

A Translation of the Nepalese Text of the *Suśrutasamhitā*

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Contents

Introduction	9
 Part 1. Sūtrasthāna	 11
Sūtrasthāna 1: The Origin of Medical Knowledge	13
Literature	13
Translation	13
 Sūtrasthāna 2: The Initiation of a Student	 21
Literature	21
Translation	21
 Sūtrasthāna 3: The Table of Contents	 23
Literature	23
Translation	23
 Sūtrasthāna 11: Preparing and using caustics	 25
 Sūtrasthāna 13: On Leeches	 27
Literature	27
Translation	27
 Sūtrasthāna 14: On the Properties of Blood	 35
Previous scholarship	35
Translation	35
 Sūtrasthāna 16: Repairing Pierced Ears	 43
Previous literature	43

Translation	43
Sūtrasthāna 28: Unfavourable Prognosis in Patients with Sores	53
Literature	53
Translation	53
Sūtrasthāna 46: The Rules about Food and Drink	55
Introduction	55
 Part 2. Nidānasthāna	 57
Nidānasthāna 1: The Diagnosis of Diseases Caused by Wind	59
Literature	59
Subject matter	59
Translation	59
 Part 3. Śārīrasthāna	 69
Śārīrasthāna 2: On Semen and Menstrual Fluid	71
Literature	71
Translation	71
Diagnosis by humours	72
Therapies for menstrual blood	75
During menstruation	76
Śārīrasthāna 3: On Conception and the Development of the Embryo	81
Literature	81
Translation	81
 Part 4. Cikitsāsthāna	 89
Cikitsāsthāna 4: On the Treatment of Wind Diseases	91
Literature	91
Translation	91

Cikitsāsthāna 5: On the Treatment of Serious Wind Diseases	99
Literature	99
Translation	99
Cikitsāsthāna 15: On Difficult Delivery	111
Literature	111
Translation	111
 Part 5. Kalpasthāna	 115
Kalpasthāna: Introduction	117
The Sequence of Chapters	117
Kalpasthāna 1: Protecting the King from Poison	119
Introduction	119
The meaning of “kalpa”	119
Chapter 1 of the Kalpasthāna	119
Literature	120
Manuscript notes	121
Translation	122
[Threats to the king]	122
Kalpasthāna 2: Poisonous Plants	131
Introduction	131
Literature	132
Translation	132
The effects of poisons	135
Slow-acting poison	138
The invincible ghee	142
Curing the ‘slow-acting’ poison	142
Kalpasthāna 3: Poisonous Insects and Animals	143
Literature	143
Translation	143
The origin of poison	147
Patients beyond help	149

Kalpasthāna 4: Snakes and Envenomation	151
Introduction	151
Literature	152
The Seven Stages of Toxic Shock	153
Translation	154
[The Taxonomy of Snakes]	154
[Behaviours]	155
[Enumeration of Snakes]	158
[Breeding and Gender]	160
[Symptoms of snakebite]	161
[Summary Verses]	164
Kalpasthāna 5: Therapy for those Bitten by Snakes	167
Introduction	167
Literature	167
Translation	168
The application of mantras	169
Blood letting	170
Internal medications	170
Therapies at each pulse of toxic reaction	171
Subsequent therapies	173
Kalpasthāna 6: Rats and Rabies	179
Introduction	179
Mouse or Rat?	179
Literature	180
Translation	180
Kalpasthāna 7: Beating Drums	183
Introduction	183
Literature	183
Translation	183
Kalpasthāna 8: Poisonous insects	189
Introduction	189
Literature	189
Translation	189
Taxonomy of insects	189

Symptoms	189
Taxonomy according to symptoms and prognosis	189
Therapies	189
Taxonomy of scorpions	190
Therapies for scorpion-sting	190
Symptoms of spider poisoning	190
Origin story for spiders	190
Taxonomy of spiders	190
Specific symptoms and treatment for spider poisoning	190
Untreatable spider poisons	190
Curable and incurable	190
Therapies for spider poisoning	190
General therapies for poisoning	191
End of the Suśrutasaṃhitā	191

