5.7.8 (Su 1938: 582) as looking like the seed pod in the middle of a lotus (कमलमध्यबीजकोशाकृतिः), a graphic image (see also Ḍalhaṇa on 5.8.136 (Su 1938: 594)). Perhaps similar to hypergranulation. The Nepalese version has पिटक “blisters” for the vulgate’s पीडक “boils” (itself perhaps a typo for पिडक). किटिभ “dark rash” was described by Ḍalhaṇa on 1.11.7 (Su 1938: 46) as a kind of कुष्ठ, which is variously a skin disease of pallor, leucoderma, or leprosy (Emmerick 1984). But it was described in the *Carakasamhitā* as being dark and as rough as a callous to the touch (6.7.21cd–22ab (Ca 1941: 451)) (*Mahākośa*: 1, 208).

658 पर्वभेद “pain in the joints” was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa on 5.7.9 (Su 1938: 582) as “spots on the joints” (सन्धेः स्फोटः). This seems unlikely, since symptoms on the surface of the body were described in the previous verse, and also because of the obvious etymological meaning of the compound.

659 The expression -वल्गु “beauty” in the Nepalese MSS, for the vulgate’s simpler -वर्ण “complexion,” is unusual.

660 The grammar here is very loose. शिशुर् cannot stand outside the compound, which

- honey.⁶⁶¹
- 13 The **Black rat** causes one to vomit blood, especially when the weather is bad. One should drink **siris** and **malabathrum**, with **costus** and **cardamom**, with the **flame-of-the-forest** ashes.⁶⁶²
- 14 The **Gajpipul rat** causes a person have a revulsion for food, to yawn, and makes their body-hair **leprous**.⁶⁶³ They should drink items like **golden shower tree** and be quickly made to vomit.
- 15 The **Little rat** causes headache, swelling, hiccups and nausea. One should have thorough emesis using decoctions of **luffa**, and he should drink the juice of **sage-leaved alangium**.
- 16cd-ab The **House shrew** causes constipation, paralysis of the neck, and gasping (*vijṛmbhikā*).⁶⁶⁴ In this case, one should administer a caustic made of **barley ash** and **velvet bean** as well as the two **hairy-fruited eggplants**.⁶⁶⁵

should read मूषिकशिसुसंस्थितैः. The vulgate text has the simpler and grammatical आ-खुशावकसन्निभैः “resembling the offspring of a rat.”

661 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.7.11-12 (*Su* 1938: 582) here cited a passage by an unknown author called Nāgārjuna, about the visible symptoms of a bite by this kind of rat (cf. P. V. Sharma 1982: 45–46, *HIML*: IB, 497, note 100) as well as variant readings by Gayadāsa and Jejjāṭa on the exact formulation of the lickable medication.

662 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.7.13 (*Su* 1938: 583) explained “with the ashes of **flame-of-the-forest**” as “water with the ashes of **flame-of-the-forest**.”

663 The qualifier कुष्ठता (रोम्णां) is odd; the vulgate’s हर्षण “horripilation” reads more easily. कुष्ठ has a lesser-known meaning “prominent part, mouth or opening” which might perhaps be considered here, though it is hard to see how.

664 विजृम्भिका is one of the eighty wind diseases listed in the *Kāśyapaśaṃhitā* and glossed by Hemarājaśarman as “yawning” (Hindī जेभाई, 1.27.19–28 (Hemarājaśarman 1938: 41–42)). However, in the *Carakasamhitā* it is a term for one of the disorders of an improperly treated post-partum umbilical cord (glossed by Ḍalhaṇa as मुहुर्मुहुर्वृद्धिमती “growing larger moment by moment,” 4.8.45 (*Ca* 1941: 348–349)) and translated by P. Sharma (1994: 1, 480) as “umbilical hernia.” Cf. *Mahākośa*: 1, 756.

665 Note that half-verses 16cd and 16ab are reversed compared to the vulgate edition. This makes the caustic a remedy for the bite of the **House shrew**, while the earlier **luffa** remedy is for the **Little rat**, which makes better sense.

The vulgate has text at this point, 17 and 18ab, that are not present in the Nepalese version. They are about further symptoms and treatment of stiffness of the neck, anostomia, etc., presumably arising from the bite of the **House shrew**. Ḍalhaṇa on 16cd–17 (*Su* 1938: 583) recorded different readings from Gayadāsa’s commentary here (see edition notes); it seems these verses became slightly confused at an early period. We would expect symptoms of the bite of the **Arala rat** at this point in the text, and the Great Antidote treatment in the next line would be its therapy.

- 18cd–19 The **Arala rat** causes stiffness of the neck and pain in the area of the bite. In that case, one should lick The Great Antidote (*mahāgada*), that is of great potency (*vīrya*), together with honey.⁶⁶⁶
- 19cd–20ab The **Red-toothed shrew** causes sleep and especially emaciation. In that case, one should lick the sap and seeds of **siris** with honey.⁶⁶⁷
- 20cd–21ab The **Bad-marked rat** causes pains, swelling and lines up to the area of the bite. In that case, one should lick the two kinds of **bluebell barleria**, together with **Indian symphorema** and honey.
- 21cd–22ab The **Invincible rat** causes nauseous fainting, heart-seizure (*hṛd-graha*) and blackness of the limbs. In that case, one should lick **Indian madder** mixed with the milky latex of **oleander spurge** and honey.
- 22cd–23ab The **Fidgety rat** causes vomiting and fainting together with thirst. One should drink **the three myrobalans** with wood-ash, **spikenard** and honey.
- 23cd–24ab The **Brown rat** causes a wound, hives (*koṭha*), fever, and an outbreak of lumps (*granthi*).⁶⁶⁸ In this case, **white clitoria** or **white hogweed** should be licked with honey.
- 24cd–25ab The **Mole-rat** is said to cause lumps, fever, and an intense feeling of heat (*dāha*). In that case, one should drink ghee cooked with an decoction (*kvātha*) of **indigo** and **hogweed**.

The last five, from the **Tawny rat** on

- 25cd–26 The **Tawny rat** causes the wind to be angry, creating illnesses that originate in wind. The **Large Black (rat)** causes bile, the **White rat** phlegm, the **Large Brown rat** causes blood, and the **Pigeon rat**

⁶⁶⁶ "The great antidote" recipe is described at *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.6.63 (p. 187 above).

⁶⁶⁷ The difficult expression शिरीषस्य सारमाषकान् probably accounts for the easier version of the vulgate, with its dvandva सारफलत्वचः. Taking सारमाषकान् as a dvandva, we can read माषक as in the compound शिरीषमाषक "siris seeds."

⁶⁶⁸ कोठ was a skin ailment variously described by authorities as a redness that appeared and disappeared rapidly, that was itchy, that was caused by an excess of salty items, etc. (see *Mahākośa*: 1, 239, *HIML*: IIB, 76, n. 47). It may have referred to conditions such as urticaria, allergy, ringworm or vitiligo. "Hives" has a history going back to ca. 1500, referring to various eruptions in the skin that may feel hot (*OED*: s.v. "hives (n.)").

- causes all four.⁶⁶⁹
- 27 In the bites of these ones there are lumps, rings and small ear-like growths (*karnika*).⁶⁷⁰ There are accumulations of blisters (*piṭaka*) on the **body**, and severely painful swellings.
- 28–31 A half litre (*prastha*) each of curds, milk and ghee are **measured** out.⁶⁷¹ Make a broth of pongame oiltree, golden shower tree, the three pungent drugs, hairy-fruited eggplant, beggarweed, and beggarweed,⁶⁷² and once again make that broth into one fourth part. One should add turpeth, viburnum, heart-leaved moonseed, Himalayan mayapple, Indian snakeroot, Indian frankincense,⁶⁷³ wood-apple, pomegranate, and cinnamon. Mix all that together and cook it over a gentle flame. This gets rid of the poison of the five rats from Tawny rat on. Alternatively, prepare in the juices of hedge caper and black nightshade.
- 32 Also, you should pierce the affected veins (*sirā*) and apply purifications. As an alternative, one may apply this rule in all cases of rat poisoning.
- 33–34ab One should cauterize the bite, then bleed it and, having made small cuts (*pracchita*), smear it with a paste of siris, turmeric, Himalayan mayapple, saffron, and heart-leaved moonseed.⁶⁷⁴ Emesis is with a decoction (*kvātha*) of indigo with parakeet and sage-leaved alangium.⁶⁷⁵
- 37–38 When doing a purge, turpeth, red physic nut, and the three myrobalans are recommended; when purging the head, either

669 Note the switch to humoral theory with these last five rats in the list, and the assumption of blood as a fourth humour .

670 On कर्णिका, see footnote 657.

671 The measure of a प्रस्थ is approximate and different authors have various estimates.

672 अंशुमती and स्थिरा are both normally identified as beggarweed, but when a pair are mentioned the second is probably painted uraria.

673 For the vulgate's reading समृत्तिका "with earth," Dalhaṇa on 5.7.29 (Su 1938: 583) specified "black earth" and noted that some people read अहिमृत्तिका "snake earth" meaning earth taken from anthills, while Jejjāṭa read अगवृत्तिका, meaning शल्लकी, "Indian frankincense" (see also GVDB: 392). Jejjāṭa's reading is essentially that of the Nepalese MSS, with a म/व alternant, if Trikamji Ācārya's edition is correct on this.

674 The vulgate substitutes कुष्ठ for वक्रा.

675 The vulgate has two and a half more verses at this point, expanding the recipe considerably and adding the appropriate verb, "he should vomit."

the juice of *siris* or its fruits. Juice of cow-dung with a lot of the three pungent drugs is good in collyrium.⁶⁷⁶ an electuary of the juice of wood-apple and cow-dung, with the two kinds of honey, is recommended.⁶⁷⁷

- 40 The person should drink ghee cooked in roots of *amaranth*, or either cooked with the roots of bread flower or the five products of the wood-apple.⁶⁷⁸
- 41 The poison that comes out of rats is most irritant during cloudy weather.⁶⁷⁹ And in that case too, the procedure that should be carried out is the one for removing slow-acting poison (*dūṣṭviṣa*).
- 42 The physician should cut (*pra√chā*) the small ear-like growths (*karnika*) that are hard and slightly painful. And in every single case of poison he should perform the procedure as for a wound.⁶⁸⁰

The bites of wild animals

- 43–44 When a creature such as a dog, a jackal, wolf, tiger or hyena has the poison, the corrupted phlegm which resides in the conduits of consciousness takes away consciousness.⁶⁸¹ Then, its tail, jaw and shoulders droop down, it drools, it is deaf to unclear sounds and blind and it charges against one another.⁶⁸²
- 45–46ab And there is numbness in the limb of one who has been bitten by such a creature, and the blood runs black.⁶⁸³

676 The Nepalese MSS appear to read “juice that is cow-dung” (गोमयः स्वरसो) but the vulgate has the grammatically easier, “juice of cow-dung” (गोमयस्वरसो).

677 Verse 5.7.39 (Su 1938: 584) of the vulgate is not present in the Nepalese version.

678 Ḍaḥaṇa on 5.7.40 (Su 1938: 584) glossed the last item as, “a decoction of the pulp of the fruit, roots, flowers, bark and leaves of the wood-apple.”

679 The Nepalese witnesses read निर्हृतम् “removed, taken out,” in contrast to the vulgate’s अनिर्हृतम् “not removed.” The vulgate refers to rat-poison remaining in a patient, while the Nepalese version is talking more generically about poison that comes from rats.

680 On प्रच्छयेत् “cut off, scarify” cf. the same verb at 4.9.10 (Su 1938: 443), 6.14.10 (Su 1938: 621), and derivatives प्रच्छन्, प्रच्छान्, प्रच्छित्, etc., cited at *Mahākośa*: 1, 523.

The wording of the vulgate text of this verse is quite different, and it introduced the idea of treatment according to the humour.

681 The Nepalese version does not mention wind, unlike the vulgate, but the sentence structure is harder than the vulgate.

682 The grammatical number of “it charges against one another” is odd in Sanskrit too.

683 This translation of the text is tentative and does not account for स्युः. The sentence is not clear in the witnesses or later derived versions such as *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasaṃhitā* 6.38.10

- And it is in the main marked by the signs of someone who has been pierced by a poisoned arrow.⁶⁸⁴
- 46cd The person, repeatedly imitating the movement and cries of the creature that bit him, loses the power of movement and is destroyed.
- 47–48ab If the bitten person sees, in water or in a mirror, the one who was bitten by the creature with fangs, it is an indicator of impending death.
- 48cd–49ab If someone who has not been bitten nevertheless trembles at the sight, touch or sound, that should be known as hydrophobia (*jalatrāsa*), and that too is a sign of impending death.
- 50cd–52ab When one is bitten, one should make that bite flow and then it should be cauterized (*paridāhita*) with ghee. One should anoint it with antidotes and one should also make the patient drink aged ghee. One should also quickly give them an evacuative mixed with the latex of *purple calotropis*. One should also give them *white clitoria* and *hogweed*, together with *datura*.⁶⁸⁵
- 5.7.60–60.1 He should be made to bathe on the bank of a river or at a cross-roads, accompanied with mantras, with pots full of seeds, jewels and medicinal herbs, filled with cold water.
- 5.7.61–62ab O Yakṣa, Ruler of Mad Dogs, Lord of the Pack of Dogs, make this dog affliction free from poison, quickly, Svāhā!