Part 6. Uttarantra 193

Uttarantra 17: Preventing Diseases of the Pupil 195

Literature	195
Translation	195
[Complications]	205
[Characteristics of the probe]	205
[Complications]	205

Uttarantra 38: Diseases of the Female Reproductive System 209

Introduction	209
Literature	209
Placement of the Chapter	209
Parallels	211
Philological notes	212
Metrical alterations	212
The original opening verses	212
Translation	214

Uttarantra 39: On Fevers and their Management [draft] 207

Literature	207
Remarks on the Nepalese version	207

Translation	207
Uttaratantra 65: Rules of Interpretation	221
Literature	221
Early Sources	221
The <i>Arthaśāstra</i>	222
The <i>Yuktidīpikā</i>	222
Tamil literature	222
The <i>Viṣṇudharmottarapurāṇa</i>	223
The <i>Saddanīti</i>	224
Āyurvedic literature	229
Tantrayukti-inventories	235
Earlier Listing	236
Later Listing	236
Terminology	237
1. <i>adhikaraṇa</i>	237
2. <i>yoga</i>	239
3. <i>padārtha</i>	242
3. <i>hetvartha</i>	246
5–6. <i>uddeśa</i> and <i>nirdeśa</i>	248
Notes on Significant Variants	250
...द्वितीये पादे...	250
यत्र तु स्नेहस्वेदाभ्यञ्जनेषु...पूर्वापरयोगसिद्धो भवति ।	251
सामवेदादयश्च वेदाः	251
...विद विन्द इत्येतयोश्च धात्वोः...	252
...धात्वोरेकार्थः । पश्चात् पदं भवति...	253
यदुक्तं साधनं भवति स हेत्वर्थः	255
...तथा माषदुग्धप्रभृतिभिर्व्रणः क्लिद्यते	255
समासवचनं समुद्देशः 	256
Characteristics of the Manuscript Transmission	256
Translation	257
Editions and Abbreviations	263
Index of Manuscripts	265
Bibliography	267

Materia Medica	271
Abbreviations	271
Flora	274
Fauna	294
Minerals	296
Glossary	299

Part 1. Sūtrasthāna

Part 2. Nidānasthāna

Part 3. Śārīrasthāna

Part 4. Cikitsāsthāna

Part 5. Kalpasthāna

Kalpasthāna 6: Rats and Rabies

Introduction

A notable macro-difference between the vulgate and the Nepalese versions of the *Suśrutasamhitā* 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.⁵⁶¹

Mouse or Rat?

In 2004, Umberto Eco published a characteristically subtle and enlightening book about translation entitled *Mouse or Rat?*.⁵⁶² 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.⁵⁶³ 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 toxic and threatening. "Mouse" does not have quite these connotations for a contemporary English speaker.⁵⁶⁴

The rodents that may be described as mice or rats in contemporary South Asia and that are especially associated with the spread of disease

⁵⁶¹ See p. 117 above.

⁵⁶² Eco 2004.

⁵⁶³ CDIAL: #10258.

⁵⁶⁴ Kunjalal Bhishagratna made the same choice (Kunjalal Bhishagratna 1907–16: 2, 728–736).

include the house or black rat (*Rattus rattus*, L.), the brown rat (*R. norvegicus*, Berkenhout), the house mouse (*Mus musculus*, L.) and bandicoots (*Bandicota*).⁵⁶⁵ 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),⁵⁶⁶ 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.⁵⁶⁷ However, plausibly matching these creatures to the Sanskrit names listed in this chapter is hard to impossible.⁵⁶⁸

Literature

A brief survey of this chapter's contents and reference to the limited existing research on it to 2002 was provided by Meulenbeld.⁵⁶⁹

A rich description of Indian rodents is available in BIA: ch. 13, esp. 205–215, including several useful illustration. Unfortunately, Prater rarely gave Indian-language names.

Translation

1 Now I shall explain the procedure (*kalpa*) relating to rats (*mūṣikā*).⁵⁷⁰

⁵⁶⁵ BIA: 194.