(Ah 1939: 921). Taking सुप्तः as “numbness” is not comfortable, though the vulgate seems to have taken this sense, reading सुप्ता (that Ḍalhaṇa glosses as बाधिर्यम्).

The vulgate version is a full śloka, rather than the Nepalese half-śloka, and translates as, “But there is numbness at the bite of the one bitten by such a mad, fanged, poisonous creature, and black blood overflows” (5.7.45 (Su 1938: 584)).

The main interpreters state that it is the limb or the location of the bite that becomes numb, not that the person loses consciousness. It is tempting to think that a more original text might have been referring to the victim losing consciousness. Srikantha Murthy (1991: 3, 375) took this view (against the commentator Aruṇadatta): “... the person gets into stupor”

684 अभिलिङ्गित “marked by” is not a common word and is perhaps a hapax legomenon. The vulgate has the simpler expression उपलक्षित.

685 At this point, the vulgate has seven and a half verses (5.7.52cd–59) that are not present in the Nepalese version. They describe a recipe that causes or aggravates the same symptoms as the bite of the animal. The interesting theory is presented that the patient will only survive if the poison is assisted in expressing its inflammatory symptoms fully (कुप्येत्स्वयं विषं यस्य न स जीवति मानवः । तस्मात्प्रकोपयेदाशु स्वयं यावत्प्रकुप्यति ॥ (5.7.58cd–59ab (Su 1938: 585)).

- 5.7.62cd One should provide an intense evacuation (*saṃśodhana*) for the person who has been bathed.
- 5.7.63 That poison flares up again in a person who has not been evacuated, even though the wound may have healed.
- 5.7.63.1 Whether asleep or awake, a healthy person who is frightened does not succeed. And a mortal who is afraid of water as well as one who gets inflamed when bitten.⁶⁸⁶

Thus the Kalpa 6.

⁶⁸⁶ The sense of this verse, which does not appear in the vulgate, is uncertain.

Kalpasthāna 7: Beating Drums

Introduction

This chapter is numbered 7 in the Nepalese version, but 6 in the vulgate.

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.⁶⁸⁷

Translation

- 1 Now I shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) on the topic of sounding the kettle drum (*duṇḍubhi*).⁶⁸⁸
- 3 One should take the ash of the following items, mix it with cows' urine and an caustic (*kṣāra*) compound, take an extract and cook it thoroughly: axlewood, garjan oil tree, sandan, neem, weaver's beam tree, corky coral tree,⁶⁸⁹ cluster fig, emetic nut, arjun, white dammer tree, white siris (?), Indian cherry, sage-leaved alangium, Tellicherry bark, shami tree, wood-apple, maloo creeper, purple calotropis, Indian elm, oleander spurge, tree of heaven, liquorice, horseradish tree, teak,

⁶⁸⁷ [HIML](#): IA, 295. In addition to the translations mentioned by Meulenbeld ([HIML](#): IB, 314–315), a translation of this chapter was included in P. V. Sharma 1999–2001: 3, 61–66.

⁶⁸⁸ This title suggests that the chapter may once have begun with the words “the drums are to be sounded” or at least that this is the subject of the chapter (Pāṇini 4.3.87). On the translation “kettle drum” see Hopkins 1889: 318; Rossi 2014.

⁶⁸⁹ The ingredients to this point are similar to the water-detoxifier described in *Suśruta-saṃhitā* 5.3.9 ([Su](#) 1938: 568), p. 158 above.

prickly-leaved elephant's foot, Himalayan birch,⁶⁹⁰ viburnum, marsh barbel, woody-fruited jujube, and white babool.

One should add to this the powder of the following items, together with an equal quantity of metals: long pepper, long pepper root, amaranth, cinnamon, smooth angelica, Indian madder, pongame oiltree, gapipul, embelia, soot, Indian symphorema, soma,⁶⁹¹ chir pine, saffron, halfa grass, mango, Indian mustard, three-leaved caper, Indian laurel, itchytree, castor-oil tree, pussywillow, purging nut, blackboard tree, Indian trumpet tree, cherry, croton tree,⁶⁹² Indian aconite, deodar, black pepper, costus, and sweet flag.⁶⁹³ Once it has been brought to the boil with the alkali, one should take it down and place it in a iron pot.⁶⁹⁴

- 4 One should smear this onto a drum as well as onto flags and carpets.⁶⁹⁵ One is released from all poisons as a result of seeing and hearing these.⁶⁹⁶

- 5–6 This is called “The Caustic Antidote (*kṣārāgada*)”.⁶⁹⁷ It should be given

690 Note the unanimous Nepalese MS reading भूज, the Middle Indo-Aryan form of Sanskrit भूर्ज (CDIAL: #9570).

691 The literature on the identification of Soma is large and continuing (Wujastyk 2003b: 76–78, 125–131; Clark 2017). To the cited literature, the useful historical discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 449–455) gave special attention to the āyurvedic literature. Its presence in this recipe may add special value or power to the resulting compound.

692 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.3 (Su 1938: 580) glossed नागदन्ती as a type of इन्द्रवारुणी (colocynth), but he noted that Jejjāta had thought it was दन्ती (red physic nut).

693 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.3 (Su 1938: 580) noted that Gayadāsa omitted several of the above ingredients, keeping thirty.

694 Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.3 (Su 1938: 580) explained that the above substances, from pepper onwards, should be placed in liquid alkali and then cooked until they are neither too runny nor too viscous (a phrase he copied from 1.11.11 (Su 1938: 47)). The preparation of पाक is particularly common in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* and the *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasaṃhitā*. Cf. the very similar ingredients and procedure in the chapter on alkali preparations, *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.11.11 (Su 1938: 46–47), p. 31 above.

695 The vulgate has तोरण “gateways” instead of आस्तरण “carpets.” On the meaning of the latter term, see Bailey 1970: 31, 33 *et passim* and the remarks of Rotman (2008: 1, 390–391, note 171). I am grateful to Michael Willis who has drawn my attention to similar practices described in Tibetan Buddhist literature, some of which may preserve material from before the fifth century CE (Gongkatsang and Willis 2018).

696 The vulgate adds “and touching” 5.6.4 (Su 1938: 580). Note the ditransitive (द्विकर्मक) -मुच्यते; cf. *Meghadūta*, uttaramegha 33 (Kale 1947: 99, 120).

697 Cf. 4.23.95–104 (Ca 1941: 575–576).

- in cases of small urinary stones (*śarkarā*), urinary stones (*aśmarī*),⁶⁹⁸ hemorrhoids, wind-swelling (*vātagulma*), cough, abdominal gripes (*śūla*) and swollen belly (*udara*). It should be given for indigestion, humours of the abdomen (*grahaṇīdoṣa*),⁶⁹⁹ and severe aversion to food (*bhaktadveṣa*),⁷⁰⁰ in swelling, mouth ulcer (*sarvasara*),⁷⁰¹ and persistent asthma (*śvāsa*).
- 7 This is to be employed in all cases where someone is suffering as a result of any poison. Thus, it is the antidote that is the Snakes' Controlling Hook (*sarpāṅkuśa*) even for the snakes led by Takṣaka.^{702,703}
- 12–13 Grind prickly chaff-flower seeds and the beans of siris, the two white clitorias and black nightshade with cows' urine.⁷⁰⁴ A ghee mixed with these is the most effective means of soothing poison. It is famous under the name "Immortal (Amṛta)." It can revive even the dead.
- 14–23 Collect together the following requisites:

698 अश्मरी and शर्करा are described in *Suśrutasamhitā* 2.3 (*Su* 1938: 276–280), the latter being smaller and more easily expelled (2.3.13cd–14 (*Su* 1938: 279); cf. *Mahākośa*: 1, 67–68, 808–809). The commentators Cakrapāṇidatta and Ḍalhaṇa discussed the lack of a firm distinction between these categories.

699 On the organ called ग्रहणी, see the useful summary by Ramachandra Rao and Sudarshan (1985–2005: 2, 20–21, 96 *et passim*).

700 A sign of impending death according to *Suśrutasamhitā* 1.32.4 (*Su* 1938: 142).

701 See *Mahākośa*: 1, 888 and *Suśrutasamhitā* 2.16.65–66 (*Su* 1938: 336) and 4.23.3 (*Su* 1938).

702 तक्षक is an ancient name for a Nāga, mentioned in the *Kauśikasūtra* (28.1 *et passim*, Bloomfield 1890: 78). Takṣaka is mentioned briefly in the *Rāmāyaṇa* (Pollock 1991: 292, n. 13) and more in later works. See further, Slouber 2016a: 22, 26, 37, *et passim*. The *Kriyākālotaratantra*, edited by Slouber, contains a similar sentence (7.26cd, p. 232): "Even someone bitten by Takṣaka will be rapidly cured of poison."

703 There follow four verses in the vulgate, 8–11, that are not present in the Nepalese version. These list ingredients that form a ghee called The Salutory (*kalyāṇaka*). This ghee recipe with the same name is also present in the *Uttaratantra* at 6.39.229–232 (*Su* 1938: 689), where it is a treatment for mostly similar ailments: chronic fever, asthma, cough, swelling, madness and a toxic potion (*gara*) (defined at 5.8.24cd–25ab (*Su* 1938: 587) as something manufactured, कृत्रिम). However, in the Nepalese version at 6.39.232, the vulgate statement of this name "एतत्कल्याणकं नाम सर्पिर्माङ्गल्यमुत्तमम्" is not present. Thus, in the Nepalese version, The Salutory (*kalyāṇaka*) is not named. The same named ghee also appears in the *Carakasamhitā* at 6.9.35–42ab (*Ca* 1941: 471), where it is presented as a treatment for madness (*unmāda*) as well as many other ailments including those mentioned above in the *Suśrutasamhitā* (excluding swelling); it is possible that this is a case where a text from the *Carakasamhitā* was added to the *Suśrutasamhitā* after the Nepalese version.

704 On the BHS form पीषयेत्, see Edgerton 1953: 2, 346, Edgerton 1953: 1, §28.4, p. 220.

sandalwood, agarwood, costus, crape jasmine, wild spider flower, long-stamen Wendlandia (?), spikenard, chir pine, deodar, white sandalwood, plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat, verbena, indigo, Indian sarsaparilla, woody turmeric, wild Himalayan cherry, liquorice, **thorny** (*sanakha*) spikenard, Alexandrian laurel, cardamom, cherry, red ochre, rosha grass, scented pavonia, resin of white dammer tree, spikenard, Indian dill, peas, scrambleberry, cardamom, foxtail millet, sedge, sesame flowers, powdered ruffle lichen, malabathrum, black sarsaparilla, the three pungent drugs, camphor, white teak, kutki, purple fleabane, Indian aconite, gummy gardenia, colocynth, vetiver and lemon grass (?), three-leaved caper, coriander, sweet hoof, cinnamon, smooth angelica,⁷⁰⁵ scutch grass,⁷⁰⁶ chebulic myrobalan, the two types of clitoria, the two types of turmeric, Himalayan yew, lac, and the salts,⁷⁰⁷ white water-lily, blue water-lily, sacred lotus flowers, pale Java tea and the flowers of champak, Asoka tree, royal jasmine, long-stamen Wendlandia (?),⁷⁰⁸ weaver's beam tree, silk-cotton tree, Indian cherry, siris, toothed-leaf limonia, Arabian jasmine, Indian symphorema, axlewood, garjan oil tree, and sandan.

Collect these ingredients and then have a fine powder made out of them and place that in a horn together with cow's bile, honey and ghee.

- 24 This foremost antidote can rescue a man, with hunched shoulders and **rolling** eyes, from within the jaws of death.
- 25 This antidote can even destroy the irresistible, fire-like poison of Vāsuki, the lord of all the snakes, who is angry, and infinitely ardent.⁷⁰⁹

705 The plant is usually called चोरक, literally "thief." The Nepalese text here uses the unusual expression तस्करसाह्व "called the same as 'thief'."

706 The preceding three plants are in a half-verse that appears in the Nepalese version of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* but not in the vulgate. It is notable that चोरक (syn. तस्कर) is distributed across Afghanistan, Himalaya and western Tibet. ग्रन्थिला (more commonly ग्रन्थिल, n.) is mentioned in the version of this Mahāsugandha recipe in the *Aṣṭāṅgas-aṅgraha*, Utt.47.69a (*As* 1980: 899) (but not in the *Aṣṭāṅgaḥṛdayasaṃhitā*), suggesting that the *Aṣṭāṅgas-aṅgraha* at this point had access to sources similar to the Nepalese witnesses.

707 Dalhaṇa specified "the five salts" (Dalhaṇa on 5.6.19 (*Su* 1938: 581)).

708 The Nepalese witnesses unanimously read तिलक not the vulgate's तिल्वक. Both plants have fragrant flowers.

709 This Nepalese MSS unanimously read सर्वनागगति "the progress of all the snakes" for the vulgate's विषं नागपति "the poison of the king of snakes." We emend to सर्वनागपति "the lord of all the snakes."

- 26 Out of all the royal antidotes, this one, called The Great Perfume (*Mahāsugandha*), assembled out of eighty-five components, should always be in the king’s hand.
- 27 A king anointed **with this** will become beloved of all the people. He becomes refulgent even when surrounded by his enemies.
- 28 For those afflicted by poison, the expert should apply a therapy that avoids heat. The exception is insect poison, because coldness makes that grow.⁷¹⁰
- 31 Someone suffering from poison should avoid sleeping during the day, sexual intercourse, exercise, anger, the heat of the sun, wine (*surā*), **sesame** and **horse gram**.⁷¹¹
- 32 A physician can recognize that a person is free of poison if their humours are calm, if their tissues (*dhātu*) are in a normal state, if they have an appetite, if their urine and feces are regular (*sama*), and if **the movement of their senses and mind is calm**.⁷¹²

⁷¹⁰ Verses 29 and 30 of the vulgate, giving dietary advice, are not present in the Nepalese version.

⁷¹¹ Ḍalhaṇa on 5.6.31 (*Su* 1938: 581) took the “and” in this sentence to mean the inclusion of a list of additional avoidances, from **long pepper** to **river dolphins** and **tortoises**.

⁷¹² This verse is much clearer in the Nepalese version. The vulgate seems to have acquired corrupted readings before the time of Ḍalhaṇa.

Kalpasthāna 8: Poisonous insects

Introduction

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

It being declared in the preceding 120 chapters, from here on, in the latter section, I shall explain the meanings in detail, fully.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 Uttaratāntra 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, | 10. Revolver, and |
| | 2. Beaked, | 11. Sheep-insect, |
| | 3. Horned, and | 12. Myna-face, and |
| | 4. Hundred-kulimbhakas, | 13. Legume-insect, |
| | 5. Cricket, | 14. Hundred-creeper, |
| | 6. Fiery, | 15. Stripy, |
| | 7. Little-voice, | 16. Spotted, |
| | 8. Vicitingas, and | 17. Speckle-head. ⁷²¹ |
| | 9. Lentil insects. | |

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

Fire

8cd-11ab

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. The knowledge about the stages of toxic shock (*vega*) of those bitten by one of these is the same as with snakes.⁷²²

Symptoms

17cd–24 xx

Taxonomy according to symptoms and prognosis

25–27 xx

28 *iguana*

29 ⁷²³

30–41 xx

Therapies

42–56abcd xx

Taxonomy of scorpions

56ef–66 xx

Therapies for scorpion-sting

67–74 xx

Symptoms of spider poisoning

75–89 xx

Origin story for spiders

90–93 xx

⁷²² Two verses appear at this point in the vulgate that are not in the Nepalese version.

⁷²³ 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.

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

Uttaratantra 17: Preventing Diseases of the Pupil

Literature

Meulenbeld offered an annotated overview of this chapter and a bibliography of earlier scholarship to 2002.⁷²⁴

The history of couching in India has been discussed since the nineteenth century,⁷²⁵

The therapies in this chapter make frequent use of collyrium (*añjana*). This substance and its uses and variants are described in *Carakasamhitā* 1.5.14–19 (Ca 1941: 38–39). In the *Suśrutasamhitā*, they are included in the “group starting with *añjana*” (*añjanādigana*), that is listed at 1.38.41–42 (Su 1938: 167). They are described as valuable for counteracting blood-bile (*raktapitta*), poison and overheating (*dāha*).

Translation

- 1 Now I shall explain the counteraction (*pratiṣedha*) of diseases located in the pupil (*dr̥ṣṭi*).
- 2 There are three curable (*sādhya*), three incurable (*asādhya*), and six mitigatable (*yāpya*) diseases located in peoples eyes. Among these, three

⁷²⁴ HIML: IA, 305–306.

⁷²⁵ Scott 1817; Breton 1826; Jack 1884; Hendley 1895; Elliot 1918; Pārśvanātha Śāstrī 1940; V. Deshpande 1999; 2000; Wujastyk 2003b; Fan 2005; Leffler et al. 2020; Hirschberg and Leffler 2024.

are curable (*sādhya*). Amongst these three, the remedy (*pratīkāra*) has been stated for the one called “seeing smoke (*dhūmadarśin*)”.⁷²⁶

- 3–5ab When the eye is inflamed (*vidagdha*) by bile and when it is inflamed by phlegm, one should apply the method for removing bile and phlegm, using nasal medicines (*nasya*), irrigation (*seka*), application of collyrium (*añjana*), liniment (*ālepa*), and medicines cooked in a crucible (*puṭapāka*), together with an eyewash (*tarpaṇa*),⁷²⁷ but not cutting with a blade (*śastrakṣata*).⁷²⁸

where is cutting with a knife related to removing bile or phlegm.

One should drink ghee (*sarpis*) prepared with the three fruits (*triphalā*) and in the first [case where the problem is bile], and prepared with turpeth (*traivṛta*) in the latter [case, of phlegm].

And ghee with **viburnum extract** is wholesome in both cases, or else aged ghee on its own.

- 5cd–7ab In a collyrium (*añjana*), these four compounds (*yoga*) are beneficial in both cases:

- **red ochre, rock salt, long pepper** and the black soot (*maṣī*) from cow’s teeth;
- cow’s flesh (*gomāṃsa*), **black pepper, siris** and **realgar**;
- stalk (*vṛnta*) from a **wood-apple** with honey (*madhu*);⁷²⁹
- or the the fruits of the **velvet bean**.

maṣī
burned
charcoal.
Find refs.

- 8 The physician should make a collyrium (*añjana*) with ground up **metal** (*kupyaka*),⁷³⁰ **Asoka tree, sal tree, mango, foxtail millet, lotus, blue water-lily**, together with **peas, emblic myrobalan, myrobalans, long pepper**. It should be combined with ghee and **honey**.

- 9–10 Also, when bile and phlegm have developed, the physician should apply **peas** with the expressed juice (*svarasa*) of the flowers from **mango**

726 This disease and its cure are described earlier (SS.6.7.39 and SS.6.10.16 (Su 1938: 609 and 614) respectively). The latter part of this verse is hard to construe and the text here may have been altered at an early period.

727 These therapies are described in SS.6.18 (Su 1938: 633–640).

728 Dalhaṇa interpreted this as blood-letting (*sirāvedha*), which is discussed in SS.1.14 (Su 1938).

729 Wood apple (कपित्थ) in this verse is ablative singular or accusative plural, neither of which construe obviously.

730 A metal other than gold or silver, according to V. Jośī and N. H. Jośī (*Mahākośa*: 1, 217) (on कूप्य). The Nepalese witnesses have the rare कूप्यक rather than the vulgate’s कुब्जक, which makes no real sense. Perhaps lead, which is used in making contemporary collyrium.

and **jambul** trees.

Then this collyrium (*añjana*), matured (*vipakva*) with ghee and **honey**, should then be applied.

- 10–11ab Filaments (*kiñjalka*) of **lotus** and **blue water-lily**, with **red ochre**, and the juice of cow-dung (*gośakṛt*) are a collyrium (*añjana*) in the form of a pill (*guḍikā*). This is good for both day and night blindness.
- 11cd–12ab Elixir-salve (*rasañjana*), **honey**, ghee, **scramberry**, together with gold and ochre, with the juice of cow-dung (*gośakṛt*) are for an eye afflicted with bile.
- 12cd–13 Alternatively, wise physician should first grind together elixir-salve (*śīta*) and stibnite (*sauvīraka*), infused (*bhāvita*) with the blood of birds and animals (*rasa*).⁷³¹ Then he mixes it with the bile of a tortoise or with extract of rohu carp (*rauhita*). It should always be used with powdered collyrium (*añjana*) to quell the bile.
- 14 Thus, a collyrium (*añjana*) of **white teak** flowers, **liquorice**, **Indian barberry**, **lodh tree** and elixir salve (*rasañjana*) is always good as a collyrium in this case.
- 15 Alternatively, for those who cannot see during the day, this pill (*guḍikā*), with sandalwood, is recommended: salt (*nadīja*), conch shell and the three spices, collyrium (*añjana*), realgar (*manaḥśilā*), the two turmeric (*rajana*)⁷³² and liver extract (*yakṛdrasa*).⁷³³
- 16 One should grind up kohl (*srotoja*),⁷³⁴ and ?? and long pepper and also hareṇu (*hareṇu*). Such wicks with goats urine are good in a collyrium (*añjana*) for night blindness (*kṣaṇadāndhya*).
- 17–18ab Alternatively, in such a case, grind together Indian sarsaparilla (*kālānusāriṇa*)⁷³⁵ long pepper, dried ginger (*nāgara*) and honey, the leaf of the scrambling (*tālīśapatra*), the two turmeric (*rajana*), a conch shell and liver extract (*yakṛdrasa*). Then shade-dried wicks take away

731 This was Ḍalhaṇa's preferred interpretation of *rasa* "juice" in this context. He also noted that some take elixir-salve (*śīta*) to be camphor.

732 Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* Linn.) and tree turmeric (*Berberis aristata* DC). The term *rajana* is unusual; the normal term is *rajanī*. *Rajana* occurs in *Suśrutanighaṇṭu* 158 in the sense of *Ferula asafoetida*, Linn.

733 This verse appears as no. 27 in the vulgate.

734 Glossed by Ḍalhaṇa as a kind of collyrium (*añjana*). Cf. Nadkarni 1954: 2.M13 and P. V. Sharma 1982: 197–198

735 There are two forms of *sārivā* mentioned widely in Āyurvedic literature, the white and the black. Ideas on the identity of the black form are particularly fluid. See Sivarajan and Balachandran (ADPS: 434–438) for a clear discussion.

- illness (*ruj*).
- 18cd–19ab Wicks made of red arsenic (*manaḥśilā*), chebulic myrobalan (*abhayā*), the three spices (*vyoṣa*). Indian sarsaparilla (*sāriva*), cuttlefish bone (*samudraphena*), combined with goat's milk are good.
- 19cd–21ab One should cook a honey collyrium (*kṣaudrāñjana*) either in the juices of cow's urine (*gomūtra*), and bile, spirits (*madirā*), liver (*yakṛt*), and emblic (*dhātrī*) or else in the juice of the liver (*yakṛt*) of something different, or else with the extract of the three fruits (*triphalā*). One of these should be mixed with cow urine, ghee and cuttle fish (*aṇṇavamala*)⁷³⁶ with long pepper, honey and box myrtle (*kaṭphala*). It is placed in sea salt and stored in a bamboo tube.
- 21cd–22 One should cook the liver of a sheep, the ghee of a goat, with long pepper and Sindh salt, honey and the juice of emblics. Then one should store it properly in a catechu box. Prepared thus, the honey collyrium (*añjana*) is good.
- 23 Alternatively, a collyrium (*añjana*) that is hareṇu (*hareṇu*) mixed with long pepper (*māgadhi*), the bone and the marrow of a goat, cardamom (*elā*) and liver, together with liver extract, is good for eyes afflicted by phlegm.⁷³⁷
- 24 Over a fire, one should cook the liver (*yakṛt*) of a monitor lizard (*godhā*) prepared with entrails (*antra*) and stuffed with long pepper (*māgadhi*). As is well known, liver (*yakṛt*) which is used (*niṣevita*) with collyrium (*añjana*) certainly destroys night blindness.
- 25 After preparing both a spleen (*plīhan*) and a liver on a spit, one should eat them both with ghee and oil.⁷³⁸

⁷³⁶ At SS 6.12.31, Ḍalhaṇa glossed *aṇṇavamala* as cuttlefish bone (*samudraphena*). It may be worth considering whether the unusual term *aṇṇavamala* "ocean-filth" might refer to ambergris.

⁷³⁷ On the identities of *elā* and *hareṇu*, Watt ([WattComm](#): 511 ff) described the former as "true" or "lesser" or "Malabar" cardamom, *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton & White. In contrast, the "greater" cardamom is *Amomum subulatum* (that Watt discussed on p. 65) that is commonly used as an inferior substitute for *E. cardamomum*. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 467 f) provided an interesting discussion of *hareṇu*, noting that the term refers to two substances, first the *satīna* pulse (*Pisum sativum*, Linn.), and second an unknown fruit such as perhaps a *Vitex*. They noted, "None of the text commentators have attempted to disclose the nature of its source plant," although Ḍalhaṇa described it as aromatic and identical to *reṇukā* (SS.ci.2.75).

⁷³⁸ We read the locative as if an instrumental; if the locative were intended then it would be the spit that would be coated with oil and ghee.