⁵⁶⁶ "Recent studies...show that the mole-rat forms 98% of the total rodent population of Calcutta," BIA: 206.

⁵⁶⁷ BIA: ill. plates 45, 46 *et passim*.

⁵⁶⁸ Mouse-words that we do not see in this chapter include the *kirika*, *giri*, *girikā* group (EWA: 1, 353, 488, 566).

⁵⁶⁹ HIML: IA, 295–296. In addition to the translations mentioned by Meulenbeld (HIML: IB, 314–315), a translation of this chapter was included in 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.

⁵⁷⁰ The word मूषिका does not distinguish between rats and mice. See Introduction above.

- 3 Learn concisely about aforementioned eighteen kinds of rats that have poison in their semen, according to their names, characteristics and the herbal treatments.⁵⁷¹
- 4–6 They are traditionally called,⁵⁷²
1. Fondling rat,
 2. Sonny rat,
 3. Black rat,
 4. Gajpipul rat,
 5. Little rat,
 6. House shrew
 7. Rala rat,
 8. Red-toothed shrew,
 9. Bad-marked rat,
 10. Invincible rati,
 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-like rat.⁵⁷³
- 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.⁵⁷⁴

⁵⁷¹ Rats with poisonous semen were mentioned in 5.3.5 (Su 1938: 5.6.7) (see p. 144 above).

⁵⁷² 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.

⁵⁷³ 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.

⁵⁷⁴ 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). Book 22, tale 543 of the Jātakas includes mention of an Ālambāyana who claimed to be a doctor and specialist in snakebite poisons: *nāhaṃ dijādhipo homi, na diṭṭho garuḷo mayā, āsīvisena vitto ti vejjo maṃ brāhmaṇaṃ vidū*

ti 793 (Fausbøll 1877–96: 6, 181, tr. Cowell et al. 1895–1907: 6, 95). 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.

Pāli text: Fausbøll 1877–96: 6, 177 ff.

(Cowell et al. 1895–1907: 6, 93–94, 95–98, 99)

See further discussion by Slouber (2016: 33–34), who calls the mantra “Alampāyana,” 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).

Part 6. Uttarat Tantra

Editions and Abbreviations

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Ca 1941 | Ācārya, Yādavaśarma Trivikrama (1941) (ed.), <i>महर्षिणा पुनर्वसुनोपदिष्टा, तच्छिष्येणाग्निवेशेन प्रणीता, चरकदृढबलाभ्यां प्रतिसंस्कृता चरकसंहिता, श्रीचक्रपाणिदत्तविरचितया आयुर्वेददीपिकाव्याख्यया संवल्लिता</i> (3rd edn., Mumbayyām: Nirnaya Sagara Press), ark:/13960/t48q2f20n . |
| CDIAL | Turner, R. L. (1966–85), <i>A Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages</i> (London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0197135501, URL ; v. 2: <i>Indexes</i> by D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1969), v. 3: <i>Phonetic Analysis</i> by R. L. and D. R. Turner (OUP, London, 1971), v. 4: <i>Addenda and Corrigenda</i> ed. J. C. Wright (SOAS, London, 1985). Online database at http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/soas/ . |
| DED ₂ | Burrow, Thomas, and Emeneau, Murray B. (1984), <i>A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary</i> (2nd edn., Oxford: Clarendon Press), ark:/13960/s24rgc5rsz0 , URL . |
| EWA | Mayrhofer, Manfred (1986–2001), <i>Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen</i> (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag), ISBN: 3-533-03826-2. |
| HIML | Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1999–2002), <i>A History of Indian Medical Literature</i> , 5 vols. (Groningen: E. Forsten), ISBN: 9069801248. |
| KEWA | Mayrhofer, Manfred (1953–72), <i>Kurzgefaßtes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen; a Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary</i> (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, Universitätsverlag). |

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- PWK Böhtlingk, Otto (1879), *Sanskrit-wörterbuch in kürzerer fassung* (St. Petersburg: Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften), [URL](https://nopr.scribd.org/13960/t22c41g8t), accessed 18/05/2023.
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Index of Manuscripts

Numbers after the final colon refer to pages in this book.

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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:/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:/13960/s2bh76qc88s .
Chopra	Chopra, R. N., Nayar, S. L., and Chopra, I. C. (1956), <i>Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants</i> (3rd reprint, 1992, New Delhi: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research); vol. 2: R. N. Chopra, I. C. Chopra, and Varma (Chopra_{sup}).
Chopra IDG	Chopra, R. N., Chopra, I. C., Handa, K. L., et al. (1958), <i>Chopra's Indigenous Drugs of India</i> (2nd edn., Calcutta: Dhur & Sons), ark:/13960/t9673t140 .

- Chopra^{sup} Chopra, R. N., Chopra, I. C., and Varma, B. S. (1969), *Supplement to Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants* (Reprint 1986, New Delhi: National Institute of Science Communication), ISBN: 8185038872.
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- GJM1 Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1974a), "Sanskrit Names of Plants and their Botanical Equivalents," in id., *The Mādhavanidāna and Its Chief Commentary: Chapters 1–10. Introduction, Translation, and Notes* (Leiden: Brill), chap. Appendix Four, 520–611, [ark:/13960/t25b8q97g](https://nopr.nisca.ac.in/jspui/handle/123456789/13960/t25b8q97g).
- GJM2 Meulenbeld, Gerrit Jan (1988), "G. J. Meulenbeld's Additions to his "Sanskrit Names of Plants and their Botanical Equivalents"," in Rahul Peter Das, *Das Wissen von der Lebensspanne der Bäume: Surapālas Vṛkṣāyurveda* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag), chap. Appendix 1, 425–65, ISBN: 9783515046633; Supplement to [GJM1](#).
- GVDB Singh, Thakur Balwant, and Chuneekar, K. C. (1972), *Glossary of Vegetable Drugs in Brhatrayā* (Varanasi: Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office), [ark:/13960/s2cvp72x58j](https://nopr.nisca.ac.in/jspui/handle/123456789/13960/s2cvp72x58j).
- HK Hilgenberg, Luise, and Kirfel, Willibald (1941), *Vāgbhaṭa's Aṣṭāṅghaṛdayasaṃhitā, ein altindisches Lehrbuch der Heilkunde, aus dem Sanskrit ins Deutsche übertragen mit Einleitung, Anmerkungen und Indices* (Leiden: Brill), [ark:/13960/t52h05616](https://nopr.nisca.ac.in/jspui/handle/123456789/13960/t52h05616).

IGP	Griffiths, Mark (1994), <i>The New Royal Horticultural Society Index of Garden Plants</i> (London: Macmillan), ark:/13960/t2q61gn9z .
Issar	Issar, T. P. (1994), <i>Blossoms of Bangalore</i> (Bangalore: T. P. Issar).
IW	Israel, Samuel, et al. (1988), <i>Indian Wildlife: Sri Lanka Nepal</i> (Insight Guides; Singapore etc.: APA Publications), ISBN: 9780245545238, ark:/13960/s2p9d5pqd1w .
K & B	Kirtikar, K. R., Basu, B. D., and an I.C.S (1987), <i>Indian Medicinal Plants</i> , ed. E. Blatter, J. F. Caius, and K. S. Mhaskar, 8 vols. (2nd edn., Dehradun: International Book Distributors); First published in Allahabad, 1918.
MBG	Missouri Botanical Garden (2024), "Missouri Botanical Garden: Plant Finder," Missouri Botanical Garden, URL .
NEH	Bown, Deni (2001), <i>New Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses</i> (2nd edn., London, New York etc.: Dorling Kindersly).
NK	Nadkarni, K. M. (1982), <i>Dr. K. M. Nadkarni's Indian Materia Medica, with Ayurvedic, Unani-tibbi, Siddha, Allopathic, Homeopathic, Naturopathic & Home Remedies, Appendices & Indexes ... in Two Volumes</i> , ed. A. K. Nadkarni, 2 vols. (3 ed., revised and enlarged by A. K. Nadkarni, Bombay: Popular Prakashan), ISBN: 8171541429, URL ; First published in 1954.
Peter	Peter, K. V. (2012) (ed.), <i>Handbook of Herbs and Spices</i> (Food Science, Technology and Nutrition, 228; 2nd edn., Oxford, Cambridge, Philadelphia, New Delhi: Woodhead Publishing), ISBN: 9780857090393.
Potter _{rev}	Wren, R. C., Williamson, Elizabeth M., and Evans, Fred J. (1994), <i>Potter's New Cyclopaedia of Botanical Drugs and Preparations</i> (Saffron Walden: C. W. Daniel Company Ltd.); Reprint of revised 1988 edition.
POWO	Kew Gardens (2024), "Plants of the World," Royal Botanic Gardens, URL .
Reptiles	Daniel, J. C. (1983), <i>The Book of Indian Reptiles</i> (Bombay: Oxford University Press).