- 25cd–26ab As is well known, there are six diseases that can be alleviated (*yāpya*); in those cases (*tatra*) one should release the blood by bloodletting. And for the sake of wellbeing one should also purge using aged ghee combined (*upahita*) with purgative aids (*aṅga*).
- 26cd–27 When an eye-disease is caused by wind (*pavanodbhava*) they say that castor oil (*pañcāṅgulataila*) mixed with milk is good.⁷³⁹ In the case of diseases of blood (*śonita*) and bile (*pitta*), one should drink ghee with the three fruits; it is particularly cleansing.⁷⁴⁰ In the case of phlegm, a purgative by means of turpeth (*trivṛt*) is recommended. In the case of all three humours, sandal (*sugandhi*) in oil is prepared with it (turpeth).⁷⁴¹
- 28 In cases of partial blindness (*timira*), aged ghee is recommended. It is good if it is kept in an iron vessel.
- 28cd–29ab One should know that ghee with the three mylobalans is always good, and it is made with what is called periploca of the woods (*meṣaviśāṇa*). A man who is suffering from partial blindness should lick the finely-ground three fruits mixed with ghee off his hand (*sapāṇa*).⁷⁴²
- 29cd Alternatively, someone afflicted by phlegm should apply them (the three fruits) mixed with oil and steeped (*pragāḍha*) in honey.
- 30 The very best oil, well-cooked with a decoction of cow-dung, is good in cases of partial blindness, taken as an errhine. In cases caused by bile, ghee by itself is good, as is oil when it arises from wind and blood.
- 31 And in the case of wind one should apply turpeth (*trivṛt*) based on strong mallow (*atibalā*), and country mallow (*balā*) in an errhine (*nasya*).⁷⁴³

739 Ḍalhaṇa said that the unexpressed topic of this recipe is partial blindness (*timira*).

740 Blood-bile (*śonita-pitta*, *rakta-pitta*) is a widely-recognized disease in ayurveda, but the compound here is definitely dual, which rules out that interpretation. One would expect blood-bile because the previous verse

741 The expression “the fragrant one in oil (*tailasugandhi*)” is puzzling. The word *sugandhi* has different referents in the *Nighaṇṭu* literature but is not common as a noun in the extant literature. “Sandal” is just one of its possible meanings.

742 “Off his hand” translates the adverbial *sapāṇam*, an unusual word. Ḍalhaṇa reproduced a reading close to the Nepalese recension but says that Jejjāta rejects it and so he also does (Su 1938: 627).

743 “Based on” translates *-āśrita* “depending on” which does not construe easily here. The vulgate has *śṛta* “cooked” which makes easier sense but is not supported by the Nepalese MSS.

Ghee which has been extracted from milk cooked with the meat of aquatic creatures and those from marshlands should be prescribed.

- 32 †An enclosed roasting (*puṭākhyā*) with Sindh salt and the product of the meat of a carnivore (*kravyabhuj*) and a deer (*eṇa*), is combined with honey and ghee.⁷⁴⁴

Fat (*vasā*) from a horse, a vulture, a snake, and a cock (*tāmracūḍa*), combined with *mahua* is always good in a collyrium (*añjana*).†⁷⁴⁵

- 33 Having prepared (*niṣevita*) a collyrium (*añjana*) made of kohl (*srotas*), gradually combine it with juices (*rasa*), milk and ghee.⁷⁴⁶

For thirty days, this collyrium (*añjana*) is put in the mouth of a black snake that is covered with kuśa grass (*kuśa*).

- 34 Next, a collyrium (*añjana*) that is milk containing long pepper (*māgadhī*), lye (*kṣāraka*) and ?? that has been repeatedly prepared with the mouth of a black snake, is good in the case of bloodshot blindness (*rāgin timira*).⁷⁴⁷

- 35 They say that ghee may be produced from that and combined with sweet herbs is good as an errhine for eye-diseases caused by bile.

And here, an eyewash (*tarpaṇa*) is good that is a combination that is the flesh of wild animals taken hot (*puṭāhvaya*).⁷⁴⁸

- 36 And realgar (*maṇḥṣilā*) mixed with elixir salve (*rasañjana*) and honey

⁷⁴⁴ Ḍalhaṇa noted (Su 1938: 628a) that *puṭāhvaya* (see verse 35 below) is a synonym for *puṭapāka*, and that the process is described in the *Kriyākālpa* chapter, i.e., SS.6.18.33–38 (Su 1938: 635). On the *puṭa* process in the *Suśrutasamhitā*, which is earlier and different than that of *rasaśāstra* literature, see the discussion by Wujastyk (2019: 83):

The term ‘enclosed roasting’ (*puṭapāka*) does occur in the *Suśrutasamhitā* in the context of eye treatments, but designates a method of obtaining juice from substances by wrapping them in leaves pasted with earth and cooking the bolus on charcoal to finally extract a juice.

⁷⁴⁵ This verse contain irresolvable difficulties. There are no significant variants in the Nepalese MS transmission, but the text is ungrammatical. The vulgate reads substantially differently but we have nevertheless made some emendations in line with it and read the verse as two sentences.

⁷⁴⁶ On स्रोतस् “kohl” see footnote 734. Ḍalhaṇa on 6.17.36ab (Su 1938: 628) explicitly specified that the juices are meat soups of various animals that are “pleasing to the eye” (चक्षुष्यमृगपक्षिमांसरसः).

⁷⁴⁷ Ḍalhaṇa described this blindness as a type of *kāca* disease caused by wind (Su 1938: 628). The expression “bloodshot blindness” is an attempt to capture the idea of a blind eye that is dyed or coloured (not colour-blindness). This verse is quite different from the vulgate and also syntactically challenging.

⁷⁴⁸ The expression taken hot (*puṭāhvaya*) is a guess.

is a liquid collyrium (*dravāñjana*) which is, in this case, combined with *mahua*.⁷⁴⁹

Alternatively, experts on this say that finely ground blue vitriol (*tuttha*) extracted from a gold mine is the “same collyrium (*samāñjana*)”.⁷⁵⁰

- 37 Conch mixed with equal parts of sheep’s horn and stibnite (*añjana*) removes the impurity of the glassy opacity (*kāca*) because of the application of collyrium (*añjana*).⁷⁵¹

The extracts (*rasa*) produced from aflame of the forest (*palāśa*), Rohīta tree (*rohīta*),⁷⁵² *mahua*, ground with the supernatant layer (*agra*) of the spirits (*madira*) is applied.

- 38 Alternatively, one should cook an errhine with cuscus grass (*uśīra*), lodh tree (*lodhra*), the three fruits (*triphalā*), beauty berry (*priyaṅgu*) to pacify eye diseases caused by phlegm.⁷⁵³

One should apply smoke of the bark of embelia (*vidaṅga*), velvet leaf (*pāthā*), white siris (*kinihī*), and desert date (*iṅgudī*); and cuscus grass (*uśīra*) alone.

- 39 A ghee that is cooked (*bhāvita*) from a decoction of a non-flowering tree (*vanaspati*)⁷⁵⁴ as well as turmeric (*haridrā*) and spikenard (*nalada*) is good in a eyewash (*tarpaṇa*).

Alternatively, one may have an enclosed roasting (*puṭapāka*) done with arid-land animals (*jāṅgala*)⁷⁵⁵ and a plentiful amount of long pepper (*māgadha*), Sindh salt and honey.

- 40 A treatment (*kriyā*) with realgar (*manaḥśilā*), the three spices, conch,

749 The expression liquid collyrium (*dravāñjana*) is only known from Ḍalhaṇa’s comments on 6.17.11ab (Su 1938: 626). The recipe in the present collyrium is different from that discussed by Ḍalhaṇa.

750 On *tuttha*, which may also be identified with zinc oxide or as crushed sea-urchin shells, see Falk (1991: 112 ff.); zinc oxide is a component of skin-balms but is not recommended for application in the eyes themselves. The expression “same collyrium (*samāñjana*)” is a hapax legomenon glossed inexplicably by Ḍalhaṇa as “a collyrium with an equal amount of fermented barley” (*tulyasauvīrāñjana*) (Su 1938: 628).

751 The ablative “from collyrium” is hard to construe, but Ḍalhaṇa used this term and phrase in his commentary on 6.17.41ab (Su 1938: 629).

752 Probably *Soyimida febrifuga* A. Juss.

753 Ḍalhaṇa invoked a general rule (*paribhāṣā*) to indicate that this mixture should be cooked with sesame oil.

754 These are fig trees. The *Sauśrutaniḡhaṇṭu* (252) specifies the Uḍumbara. Cf. the classification in CS.1.1.71–72, 1.8, *et passim*.

755 On this term, see SS.1.35.42 (Su 1938: 157) and the discussion by Zimmermann (1999: 25–31).

honey, along with Sindh salt, green vitriol (*kāsīsa*) and elixir salve (*rasāñjana*).⁷⁵⁶

They say that an elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) combined with myrobalans, treacle and dried ginger is good.⁷⁵⁷

- 41 Alternatively, a collyrium (*añjana*) that has been prepared many times in the eight types of urine⁷⁵⁸ is put into water with the three fruits. Having stored it in the mouth of a nocturnal creature (*niśācara*)⁷⁵⁹ one should place it in a conch (*salilotthita*) for two months.⁷⁶⁰

- 42 One should apply that collyrium (*añjana*) together with the flowers of *mahua* and horseradish tree (*śigru*) when [the disease] is caused by all [the humours].

But alternatively, all treatments apply when blood is the cause. The procedure that removes bile is good when there is blue dot cataract (*mlāyin*).⁷⁶¹

- 43 For one who has a humour, the physician should consider the rule in all humoral cases and then smear the ointment on the face.⁷⁶²

The treatment that is good for removing watery eye (*syanda*) should be properly applied in all these humoral cases, according to the individual.⁷⁶³

- 44 The physician should not employ substances in errhines etc., when the humours intensify, and also when disease spreads. And further, in the *Kalpa*, there is a good deal more said about collyriums, and that should be considered and then applied.⁷⁶⁴

- 45 Someone who uses matured ghee, the three fruits, *wild asparagus*, as

756 Ḍalhaṇa glossed treatment (*kriyā*) specifically as inspissation (*rasakriyā*) (Su 1938: 629).

757 We emend हिते to हितम् against the MSS.

758 See *Suśrutasaṃhitā* mūtravarga

759 Ḍalhaṇa glossed nocturnal creature (*niśācara*) as “vulture,” although elsewhere in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* it is more commonly interpreted as a spirit or demon. In the present context, following verses 33 and 34, it is probably a snake.

760 We interpret “water-born (*salilotthita*)” as “conch” in line with *jalodbhava*, but the term is uncertain.

761 The vulgate follows Ḍalhaṇa in glossing *mlāyin* as *parimlāya*. The description of this condition at SS.6.7.27–28 appears to refer to “blue dot” or “cerulean” cataract. √*mlai* derivatives can mean “dark” or “black.”), which is normally a different ailment.

762 The vulgate edition omits part of this verse (ab) combining earlier and later passages.

763 The term watery eye (*syanda*) refers to the specific disease *abhiśyanda*. See SS.6.6.5, 1.46.51, etc.

764 Ḍalhaṇa noted that *Kalpa* means the Uttaratantra adhyāya 18 (Su 1938: 633 ff).

find ref.

Check out these refs.

meaning of kalpa

- well as **mung beans**, emblic and barley has nothing to fear from cases of severe blindness (*timira*).
- 46 Blindness is dispelled by milk prepared with wild asparagus or in emblics, or again cooked barley (*yavaudana*) followed by the water of three fruits with plenty of ghee.
- 47 When there is bloodshot blindness (*rāgiṇi timire*), the wise physician should not cut a vein. A humour injured (*utpīḍita*) by the instrument rapidly destroys vision.
- 48 Non-bloodshot blindness (*araga timira*) in the first layer (*paṭala*) is treatable. And bloodshot blindness (*rāgiṇi timire*) in the second layer, with difficulty. And in the third layer it can be mitigated (*yāpya*).⁷⁶⁵
- 49 I shall explain the therapy for success when there is a cataract (*liṅganāśa*) caused by phlegm. It may be white, like a full moon, an umbrella, a pearl (*muktā*) or a spiral (*āvarta*).
- 50 Or it may be uneven, thin in the middle, streaked or have excessive shine (*prabha*). A humour (*doṣa*) in the pupil may be characterized as being painful or having blood.⁷⁶⁶
- 51–52 At a time that is neither too hot or too cold, the patient who has been oiled and sweated is restrained and seated, looking symmetrically at his own nose.
- The wise physician should separate (*muktvā*) two white sections from the black part (*kṛṣṇa*) and from the outer corner of the eye (*apāṅga*). Then he should press (*pīḍ-*) properly into the eye,⁷⁶⁷ at the naturally-occurring (*daivakṛte*) opening (*chidra*) with a probe (*śalākā*) made of copper or iron, with a tip like a barley-corn, held by a steady hand with the middle finger, forefinger and thumb, the left one with the right hand and the other one contrariwise.
- When the piercing is done properly, there is the issue of a drop of liquid and a sound.⁷⁶⁸

⁷⁶⁵ Although the text says with difficulty (*kṛcchra*), the implication is that it is untreatable (*asādhya*) (cf. 6.17.2 (Su 1938: 625) above). The three categories, treatable, untreatable and possibly mitigated are standard categories of triage.

⁷⁶⁶ In the vulgate, and in parallel passages in the AS, the reading “it may be (*bhavet*)” is replaced with the negative “if, then not (*na ced*)” (cf. utt.17.1–3a (As 1980: 712)). These characteristics are then read as conditions that preclude surgery; for the Nepalese recension, they are simply descriptions of the appearance of a cataract.