- Trees Bole, P. V., and Vaghani, Yogini (1986), *Field Guide to the Common Trees of India* (Bombay, Delhi, Oxford, etc.: World Wildlife Fund – India and Oxford University Press), ISBN: 0-19-561595-6; 4th reprint.
- Watt_{Comm} Watt, George (1908), *The Commercial Products of India, Being an Abridgement of “the Dictionary of the Economic Products of India”* (London: John Murray), [ark:/13960/t8cg7dm79](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:uk:2019-06-13960-t8cg7dm79).

Flora

- aconite leaf (?) (*viṣapatrikā*) Unknown. Cf. perhaps, *vatsanābha* ([wolfsbane](#)). Cf. [GVDB: 373: 133](#)
- agarwood (*aguru*) *Aquilaria malaccensis* Lam., [GVDB: 3: 94, 95, 185](#)
- ‘alas, alas’ (?) (*hālāhala*) unknown. See Cf. *Sodhalanighantu* p.43 (sub bola) = *stomaka* = *vatsanābha*: [135](#)
- Alexandrian laurel (*punnāga*) *Calophyllum inophyllum*, L. See [AVS: 1, 338, NK: 1, #425: 175, 186](#)
- amaranth (*tanḍulīya*) see [amaranth](#) (*tanḍulīyaka*): [177](#)
- 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 the first millennium BCE (Saraswat [1991](#)): [127, 184, 274](#)
- Arabian jasmin (*trṇaśūnya*) see [Arabian jasmine](#) (*mallikā*), [GVDB: 190 MW: 453](#) says *Jasminium sambac*. [GVDB: 190](#) also suggest [screwpine](#) (*ketaka*): [274](#)
- Arabian jasmine (*mallikā*) *Jasminum sambac* (L.) Aiton, [GVDB: 300: 274](#)
- Arabian jasmine (*trṇaśūlya*) probably an alternative pronunciation for [Arabian jasmin](#) (*trṇaśūnya*), [GVDB: 190: 186](#)
- arjun (*arjuna*) *Terminalia arjuna*, Bedd. See [HK: 738: 40, 74, 183](#)
- Asoka tree (*aśoka*) *Saraca indica* Linn., [GVDB: 26: 95, 97, 176, 186, 196, 288](#)
- atis root (*śṛṅgīviṣa*) *Aconitum heterophyllum*, Wall. ex Royle. See [AVS: 1, 42, NK: 1, #39: 134](#)
- axlewood (*dhava*) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. See [AVS: 1, 163 f, Chopra: 20: 40, 73, 145, 183, 186](#)
- bamboo leaves (*veṇupatrikā*) *Bambusa bambos*, Druce. See [NK: 1, #307: 127](#)
- banyan (*vaṭa*) *Ficus benghalensis* Linn., [GVDB: 356: 74, 77, 78](#)
- barley (*yava*) *Hordeum vulgare*, L. See [HK: 752: 105](#)
- bayberry (*katphala*) *M. esculenta* Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don, which is native to the Himalaya, from Kashmir to Assam, as well as S. China and SE Asia. *Nageia nagi* (Thunb.) Kuntze (syn of *Myrica nagi* Thunb.), as suggested by Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 66](#)), is native to East Asia, not India: [176](#)
- bearded premna (*vasuka*) *Premna barbata* Wall. (← *vasuhatṭa*), according to Cakrapāṇidatta. See the discussion by Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 362–363](#)),