⁷⁶⁷ We understand the locative *nayane* as the place of pressing; other interpreters take it as an accusative dual. The idea is that the eye is held steady by the surgeon.

⁷⁶⁸ Ḍaḥaṇa remarked on 6.17.61ab (Su 1938: 630) that when the piercing is not correctly

- 55 The expert should moisten the exact place of piercing with a woman's breast-milk. Then he should scratch the circuit of the pupil (*dr̥ṣṭimaṇḍala*) with the tip of the probe (*śalākā*).⁷⁶⁹
- 56 Without injuring, gently pushing the phlegm in the circuit of the pupil against the nose, he should remove it by means of sniffing (*ucchiṅgana*).⁷⁷⁰
- 57 Whether the humour is solid (*styāna*) or liquid (*cala*), one should apply sweating to the eye externally, with leaves (*bhaṅga*) that remove wind, after fixing the needle (*sūcī*) properly.⁷⁷¹
- 58 But if the humour cannot be destroyed or if it comes back, one should apply the piercing (*vyadha*) once again, with appropriate oils and so on.
- 59 Now the pupil (*dr̥ṣṭi*) shines like the sun (*hari*) in a cloudless sky; then, when objects become visible, one may slowly remove the probe (*śalākā*).⁷⁷²
- 60 Having smeared ghee on the eye, one should cover it with a bandage. Then, he must lie down supine in a house free from disturbances.⁷⁷³
- 61 At that time, he should not belch, cough, sneeze, spit or shiver. Afterwards there should be restrictions (*yantraṇā*) as in the case of someone who has drunk oil.⁷⁷⁴
- 62 Every three days one should wash it with decoctions (*kaṣāya*) that remove wind. After three days, one should sweat the eye externally be-

done, blood issues and there is no sound.

769 The anatomy of the eye is described in 6.1.14–16 (Su 1938: 596). The disks or *maṇḍalas* are the circuits or disks of the eye.

770 Ḍalhaṇa described sniffing (*ucchiṅgana*) at 6.19.8 (Su 1938: 641), clearly intending inward sniffing.

771 We interpret *bhaṅga* as leaves, following the usage elsewhere in this sthāna 4.32.9, 6.11.5 (Su 1938: 513, 614) where *bhaṅga* means shoots (*pallava*). A similar procedure is described at 6.17.25a (As 1980: 716a), where sweating of the eye is done by means of the leaves of a castor-oil plant.

772 There are many problems with the MS readings and interpretation of this half-verse. We have inferred "sky" and emended from "free from the point (*agramukta*)" to "free from clouds (*abhramukta*)". The latter meaning is supported (in different words) by the vulgate and occurs elsewhere in Sanskrit literature.

773 Ḍalhaṇa explained disturbances specifically as dust, smoke, drafts and sunlight 6.17.67 (Su 1938: 631a).

774 Ḍalhaṇa glossed "restrictions (*yantraṇā*)" as having a controlled diet and the other restrictions appropriate to someone who is taking oil as a preparation before further therapy (6.17.68 (Su 1938: 631)). These restrictions are also described at 6.18.28 (Su 1938: 635) and 1.16.25cd (Ah 1939: 249).

- cause of the danger of wind.
- 63 Having restrained himself in this way for ten days he should thereafter take a beneficial regimen (*karma*) that clears the pupil (*dr̥ṣṭi*) and also he should take light food in measure.

[Complications]

- 64 When there is a misshapen eyeball (*vilocana*), the eye may fill because of the release of blood from a vein.⁷⁷⁵
A hard probe leads to shooting pain (*śūla*), a thin to unsteadiness of the humours (*doṣapariplava*),⁷⁷⁶
- 65 a thick-tipped probe leads to a large wound, and a sharp one may cause harm in many ways; a very irregular one may cause a discharge of water, a rigid (*sthira*) one brings about a loss of function (*kriyāsaṅga*).⁷⁷⁷
- 66 Therefore, one should make a good probe that is free from these defects.

[Characteristics of the probe]

- The probe should be eight finger-breadths long and in the middle it is wrapped with thread and is as thick as a thumb joint. It is shaped like a bud at both ends (*vaktra*).
- 67 A commendable probe should be made of silver, iron or gold (*śātakumbhī*).⁷⁷⁸

⁷⁷⁵ The condition of “misshapen eye” is referred to briefly in 6.61.9 (Su 1938: 800), where Ḍalhaṇa glossed it as “bent brow and eye (*vakrabhrūnetra*).” The vulgate’s reading of “with blood (*śonitena*)” is easier to construe.

⁷⁷⁶ There is a medically significant difference here from the vulgate, which reads “a rough (*khara*) probe” not a “thin” probe.

⁷⁷⁷ This translation of loss of function (*kriyāsaṅga*) is given on the basis of Ḍalhaṇa’s gloss of *kriyāsaṅgakarī* at 3.8.19 (Su 1938: 382) as “causing the destruction of actions such as moving (*gamanādikriyāvīnāśakarī*).”

⁷⁷⁸ The vulgate reads “copper (*tāmra*)” in place of “silver.”

[Complications]

- Redness, swelling, lumps, driness (*coṣa*), bubbling (*budbuda*),⁷⁷⁹ pigs' eye (*sūkarākṣitā*),⁷⁸⁰ irritation (*adhimantha*), etc. and other diseases arise from faults in the piercing,
- 69–70 or even from bad behaviour. One should treat them each accordingly. Listen to me once again about compounds for painful red eyes. Red chalk (*gairikāḥ*), Indian sarsaparilla (*śārivā*), panic grass (*dūrvā*), and ghee ground with barley.
- 71 This face ointment is to be used for quelling pain and redness. Or else it may be taken combined with the juice of citron (*mātuluṅga*) with sesame gently fried, mixed with white mustard (*siddhārthaka*).⁷⁸¹ This is immediately beneficial when someone is looking for relief.
- 72 A paste with Holostemma (*payasyā*),⁷⁸² Indian sarsaparilla (*śārivā*), cassia cinnamon (*patra*), Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*), and liquorice (*madhukair*) stirred with goat's milk, pleasantly warmed, is said to be healthy.⁷⁸³
- 73 Alternatively, it can be made in this way with Himalayan cedar, Himalayan cherry (*padmaka*) and dried ginger. Or, in the same way, with grapes, liquorice and the Lodh tree mixed with Sindh salt.
- 74 Alternatively, goats' milk with the Lodh tree, Sindh salt, red grapes and liquorice, cooked, should be used in irrigation because it removes pain and redness.
- 75 Having cooked it with liquorice, water-lily, and costus, mixed with grapes (*drākṣā*), lac (*lākṣā*), white sugar (*sitā*), with wild asparagus, Hare Foot Uraria (*pr̥thakparṇī*),⁷⁸⁴ nutgrass (*mustā*), liquorice, Hi-

779 Ḍalhaṇa glossed "bubbling (*budbuda*)" as "prolapse (*māṃsanīrgama*) that looks like bubbles."

780 The expression "pigs' eye" appears to be a *hapax*. It was glossed as "downward vision (*adhodr̥ṣṭitva*)" by Ḍalhaṇa.

781 On the adverbial use of gently (*mṛdu*), see Gombrich 1979.

782 The identity of *payasyā* is debated (GVDB: 538), and was already in doubt at the time of Ḍalhaṇa but likely candidates may be those suggested by Ḍalhaṇa, who suggests either *arkapuṣpī* or *kṣīrakākolī*, that may be *Holostemma adakodien* Schult. and *Leptadenia reticulata* (Retz.) Wight & Arn. (ADPS: 195-196). The *Sauśrutaniḥṣaṇṭu* glosses it as *kṣīrikā* or *arkapuṣpikā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: v. 307).

783 The expression "stirred with goat's milk (*ajākṣīrārdita*)" is difficult. It may be connected with the rare root *ard* documented by Whitney (1885: 15). Cf. *√ard gatau* (*Dhātupāṭha* 1.56).

784 Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 18.

- malayan cherry (*padmaka*), and Sindh salts, one should apply it [irrigation] gently warm.
- 76cd–77ab Ghee that has been cooked in four times the amount of milk that has itself been cooked with drugs that destroy wind.⁷⁸⁵ This has an admixture of cottony jujube (*kākolī*) etc., should be prescribed in all treatments.⁷⁸⁶
- 77cd–78ab If pain does not end in this way, one should administer blood-letting to the vein of someone who has previously been oiled and sweated. Then the wise physician should apply cauterization in the advised manner.⁷⁸⁷
- 78cd–80ab Now listen to two excellent collyriums for making the pupils clear. After grinding the flowers of perploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*), siris (*śirīṣa*), axelwood (*dhava*) royal jasmine (*jātī*), pearl and beryl (*vaiḍūrya*) with goat's milk, one should put it in a copper pot for seven days.
- 80cd–81 Having made it into wicks (*vartti*), the physician should apply it as a collyrium (*añjana*). Alternatively, one should make kohl (*srotoja*), coral (*vidrūma*), cuttlefish bone (*phena*), and realgar (*manaḥśilā*) and peppers into wicks as before. One should apply these wicks, which are good in a collyrium, to steady the pupil.
- 82 I shall again discuss the foremost collyriums at length in the *Kriyākālpa* section. Those various methods may be applied here too.

or a dual?

⁷⁸⁵ Ḍalhaṇa mentioned that these drugs include Deodar (*bhadradāru*) and other wind-destroying drugs. The *vātaśamāmana* group is listed in *Suśrutasamhitā sūtrasthāna* 1.39.7.

⁷⁸⁶ Ḍalhaṇa noted that this would include errhines, ointments, etc.

⁷⁸⁷ The vulgate reads *vāpi* for *cāpi*, so Ḍalhaṇa saw blood-letting and cautery as alternatives, not a sequence of treatments. Ḍalhaṇa listed the places that cauterization may be applied, such as the brow, forehead, etc.

Uttaratantra 38: Diseases of the Female Reproductive System

Introduction

The chapter talks about various diseases of the female reproductive system and, in doing so, combines both aspects that go into a representation of diseases in āyurvedic literature: signs, symptoms and pathogenesis (*nīdāna*), on the one hand, and medical treatment (*cikitsā*), on the other. In chapters of the *Uttaratantra*, these two aspects are sometime dealt with in two different chapters *X-vijñānīya* and *X-pratiṣedha*. There are, however, many examples where this distinction is not made.

Literature

The chapter is summarized, with notes on vocabulary and references to further research literature, in [HIML: IA, 313](#). ([Tivārī 1990](#)) dedicated a monograph to this topic, and Selby ([2005a,b](#)) has explored gynecological narratives in ayurveda.

Placement of the Chapter

In the vulgate text ([Su 1938](#)) the current chapter, 6.38, is found after the *Uttaratantra*'s subsection on paediatrics, the *Kumāratantra*, see Table 4.⁷⁸⁸ But in the Nepalese version, this is chapter 6.58 of the *Uttaratantra*. And it is also counted as chapter 23 of the subsection *Kāyācikitsā*.

⁷⁸⁸ Or *Kumārabhṛtya* as this section is named in MS Kathmandu KL 699.

Table 4: Subdivisions of the Uttaratantra, in the vulgate.

Section	Chapters	Internal count
Śālakyatantra	1–26	1–26
Kumāratantra	27–38	1–12
Kāyacikitsātantra	39–59	1–21
Bhūtavidyātantra	60–62	1–3
Tantrabhūṣaṇādhyāya	63–66	1–4

Several things are noteworthy in this regard:

- In the placement of the vulgate, this chapter follows upon 6.37 *Grahotpatti* (6.35 in the Nepalese version), a chapter that talks about the origination of nine demons (*graha*) that are responsible for all children's diseases described in previous chapters of the *Kumāratantra*. In this way, the current chapter retains the general focus on the child bearing (*kaumārabhṛtya*), but, at the same time, marks a change to a distinct, less mystical approach to the topic at hand (that could originate in a cultural milieu different from that of the preceding eleven chapters). Ḍalhana explained how the chapter fits its context in the following way:

It is appropriate that, for the sake of treating the disorders of the female reproductive system, the chapter called “Countermeasures Against Disorders of the Female Reproductive System” is taught immediately after the chapter called “The Origination of Demons (*graha*).” It is because (1) there is an explicit mention of the word “*yonī*” in the statement “born in the womb (*yonī*) of animal and human” [in 6.37.13bc (Su 1938: 667)] and because (2) the disorders of the female reproductive system are the causes for the inborn disorders of children.⁷⁸⁹

- In the placement of the Nepalese version,
 - 6.*Yonivyāpatpratiṣedha* is preceded by

⁷⁸⁹ Ḍalhana on 6.38.1 (Su 1938: 668): ग्रहोत्पत्त्यध्यायानन्तरं ‘तिर्यग्योनिं मानुषं च’ इति वचनेन योने-
र्नामसंकीर्तनात् कुमारजन्मविकारकारणत्वाच्च योनेर्व्यापञ्चिकित्सितार्थं योनिव्यापत्प्रतिषेधाध्यायारम्भो यु-
ज्यत [...]

- 6.56 *Mūtrāghātapraṭiṣedha* (6.58 in [Su 1938](#)) and
- 6.57 *Mūtrakṛcchrapraṭiṣedha* (6.59 in [Su 1938](#)), two chapters dealing with the diseases of the urinary tract.