- where other candidate species such as *Osmanthus*, *Calotropis*, and *Trianthema* are discussed. 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: 74
- beautyberry (*śyāmā*) *Callicarpa macrophylla*, Vahl. See AVS: 1, 334, NK: 1, #420: 100, 125, 127, 177
- beggarweed (*aṃśumatī*) *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC (Dymock: 1, 428, GJM1: 602, NK: 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing): 142
- beggarweed (*vidārigandhā*) → *śālaparṇī*. *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. See Dymock: 1, 428, GJM1: 602, cf. NK: 1, #1192; ADPS: 382, 414 and AVS: 2, 319, 4.366 are confusing: 49, 105, 284
- beleric myrobalan (*bibhītaka*) *Terminalia bellirica* Roxb. One of the components of the three myrobalans (*triphalā*) GVDB: 274, 196: 291
- Bengal quince (*bilva*) *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. See AVS: 1, 62, Chevillard: 161, NK: 1, #62, i(MW: 732a): 73, 95, 97, 102, 177, 280, 289
- big poison (?) (*mahāviṣa*) unknown.: 135
- big thorn apple (?) (*mahākarambha*) Perhaps *Datura metel*, L.?. See thorn apple (*karambha*): 133, 134
- bitter gourd (*paṭolī*) see pointed gourd (*paṭola*), cite[233]gvdb: 176
- bitumen (*adrija*) → *śilājī*. A tar-like, black, resinous rock exudate. See Mahākośa: 1, 21: 157
- black creeper (*kālānusārī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani* Roemer & Schultes. Probably a synonym for *kṛṣṇasārīvā* (GVDB: 94–95). I. frutescens has dark, rust-colored stems, so has been preferred here. However, *Cryptolepis grandiflora*, Wight, also has black stems. Synonym of *kālānusārīṇī*, *kālānusārīvā*. *kālānusārīya* may be a synonym of *tagara*, itself hard to identify: 175, 275
- black creeper (*pālindī*) *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer & Schultes. See AVS: 3, 141, 145, 203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 434. Ḍalhaṇa on SS 5.1.82 identified *pālindī* with *trivṛt* (*turpeth*) and Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 246) supported this as a usual identification: 127, 130, 141, 142, 176
- black nightshade (*kākamācī*) *Solanum nigrum*, Linn., GVDB: 86–87. May also be the less poisonous *S. dulcamara*, “bittersweet nightshade,” K & B: 1, 889–892: 185, 278
- black pepper (*marica*) *Piper nigrum*, L. See ADPS: 294, NK: 1, #1929: 106, 184, 196, 279, 291
- 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: 186
- blackboard tree (*saptachada*) *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br. GVDB: 420: 126, 275
- blackboard tree (*saptaparṇa*) see blackboard tree (*saptachada*): 184
- blackbuck (*hariṇa*) *Antelope cervicapra*, L. See BIA: 270 IW: 95, 165, et passim: 130
- blue water-lily (*utpala*) *Nymphaea stellata*, Willd. See GJM1: 528, IGP 790; Dutt: 110, NK: 1, #1726: 31, 125, 141, 142, 186, 196, 197, 279
- bluebell barleria (*kuravaka*) see bluebell barleria (*kuruvaka*): 177
- bluebell barleria (*kuruvaka*) Or *kurubaka*. 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*. Singh and Chunekar (GVDB) finally propose a red-flowering *Rhododendron*, admitting that this is a novel suggestion : 133, 275
- 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 : 276
- bull's head** (*gokṣura*) *Tribulus terrestris* L. GVDB: 144–145, 193. A component of **lesser five roots** : 276
- bull's head** (*trikaṇṭaka*) → **bull's head** (*gokṣura*) GVDB: 193. A component of **lesser five roots** : 284
- bulrush** (*kaṣeru*) "Two species, *Scirpus kysoor* Roxb., and *S. grossus* Linn. f., are used" GVDB: 85. Also *kaṣeruka* and *kaseru* : 100, 101, 104
- calabash gourd** (*kūṣmāṇḍa*) → *puṣpaphala*. *Beninkasa hispida*, (Thunb.) Cogn. See AVS: 2, 1127; cf. AVS: 1, 261 : 279
- camphor** (*karpūra*) → *śītaśiva*. *Cinnamomum camphora*, (L.) Sieb. See IGP 253 : 276
- 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 : 186
- cardamom** (*elā*) *Elettaria cardamomum*, Maton. See AVS: 2, 360, NK: 1, #924, Potter_{rev}: 66 : 94, 95, 142, 147, 175, 176, 186, 276
- cardamom** (*kṣudrailā*) see **cardamom** (*elā*), GVDB: 128. This expression, "small cardamom" is only used at
- Suśrutasaṃhitā* Kalpasthāna 6.17 : 186
- carray cheddie** (*viśvadevā*) → *gāṅgerukī* *Canthium parviflorum*, Lam. See AVS: 1, 366 f. Or *Sida rhombifolia* Linn. (GVDB: 372, 444 ff. et passim) : 77, 78
- cassia cinnamon** (*patra*) *Cinnamomum tamala*, (Buch.-Ham.) Nees. See AVS: 2, 84, NK: 1, #589 : 94, 95, 102, 127, 142, 186
- castor oil tree** (*gandharvahaṣṭa*) → *eraṇḍa*. GVDB: 135, K & B: 3, 2277 : 45, 97
- castor-oil** (*eraṇḍa*) *Ricinus communis*, L. See NK: 1, #2145, Chopra: 214 : 50, 276
- castor-oil tree** (*vardhamāna*) see **castor-oil** (*eraṇḍa*), GVDB: 361 : 184
- catechu** (*khadira*) *Senegalia catechu* (L.f.) P. J. Hurter & Mabb = *Acacia catechu* Willd. GVDB: 129–130 : 74
- 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 rūpyaṃ, sutāraḥ pāraḍaḥ*, "tāra means silver; sutāra means mercury." : 146
- 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*) : 33, 288
- champak** (*campaka*) *Magnolia champaca* (L.) Baill. ex Pierre, GVDB: 154 : 186
- chebulic myrobalan** (*harītakī*) *Terminalia chebula* Retz. GVDB: 466 : 103, 126, 186, 291
- cherry** (*elavālu*) *Prunus cerasus*, L. See GVDB: 58 for a thoughtful discussion NK: 1, #2037 : 142, 186, 276
- cherry** (*elavāluka*) see **cherry** (*elavālu*) : 184
- chir pine** (*sarala*) *Pinus roxburghii*, Sarg. GVDB: 423 : 73, 104, 184, 186
- cinnamon** (*tvac*) *Cinnamomum cassia*, Blume. See NK: 1, #579 : 186, 277

- cinnamon (*tvak*) see [cinnamon](#) (*tvac*) : 176
- cinnamon (*varāṅga*) see [cinnamon](#) (*tvac*),
GVDB: 360 : 184
- citron (*mātulaṅga*) *Citrus medica*, Linn.
GVDB: 276, 306. Also spelled *mātuliṅga*,
mātulaṅga, *mātulāṅga* : 73, 102, 107,
108, 176
- cluster fig (*udumbara*) *Ficus racemosa*, L.
See ADPS: 487 : 183
- cobra's saffron (*nāgapuṣpa*) → *nāgakeśara*.
Mesua ferrea, L. See NK: 1, #1595,
GVDB: 220 : 142
- 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 : 184, 186, 277
- colocynth (*mṛgādanī*) see [colocynth](#)
(*indravāruṇī*) GVDB: 46, 318 : 176
- common smilax (*śvadamśtra*) *Smilax*
aspera L., GVDB: 414 : 73
- 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* : 77, 78
- coriander (*dhānyaka*) *Coriandrum sativum*
L., GVDB: 213 : 277
- coriander (*kustumburya*) see [coriander](#)
(*dhānyaka*), GVDB: 113 : 186
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadra*) *Erythrina*
suberosa Roxb. See GVDB: 245 :
145, 277
- corky coral tree (*pāribhadraka*) see [corky](#)
[coral tree](#) (*pāribhadra*) : 97, 183
- costus (*kuṣṭha*) *Saussurea costus*, Clarke.
See NK: 1, #2239 : 94, 95, 102, 127, 142,
147, 175, 176, 184, 185
- cottony jujube (*kākolī*) *Ziziphus*
mauritanica, Lam. See IGP: 1233, NK: 1,
#2663; IGP 1233. Cf. NK: 1, #1170 : 93,
101, 102, 172
- 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 : 49, 101, 104, 258
- country mallow (*sahadevā*) → *balā*
(GVDB: 428). Contains ephedrine : 77,
78, 104
- 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) : 49, 133, 141,
142, 146
- 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 : 94, 95,
102, 127, 142, 175, 185, 281, 292