The current chapter carries on with the topic of diseases that affect genitalia. In its Nepalese version, the chapter opens with two verses that explain the reasons for treating the particular set of diseases. These lack any reference to the inborn disorders of children, mentioned by Ḍalhaṇa, and instead highlight the importance of curing female diseases for the satisfaction of male partner.

- SS.1.3 in both [Su 1938](#) and the Nepalese version lists the chapter at the place where it is found in the vulgate.⁷⁹⁰
- Parallel chapters in the *Aṣṭāṅgasamgraha* and the *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasamhitā* form a part of the *Śalyatantra* section of each text.

Parallels

The current chapter is parallel in its content to *Aṣṭāṅgasamgraha* 6.38 and 6.39 as well as *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasamhitā* 6.33 and 6.34 (*Guhyarogavijñāna* and *Guhyarogapraṭiṣedha* respectively).

A close literary parallel to the first part of the chapter is found in *Mādhavanidāna* ([MN₃](#)) 62, or at least its version printed in Y. T. Ācārya ([MN₃](#): 361). The readings of the [MN₃](#) as it stands now usually side with the vulgate version rather than with the Nepalese. In addition to the basic text, there are several valuable pointers made in the *Madhukośa*, an early commentary on the [MN₃](#). This part of the text is authored by Śrīkaṇṭhadatta, who was most like a direct student of Vijarakṣita. The latter wrote the first part of the *Madhukośa*, up to chapter 32, and, what is more, can be dated to the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries.⁷⁹¹

Another most interesting parallel is found in *Carakasamhitā* 6(Ci).30.

⁷⁹⁰ See 1.3.37ab ([Su 1938](#): 15): नैगमेषचिकित्सा च ग्रहोत्पत्तिः सयोनिजा ॥.

⁷⁹¹ Meulenbeld [1974b](#): 22–26.

Philological notes

Metrical alterations

The first two verses in the Nepalese version, 6.38.2.1 and 6.38.4.1, are written in a classical variety of the *upajāti* metre: $\underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}} \text{ } \underline{\text{U}}$. In content, they are only approximately parallel to three hemistichs in *anuṣṭubh* metre found in the vulgate.⁷⁹² The latter verses lack the apologetic explanation concerning the reasons for this chapter being taught.

The original opening verses

From verse *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 6.38.5.1 onwards, the Nepalese version of the text continues with three hemistichs in the same classical *upajāti* metre (the syllabic pattern above).⁷⁹³ By contrast, the vulgate contains two complete verses (four hemistichs) in the *anuṣṭubh* metre, again with only loosely-related content.⁷⁹⁴ The three final hemistichs of this group are borrowed verbatim from the *Carakasamhitā*.⁷⁹⁵ We can be sure of the direction of borrowing because one of these shared verses says that the twenty kinds of diseases of the female reproductive system “have already been indicated in the *Compendium of Diseases* (rogasaṃgraha)”.⁷⁹⁶ This statement does not make any sense in the context of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, where no such Compendium exists.⁷⁹⁷ By contrast, in the *Carakasamhitā* this reference points back to chapter 1.19 (*Ca* 1941: 109–112), which calls itself “The Compendium of Diseases”.⁷⁹⁸ This Compendium lists all the diseases dealt with in later sections of the text, and specifically mentions the twenty diseases of female reproductive system.⁷⁹⁹ Even the vocabulary and wording of this

⁷⁹² *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 6.38.3–4ab (*Su* 1938: 668).

⁷⁹³ The metre of these verses is not perfect.

⁷⁹⁴ *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 6.38.4cd–6ab (*Su* 1938: 668).

⁷⁹⁵ *Carakasamhitā* 6.30.7cd–8 (*Ca* 1941: 634).

⁷⁹⁶ *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 6.38.5ab (*Su* 1938: 668): विंशतिर्व्यापदो योनेर्निर्दिष्टा रोगसंग्रहे ॥ ← *Carakasamhitā* 6.30.7cd (*Ca* 1941: 634).

⁷⁹⁷ The remark was not commented on by Ḍalhana.

⁷⁹⁸ *Carakasamhitā* 1.19.9cd (*Ca* 1941: 112): रोगाध्याये प्रकाशिताः.

⁷⁹⁹ *Carakasamhitā* 1.19.3 (*Ca* 1941: 110): विंशतिर्योनिव्यापदः ।

passage is identical to the later verses. It is beyond doubt that this passage originated in the *Carakasamhitā* and was borrowed by the editors of the vulgate text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*.⁸⁰⁰

⁸⁰⁰ The above three hemistichs in *anuṣṭubh* are also repeated in the *MN*₃ 62.1–2ab. Given that the subsequent verses in the *MN*₃ stem from the *Suśrutasamhitā*, it is likely that *MN*₃ 62.1–2ab too was borrowed from from the *Suśrutasamhitā* and not from its original location in the *Carakasamhitā*).

Translation

- 1 And now I shall explain the countermeasures against disorders of the female reproductive system (*yonivyāpat*).⁸⁰¹
- *3 For good men, a woman is the most pleasurable thing. Therefore a physician should diligently attend to the diseases located in the female reproductive system (*yoni*), because he is entirely devoted to it (that is, to curing these diseases) for the sake of (people's) happiness.⁸⁰²
- *4 A corrupted female reproductive system (*yoni*) cannot consume semen (*bīja*), and therefore, the woman cannot take a fetus (that is, become pregnant). She gets severe prolapses (*arśas*), abdominal lump (*gulma*) and similarly many other diseases (*roga*).
- *5 Humours (*doṣa*), wind (*vāta*), etc., corrupted due to faulty medical treatment (*mithyopacāra*),⁸⁰³ sexual activity, fate, and also defects (*doṣa*) of menstrual blood (*ārtava*) and semen (*bīja*), produce various diseases in the female reproductive organ (*yoni*). These 20 diseases are taught here distinctly and one by one along with their treatment

801 On this broad understanding of the term *yoni* as “female reproductive system” see Das 2003: pp. 572–5.

802 As our translation indicates, the sentence construction does not allow an unambiguous identification of who or what is the referent of the pronoun *tad* in the compound form *tadadhīna* ‘devoted to it.’ Our current understanding is that *tad* refers to the ‘most pleasurable thing’ mentioned in pāda a. It could, however, also refer to ‘them,’ that is, the ‘good men.’

803 In our translation of the compound मिथ्योपचार, we decided for the technical meaning of the term उपचार, that is, “medical application” or “treatment.” The combination मिथ्या+उप-√चर् is attested several times in medical literature. At least once, at *Carakasamhitā* 3.3.38 (Ca 1941: 245), it is given an explicit gloss by Cakrapāṇidatta: मिथ्योपचरितानिति असम्यक् चिकित्सितान् “... given improper therapy”. In the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (Su 1938), it is used once in a passage (6.18.30 (Su 1938: 635)) where it refers specifically to the wrong application of irrigation (*tarpaṇa*) and roasting (*puṭapāka*), both of which are mentioned in the previous verse. Another use of the compound in a similar meaning is found in a citation from Bhoja’s work quoted by Gayadāsa at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 2.5.17 (Su 1938: 287): श्वित्रं तु द्विविधं प्रोक्तं दोषजं व्रणजं तथा । तत्र मिथ्योपचाराद्धि व्रणस्य व्रणजं स्मृतम् ॥ “... arises from wrong treatment of the wound.” In contrast to this, the parallel verse in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 6.38.5ab (Su 1938: 668) = *Carakasamhitā* 6.30.8 (Ca 1941: 634) = MN₃ 62.1 reads मिथ्याचार “wrong conduct.” All commentators (Cakrapāṇidatta on the *Carakasamhitā*, Śrīkaṇṭhadatta on the MN₃, and Ḍalhaṇa on the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*) explain that the wrong conduct stands here specifically for unwholesome diet. The parallel in *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasaṃhitā* 6.33.27 (Ah 1939: 895) = *Aṣṭāṅgasaṃgraha* 6.38.34a (As 1980: 829) plainly reads दुष्टभोजन “corrupted food” instead.

(*bheṣaja*), causes (*hetu*) and signs (*cihna*).

*6.1 Because of wind (*vāta*), female reproductive organ (*yonī*) becomes:

1. udāvartā (*udāvartā*),
2. called Infertile (*vandhyā*), and
3. Sprung (*plutā*),
4. Flooded (*pariplutā*), and
5. Windy (*vātalā*).

*6.2 And because of choler (*pitta*), occur:

1. With bloodloss (*raktakṣayā*),
2. Vomiting (*vāminī*), and
3. Causing a Fall (*sraṃsanī*),
4. Child-murderess (*putraghnī*), and also
5. Bilious / Choleric (*pittalā*).

*7.1 And because of phlegm (*kapha*) occur:

1. Extremely Excited (*atyānandā*),
2. Protuberant (*karṇinī*), and
3. & 4. two Caraṇī (*caraṇī*), and
5. other Phlegmatic (*śleṣmalā*).

*7.2 And similarly there are other (kinds of morbid female reproductive system) involving all *doṣas*:

1. Impotent (*śaṇḍhī*),
2. With testicles (*aṇḍīnī*),
3. two Huge (*mahatī*),
4. With a needle-like opening (*sūcīvaktrā*),
5. Sarvātmikā (*sarvātmikā*).

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

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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](#), [320](#)
- Arabian jasmine (*trṇaśūnya*) see ?? (*mallikā*), [GVDB](#): 190 [MW](#): 453 says *Jasminium sambac*. [GVDB](#): 190 also suggest ?? (*ketaka*) : [320](#)
- Arabian jasmine (*trṇaśūlya*) probably an alternative pronunciation for [Arabian jasmine](#) (*trṇaśūnya*), [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](#), [335](#)
- 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 : [320](#)
- 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](#), [320](#)
- 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 (*sthira*) see [beggarweed](#) (*śālaparṇī*), [GVDB](#): 458 : [198](#)

- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) see
 beggarweed (*śālaparṇī*) : 55, 113, 330
- 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 : 321
- beleric myrobalan (*bibhītaka*) *Terminalia bellirica* Roxb. One of the components of the three myrobalans (*triphalā*)
 GVDB: 274, 196 : 337
- Bengal quince (*bilva*) *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. See AVS: 1, 62, Chevillard: 161, NK: 1, #62, i(MW: 732a) : 81, 103, 105, 110, 189, 326, 336
- 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 : 326
- black creeper (*kālānusārī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br. or *Cryptolepis buehneri* Roemer & Schultes. Probably a synonym for *kṛṣṇasārīvā* (GVDB: 94–95). I. frutescens has dark, rust-colored stems, so has been preferred here. However, *Cryptolepis grandiflora*, Wight, also has black stems. Synonym of *kālānusārīṇī*, *kālānusārīvā*. *kālānusārya* may be a synonym of *tagara*, itself hard to identify : 187, 321
- 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, 324
- black pepper (*marica*) *Piper nigrum*, L. See ADPS: 294, NK: 1, #1929. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 341) : 114, 204, 220, 337
- black sarsaparilla (*kālānusārīvā*) see Indian sarsaparilla (*sārīvā*); see also black creeper (*kālānusārī*). Problems about identifying this plant are discussed at GVDB: 94–95 and GVDB: 429–431 : 206
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420 : 136, 322
- 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, 325
- 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, 322
- bluebell barleria (*sahā*) see bluebell barleria (*sahācara*), GVDB: 428 : 112, 197
- bluebell barleria (*sahācara*) see bluebell

- barleria** (*saireyaka*), GVDB: 427 : 322
 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 : 322
 bread flower (*āsphota*) GVDB: 41 argue for *Vallisneria spiralis* (Roth ex Roem. & Schult.) Kuntze. This has the right distribution in S. Asia POWO: s.v. : 199
 bull's head (*gokṣura*) *Tribulus terrestris* L. GVDB: 144–145, 193. A component of lesser five roots : 322
 bull's head (*trikaṇṭaka*) → **bull's head** (*gokṣura*) GVDB: 193. A component of lesser five roots : 330
 bulrush (*kaṣeru*) "Two species, *Scirpus kysoor* Roxb., and *S. grossus* Linn. f., are used" GVDB: 85. Also *kaṣeruka* and *kaseru* : 108, 109, 112
 camphor (*karpūra*) → *śītaśiva*. *Cinnamomum camphora*, (L.) Sieb. See IGP 253 : 322
 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, 322
 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, 322
 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 (*tārāvitāra*) Unknown. It is not even certain that these are minerals. The variant reading in the vulgate, *tāraḥ sutāraḥ* was glossed by Ḍalhaṇa on 5.3.14 (Su 1938: 568) as follows *tāro rūpyam, sutāraḥ pāradaḥ*, "tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury." : 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, 335
 champak (*campaka*) *Magnolia champaca* (L.) Baill. ex Pierre, GVDB: 154 : 206
 chebulic myrobalan (*haritakī*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. GVDB: 466 : 111, 136, 206, 337
 cherry (*elavālu*) *Prunus cerasus*, L. See GVDB: 58 for a thoughtful discussion NK: 1, #2037 : 153, 206, 323
 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, 323
 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, 323](#)
- colocynth (*mṛgādanī*) see [colocynth](#)
(indravāruṇī) [GVDB: 46, 318: 188](#)
- common smilax (*śvadamīṣṭra*) *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: 323](#)
- coriander (*kustumburya*) see [coriander](#)
(dhānyaka), [GVDB: 113: 206](#)
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) *Erythrina*
suberosa Roxb. See [GVDB: 245:](#)
[158, 323](#)
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) 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*
mauritanica, 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, 327, 339](#)
- 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: 326, 339](#)
- croton tree (*nāgadantī*) *Croton persimilis*
 Müll.Arg., [GVDB: 222: 204, 324, 334](#)

- 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 (?) (*kāka2*) 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, 324
- datura (*dhutturakā*) 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, 324
- 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, 324, 337
- 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 (?) (*lambaradā*) Unknown; cf. **GVDB**: 348: 145
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) cf. **Indian barberry** (*añjana*): 46, 56, 328
- 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, 337
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭa*) Probably a synonym for *karahāṭa* (**emetic nut**), q.v., **GVDB**: 74: 324
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭaka*) see **emetic nut** (*karaghāṭa*): 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.: 324
- 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. Perhaps *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 *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.66–69 (**Su** 1938: 169). There are two *pañcamūlas*, the *laghupañcamūla* (the lesser five roots) and *bṛhatpañcamūla*

- (greater five roots), with differing properties. Combined they are called *daśamūla* (ten roots). See also *Mahākośa*: 1, 468 : 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, 325
- 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, 325
- 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 : 325, 342
- 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) : 326
- 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 (*kṣīraavidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq. See ADPS: 510, AVS: 3, 222, AVS: 3, 1717 ff : 109, 329, 332–334
- 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 (*rājavykṣa*) 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, 325
- 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 ?? (*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." : 325
- grapes (*drākṣā*) *Vitis vinifera* L. GVDB: 208–209 : 188
- greater five roots (*br̥hatpañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.68–69 (Su 1938: 169). Consists of **Bengal quince**, **migraine tree**, **Indian trumpet tree**, **crimson trumpet-flower tree**, and **white teak** : 325, 329, 337
- 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, 325
- gummy gardenia (*pr̥thvīkā*) ← *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, 330
- 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, 330
- hare foot uraria (*pr̥śniparṇī*) → *sahā*? *Uraria lagopoides*, DC. and *U. picta* Desv. See GVDB: 257–258, GJM1: 577, Dymock: 1, 426, AVS: 1, 750 ff, NK: 1, #2542; ADPS: 382, AVS: 2, 319 and AVS: 4, 366 are confusing. Also called *pr̥thakparṇī*. A component of **lesser five roots** : 108, 109, 326
- 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
(*amṛtavalli*) See *amṛtā* : 280
- hedge caper (*hiṃsrā*) *Capparis sepiaria* L.,
GVDB: 471, IHR: 124, K & B: 1, 109 : 326
- hedge caper (*kākādanī*) synonym of *hedge caper* (*hiṃsrā*), GVDB: 88, 471,
IHR: 124, K & B: 1, 109. This name is not used in the *Carakasamhitā*. At 5.7.31 (Su 1938: 583), Ḍalhaṇa glossed *kākādanī* as *black Bengal quince* (*kr̥ṣṇāsrīphalikā*). 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 : 327
- 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 (*sthaṇḍeya*) see *Himalayan yew* (*sthaṇḍeyaka*) : 206
- Himalayan yew (*sthaṇḍeyaka*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 458–459) suggested *Taxus baccata* L., but that tree is endemic to the Mediterranean and not South Asia. Poudel et al. 2013 show that *T. contorta* Griff., *T. mairei* (Lemée & Lév.) and *T. wallichiana* Zucc. are distributed in the Hindu Kush - Himalaya region. The Nepalese name *Thuneraka* is etymologically cognate with the Sanskrit name. *T. contorta* is of medicinal importance, so its common name is used here : 187, 327
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*, L. See ADPS: 387, AVS: 1, 281, NK: 1, #363 : 111, 138, 152, 189, 327
- 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*) : 327
- Holostemma creeper (*jīvantī*) → *sūryavallī*? *Holostemma ada-kodien*, Schultes. See ADPS: 195, AVS: 3, 167, 169, NK: 1, #1242 : 112, 333
- holy basil (*surasa*) *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, Linn. GVDB: 438–439 : 189
- honey (*kṣaudra*) Eight varieties of honey are described in the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* (NK: 2, Appendix 192). *Kṣaudra* is the product of a small bee of tawny colour, called *kṣudra* : 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 Chuneekar (GVDB: 409). Sometimes identified with *scutch grass* (*dūrvā*) (GVDB: 409). Identified as *Ceratophyllum demersum* Linn. (“hornwort”) by AVS: 2, 56–57x : 110, 327, 334

- hornwort (*jalaśūka*) → *jalanīlikā*.
Ceratophyllum demersum, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 56, [IGP](#): 232. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 166) suggest [horned pondweed](#). Ḍalhaṇa noted on 1.16.19 ([Su 1938](#): 79) that some people interpret it as a poisonous, hairy, air-breathing, underwater creature: 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, 327
- 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, 327
- 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
- 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, 320, 328
- Indian aconite (*viṣā*) see [Indian aconite](#) (*ativiṣā*), [GVDB](#): 12, 373: 320, 333
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) see [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*) Cf. [elixir salve](#) (*rasañjana*): 56, 139, 324
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis holstii* Engl., [Dymock](#): 1, 65, [NK](#): 1, #335, #685, [GJM1](#): 562, [IGP](#): 141, [GVDB](#): 203: 152, 153, 328, 337
- Indian barberry (*dārvī*) see [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*): 221
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) see [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*): 137
- Indian bat tree (*śuṅgā*) → *parkaṭīṣṭka* according to *Śabdasindhu*: 1058; idem also suggests *vaṭaṣṭka*, 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, 328
- 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, 328
- 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* : 328
- Indian elm (*ciribilva*) see [Indian elm](#) (*cirabilva*) : 203
- Indian frankincense (*agamṛttikā*) see [Indian frankincense](#) (*śallakī*), according to Ḍalhaṇa's comment on *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.7.29. A variant form of [Indian frankincense](#) (*agavṛttikā*) : 198
- Indian frankincense (*agavṛttikā*) see ?? (*nagavṛttikā*), [GVDB](#): 3, 392 : 328
- 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, 328
- 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 : 329
- 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, 333
- 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, 332
- 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 buehneri*, Roemer & Schultes [AVS](#): 3, 141, 145, 203, [NK](#): 1, #1283, 1210, [ADPS](#): 429–430 : 153, 321, 325, 329
- Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*) *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. See [Indian sarsaparilla](#) (*sārivā*). [ADPS](#): 434, [AVS](#): 3, 141–145, [NK](#): 1, #1210, [GVDB](#): 430 : 329
- Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*) *Rauvolfia serpentina*, (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. See [NK](#): 1, #2099, [ADPS](#): 439, [GVDB](#): 425; cf. SS 5.5.76–78 : 189, 329
- 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, 329
- Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*) *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. [GVDB](#): 172–173. A component of greater five roots : 329
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) → [Indian trumpet tree](#) (*śyonāka*). *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. [GVDB](#): 172–173. A component of greater five roots : 326
- 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, 330
- 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, 330
- 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, 330
- 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](#) (*kālakūṭa*) : 147, 330
- jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) possibly *Abrus precatorius*, L. Cf. RRS 21.14. See [AVS](#): 1, 10, [NK](#): 1, #6, [Potter_{rev}](#): 168. The Nepalese witnesses agree on the feminine form, *kālakūṭā*, while the more normal gender is masculine. The

- etymology of the name *kāla-kūṭa*, “black-top,” fits with the striking appearance of jequirity seeds.
 GVDB: 93 does not attempt to identify the plant. The *Rasaratnasamuccaya* of pseudo-Vāgbhaṭa (21.14) says that the *kālakūṭa* poison is similar to “crow’s beak” (*kākacañcu*), which is a more certain name for jequirity. Another hypothesis for the name, which could be translated “time/death-peak” might connect it with Sandakphu mountain, whose name is Lepcha for “the height of the poisonous plant” because of the abundance of *Aconitum ferox* on the mountain : 146, 330
- kutki (*kaṭukā*) *Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth. (GVDB: 64–65) : 100, 117, 330
- kutki (*kaṭurohañī*) → kutki (*kaṭukā*), GVDB: 66, 64–65 : 187
- kutki (*kaṭurohiñī*) see kutki (*kaṭukā*), GVDB: 66, 64–65 : 206
- leadwort (*agniśikhā*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *rosea*?), L. See NK: 1, #1966, 1967 : 330
- 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 (*agniśikhā*) : 144
- lemon grass (*uśīrabheda*) → *lāmajja*. *Cymbopogon jwarancusa* (Jones ex Roxb.) Schult. See NK: 1, #176 : 338
- 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 : 322, 325, 326, 337, 341
- liquorice (?) (*klitaka*) *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, 330
- liquorice (*yaṣṭī*) see liquorice (*madhuka*) : 188
- liquorice (*yaṣṭīmadhuka*) see liquorice (*madhuka*) : 56
- lodh tree (*lodhra*) *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb. See GJM1: 597, ADPS: 279 f, NK: 1, #2420. T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 351–352) notes that there are two varieties, *S. racemosa*, qualified as *śāvara*, and *S. crataegoides* Buch.-Ham. for *paṭṭikā lodhra* : 46, 153, 187, 221
- long pepper (*kr̥ṣṇā*) see long pepper (*pippalī*) : 220
- long pepper (*māgadha*) see long pepper (*pippalī*) : 139
- long pepper (*pippalī*) 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, 331, 337
- long pepper root (*pippalīmūla*) see long pepper (*pippalī*) : 204
- long-stamen *Wendlandia* (?) (*prapaundarika*) See the substantial discussion by T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 261). They note that it is used mainly in eye troubles and frequently with liquorice, than which it is has been said to be thicker, and sweet in taste. A candidate they suggest is *Wendlandia heynei* (Sult.) Santapau & Merchant (formerly *W. exserta*), native to India; I have accepted that provisionally : 146, 187, 206, 331
- long-stamen *Wendlandia* (?) (*tilaka*) see long-stamen *Wendlandia* (?)

- (*prapaundarika*), **GVDB**: 183–184.
Sometimes thought to be a synonym of **viburnum** (*tilvaka*), q.v., but this is probably erroneous: **206, 338**
- lotus (*nalina*) see **sacred lotus** (*kamala*), **GVDB**: 218: **220, 221**
- lotus stalk (*mṛṇāla*) “Leaf stalk of **sacred lotus**” **GVDB**: 318: **110**
- luffa (*jālinī*) see **luffa** (*koṣātakī*), **GVDB**: 168: **146, 196**
- luffa (*kośavatī*) 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: **331**
- 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” (φύλλα, *folium*) in the Mediterranean world that parallels the Sanskrit usage. Kokoszko and Rzeźnicka 2018: 584 note that Dioscorides (fl. 1st cent. CE) stated that malabathrum came from India, although Dioscorides’ description of malabathrum is of a plant like a *Nymphoides indica* (L.) Kuntze, not a tree (Osbaldeston and Wood 2000: 17): **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 *rakṣoghnā* 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, 325**
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacardium*, L. See **NK**: 1, #2269, **AVS**: 5, 98, **ADPS**: 85–86, **GVDB**: 23, 283: **105, 139, 332**
- 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 *Sauśrutanighaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann (GVDB: 373 f; ADPS: 518, a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (NK: #862) : 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, 326
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. GVDB: 126: see [purple roscoe](#) and [giant potato](#): 55, 334
- 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: 332
- 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 (*ullaka*) *kutki* (*kaṭukā*) or ?? (*latākastūrikā*), according to GVDB: 54; I have chosen the latter identity since *A. moschatus* can cause phototoxic dermatitis (**died-2024**) : 332
- 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, 332
- 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: 332
- odal oil plant (*iṅgudi*) see [odal oil plant](#): 195
- odal oil plant (*iṅgudī*) Kirtikar et al. (K & B: 5, 79) also firmly identify *iṅgudī* as *Sarcostigma kleinii* Wight & Arn., a liana well known in the Western Ghats and widely used in āyurveda, including for skin diseases. *Balanites agyptiaca* (L.) Delile, GVDB: 43 is an African plant and unlikely to be the original āyurvedic *iṅgudi*. : 332
- oleander spurge (*mahāvṛkṣa*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), GVDB: 302-303: 203
- oleander spurge (*nandā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), GVDB: 215: 337
- 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 : 333, 337
- 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, 335
- painted uraria (*pr̥ṣṇaparṇī*) *Urarja 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*) → *arkaparṇī*, *Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merr. GVDB: 23–24. Maybe identical to Indian ipecac, giant potato and similar sweet, milky plants. See GVDB: 24, 127, 238, 441, 443 for discussion. For discussion in the context of *Holostemma creeper*, see ADPS: 195 and AVS: 3, 171. The etymology of the name suggests *Helianthus annuus* Linn., but this plant is native to the Americas : 152, 329
- 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, 333
- peas (*hareṇukā*) see *peas* (*hareṇu*) : 206
- peas (*satīna*) see *peas* (*hareṇu*), GVDB: 419–420 : 333
- peepul tree (*aśvattha*) *Ficus religiosa*, L. See ADPS: 63. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 338–339) : 161
- periploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*) *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 : 333
- 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) : 329, 333
- 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. : 337
- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb., GVDB: 232–233 : 110, 152, 321
- 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 *vrkṣaruhā*, *māmsarohiṇī*, or *durvā*, none of which help : 145, 329
- 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 *Suśrutasamhitā* 5.6.3 : 204, 334
- 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, 334
- 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, 334
- prickly chaff-flower (*vasira*) also *vaśīra*. Perhaps *Achyranthes aspera*, L. GVDB: 362 describes several possible identities, including *sūryāvarta*, [prickly chaff-flower](#) and *markaṭatrṇa*. 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 : 334
- prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojī*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 145–146) observe that this plant name is unique to the *Suśrutasamhitā*. Since the usage is similar to that of [prickly-leaved elephant's foot](#) (*gojihvā*), q.v., it is almost certain to be the same plant. : 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 (*kāpittha*) relating to or derived from the [wood-apple](#) (*kapittha*) : 334
- purging nut (*dravantī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See AVS: 3, 261, NK: 1, #1374. A.k.a. *mūṣikaparṇī* : 334
- 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 *Suśrutasamhitā* 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 (*kṣīrakākolī*) GVDB: 89 notes that many physicians use *Roscoeia procera* Wall. in this context. But the identification is uncertain. Possibly connected to milk-white or giant potato: 109, 329, 332
- pussy willow (*vetasa*) *Salix caprea* L., GVDB: 380–381, q.v. for the argument that this is not the same as ?? (*vetra*): 334
- 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 (*morāṭa*) → *mūrvā*, *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 (GJM1: 590) and the sources he cited, including NK: 1, #2216, K & B: 4, 2457; ADPS: 310 mention this identity as being local to Bengal, but note that the plant is not a creeper: 112, 326
- realgar (*manaḥśīlā*) *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 kaoolinum or china clay: 153, 187, 189, 206, 220, 221
- red physic nut (*dantī*) *Baliospermum solanifolium* (Burm.) Suresh, GVDB: 200: 103, 146, 198, 204, 334
- 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, Watt_{Comm}: 963–971: 38, 81, 116, 187, 220, 322
- 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, 335
- royal jasmine (*sumanā*) see royal jasmine (*mālatī*), GVDB: 437: 206
- sacred lotus (*kamala*) *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn., GVDB: 73–74, Dutt: 110, NK: 1, #1698: 331, 335
- sacred lotus (*padma*) see sacred lotus (*kamala*), GVDB: 235–236: 37, 110, 137, 206, 339
- saffron (*bāhlīka*) syn. of saffron (*kuṅkuma*), q.v., GVDB: 273–274: 204
- saffron (*kuṅkuma*) *Crocus sativus* Linn., GVDB: 100. On the history of confusions between saffron and turmeric, see Cox 2011: 198, 335
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkolla*) *Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang.,

- GVDB: 5–6. See also AVS: 1, 77; cf. NK: 1, #88: 136, 189, 196, 198, 335
- sage-leaved alangium (*añkoṭha*) see [sage-leaved alangium](#) (*añkolla*): 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, 339
- 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 Chunekar (GVDB) suggest *Lagerstroemeia parviflora* Roxb. (*sidhraka/siddhaka*) and L. *flos-reginae* Retz. (*jārula* by some). See GVDB: 432: 203, 206, 335
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattariga*. *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
- scramberry (*tālīsapatra*) see [scramberry](#) (*tālīśa*): 206
- scramberry (*tālīśa*) T. B. Singh and Chunekar (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, 336
- scurfy pea (*bākucī*) Identified as *Cullen corylifolia* (L.) Medik. ADPS: 69–70, GVDB: 272: 334
- scutch grass (*dūrvā*) *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers., GVDB: 205: 327, 336
- scutch grass (*granthilā*) see [scutch grass](#) (*dūrvā*), [Mahākośa](#): 1, 303, citing the *Rājaniḥgaṇṭu*. 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 *Rājaniḥgaṇṭu* 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 Chunekar 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, 336
- sedge (*kuṭannaṭā*) 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, 322
- silk-cotton tree (*śālmālī*) *Bombax malabarica*. See Issar: 152: 206
- siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbeck*, Benth. See

- AVS: 1, 81, NK: 1, #91, GVDB: 399–400.
Cf. white siris : 152, 182, 195–199, 205, 206, 220, 339
- siris seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) Albizia lebbeck, 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, 336
- 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 (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) : 197, 206
- spikenard (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) Nardostachys jatamansi (D. Don) DC, GVDB: 163. See also NK: 1, #1691. Known to ancient Greek authors (Ball 1888: 343–344) : 336, 337
- spikenard (*māṁsī*) see spikenard (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) : 153, 188, 206
- spikenard (*nalada*) see spikenard (*jaṭāmāṁsī*) : 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) :
- spurge (?) (*nandanā*) an unknown poisonous plant, a.k.a. (equally obscurely) *udīmānaka*, GVDB: 215 (where it is m.). Perhaps a synonym of oleander spurge (*snuhī*), like oleander spurge (*nandā*) : 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 : 333
- 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 Suśrutasaṁhitā 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, 325
- ten roots (*daśamūla*) Described at Suśrutasaṁhitā 1.38.70–71 (Su 1938: 169) as a combination of the lesser five roots and the greater five roots : 325
- 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, 321

- 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, 337
- 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. *Abhidhānamañjarī*), NK: 1, #796 ff. *Potter*_{rev}: 292 f, ADPS: 132. Possibly the same plant as [plumed cockscomb](#) (*indīvara*) (GVDB: 76, 44–45) : 145, 146, 321, 333
- three heating spices (*tryūṣaṇa*) *śuṇṭhī* (Dried ginger) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. ADPS: 50, NK: 1, #2658, AVS: 5, 435, IGP 1232, *pippalī* (long pepper) *Piper longum*, L. ADPS: 374, NK: 1, #1928, and *marica* (black pepper) *Piper nigrum*, L. ADPS: 294, NK: 1, #1929 : 83, 152
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva magna* (Lour.) DC. See AVS: 2, 202; cf. NK: 1, #696 : 139, 189, 204, 337
- 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, 338
- 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, 337
- 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, 321
- 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 : 338
- velvet bean (*svayamguptā*) *Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC., GVDB: 461, who say that the plant is known in the *Carakasamhitā* but not the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* : 220, 338
- velvet bean (*ārṣabhī*) see [velvet bean](#)

- (*r̥sabhi*) and velvet bean (*svayaṃguptā*). *Mahākośa*: 1, 94, citing the *Rājanighaṇṭu* 3.50, 201 : 196
- velvet bean (*r̥sabhi*) see velvet bean (*svayaṃguptā*), MW: 226, GVDB: 56 : 338
- velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) *Cissampelos pariera*, L. See ADPS: 366, NK: 1, #592, GJM1: 573, AVS: 1, 95; cf. AVS: 2, 277 : 46, 83, 100, 116, 152, 187, 188, 327
- velvet-mite (*indragopa*) *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978 : 135
- verbena (*bhārgī*) see verbena (*bhārgī*) : 188, 206
- verbena (*bhārgī*) → phaṇjī.
Clerodendrum serratum (L.) Moon or *C. serratum*; see AVS: 2, 121, ADPS: 87 : 338
- verbena (*phaṇjī*) *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, 338
- 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, 331, 338
- 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 (?) (*kumudavati*) : 146
- water snowflake (?) (*kumudavati*) 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, 323, 338
- watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) MW: 183 : 136
- weaver’s beam tree (*mokṣaka*) see weaver’s beam tree (*muṣkaka*) : 339
- weaver’s beam tree (*muṣkaka*) *Schrebera swietenoides*, Roxb. See AVS: 5, 88, Lord, NK: 1, #2246, GVDB: 242–243 : 105, 158, 339
- 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*, *indravārūṇi*, *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 : 339
- 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, 337
- 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 Chuneekar (GVDB: 424) discussed whether this term might be broadened to any resinous tree and decided against : 46, 81, 335, 339
- white dammer tree (*sarjja*) see *white dammer tree* (*sarja*) : 203
- white lotus (*puṇḍarīka*) see *sacred lotus* (*padma*), GVDB: 252 : 148
- white sandalwood (*bhadraśriya*) 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, 339
- white siris (?) (*kapītana*) T. B. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 72–73) note that this stands for at least two plants, milky and non-milky. For the latter type, they propose *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth., *Thespesia* (hibiscus-like, but not endemic to S. Asia) or *Spondias* (cashew). Six different identifications are made by Monier-Williams et al. (MW: 251), without authority : 203
- white siris (*kaṭabhī*) *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth. or *A. lebeck* (Linn.) Benth. GVDB: 63–64, AVS: 1, 81–84. Cf. *siris* : 182, 336
- white siris (*kiṇihī*) *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth., GVDB: 98, which also discusses past confusions; NK: 1, #93 : 152, 188
- white teak (*kārśmarī*) → *kāśmarī* : 221
- white teak (*kāśmarya*) see *white teak* (*kāśmarī*) : 206
- white teak (*kāśmaryā*) see *white teak* (*kāśmarī*) : 81
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarya*, *kārśmarī*, *madhuparṇī*. Gmelina arborea, Roxb. See GJM1: 543, Trees: 51, ADPS: 240, GVDB: 96–97 : 110, 112, 326, 340
- white teak (*madhuparṇī*) → *kāśmarī* : 81
- white water-lily (*kumuda*) *Nymphaea alba*, Linn., GVDB: 105 : 37, 206, 325
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See further *wild asparagus* (*śatāvarī*) Possibly a syn. for *nandana*. The bark of wild asparagus is toxic : 138
- wild asparagus (*śatāvarī*) *Asparagus racemosus*, Willd. See ADPS: 441, AVS: 1, 218, NK: 1, #264, IGP: 103, AVS: 4, 249 ff, Dymock: 3, 482 ff : 108–110, 112, 226, 340
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhallātaka*, *lāṅgālī*, *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, 340
- 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 (*tailaparnika*) see wild spider flower : 206
- wild spider flower (*tilaparnī*) *Cleome gynandra* L., GVDB: 184-185, but see the discussion of the other drug plants sometimes intended by this name : 340
- 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., *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.5.75 (Su 1938: 579) they cannot be the same plant. GVDB: 138-139 argued for *Symphorema polyandrum* Wight, which they also assigned to *sinduvāra*. When discussing *śaṅkhaṇḍī*, another possible synonym, Sivaraman and Balachandran (ADPS: 425-427) also suggest *Canscora alata* (Roth) Wall. (syn of *Canscora decussata* Schultes & Schultes f.) and *Convolvulus pluricaulis* Choisy. The former has a more appropriate distribution and is chosen here : 340
- winged-stem canscora (*giryāhvā*) see winged-stem canscora (*girikarṇikā*) : 339
- Withania (aśvagandhā)* *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See AVS: 5, 409 f, Dymock: 2, 566 f, 150, GVDB: 29, Chevillard: 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
- woody turmeric (*kāleyaka*) *Coscinium 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 : 330, 341
- 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., DED₂: #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 \sqrt{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 (*kṛṣṇatuṇḍa*) 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 *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.5.71 (Su 1938: 579) it seems to be specifically the musk that is meant. so the reference may be to the Musk Deer (*Moschus moschiferus* L.). But all species produce musk, so *prṣata* may also be simply Chital or Spotted Deer. See also IW: 93 : 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*, *ucuiṅgā*, 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, 342](#)
- 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 *haṃsira* as the name of this rat : [194, 196](#)
- grey peacock-pheasant (*jīvājīvaka*) *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 *cunṭan*, “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 गौघेरक 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, 343](#)
- Indian monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802), [Reptiles](#): 58–60, ill. : [55, 140, 342](#)
- Indian peafowl (*mayūra*) *Pavo cristatus*, Linn., [Woodcock 1980](#): 39 : [134](#)
- invincible rat (*ajita*) etymological meaning; unidentifiable : [194, 197](#)
- kaśāyavāsika (*kaśāyavāsika*) 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](#)
- kṛṣṇagodhā (*kṛṣṇagodhā*) 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 (*patraṇṣcika*) 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 Tulu “cikkeli, a small variety of mouse,” and other Dravidian works related to Tamil *cikka* “small,” DED₂: #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” DED₂: 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. auro-punctatus* (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 *cynocephala*), See Woodcock 1980: 64 : 134, 198
- picciṭā (*picciṭā*) unknown insect; etymologically perhaps similar to *piccata* “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” : 345
- 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 Hodgsons’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, 344
- revolver (*āvarttaka*) 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 J. 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, 341
- 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-ānimal*) 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

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‘lids’ - *śārava*: 157

‘liquors’ - *medaka*: 157

‘orange-dwellers’ - *kaṣāyavāsika*: 156

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Todo list

■ Cite Paul Courtright, Ganesha book.	19
■ 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 Hidas 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

 triad? –DW	283
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