- 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: 280, 292
- croton tree (*nāgadantī*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg., [GVDB](#): 222: 184, 278, 288
- croton tree (*nāgavinnā*) *Croton persimilis* Müll.Arg. [GVDB](#): 222 I have taken this as [croton tree](#) (*nāgadantī*) because of context in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* Kalpasthāna 5: 177
- crow (?) (*kāka2*) an unidentified poisonous plant apparently called “crow.” Singh and Chunekar ([GVDB](#): 86) note that several drugs named after the crow are unidentifiable. [Black nightshade](#), (*kākamācī*) is toxic, but this is a stretch: 133
- datura (*dhattūra*) *Datura metel*, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf. *Abhidhānamāñjarī*), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff. [Potter_{rev}](#): 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132: 46
- deodar (*bhadradāru*) *Cedrus deodara*, (Roxb.ex D.Don) G. Don. See [AVS](#) 41, [NK](#): 1, #516: 40, 101, 105, 142, 184
- deodar (*devadāru*) *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Loud. [GVDB](#): 206–207: 73, 102, 186, 258, 278
- deodar (*suradāru*) see [deodar](#) (*devadāru*): 175
- devil’s dung (*hiṅgu*) *Ferula foetida* Regel., [GVDB](#): 471–472: 74, 76, 175
- dried ginger (*nāgara*) → [dried ginger](#) (*śuṇṭhī*) [GVDB](#): 221–222: 76, 175
- dried ginger (*śuṇṭhī*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See [ADPS](#): 50, [NK](#): 1, #2658, [AVS](#): 5, 435, [IGP](#): 1232: 100, 278, 291
- 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): 32
- drum-giver (?) (*lambaradā*) Unknown; cf. [GVDB](#): 348: 133
- elixir salve (*rasāñjana*) → *añjana*. See [Indian barberry](#): 40, 50
- embelia (*viḍaṅga*) *Embelia ribes*, Burm. f. See [ADPS](#): 507, [AVS](#): 2, 368, [NK](#): 1, #929, [Potter_{rev}](#): 113: 40, 73, 95, 142, 175, 176, 184
- emblic myrobalan (*āmalaka*) *Phyllanthus emblica*, L. See [AVS](#): 4, 256: 74, 103, 104, 196, 291
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭa*) Probably a synonym for *karahāṭa* ([emetic nut](#)), q.v., [GVDB](#): 74: 278
- emetic nut (*karaghāṭaka*) see [emetic nut](#) (*karaghāṭa*): 134, 183
- emetic nut (*karahāṭa*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See [GVDB](#): 291–292 and [NK](#): 1, #2091. Singh and Chunekar ([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.: 278
- emetic nut (?) (*karaṭā*) Not in [GVDB](#). Cf. perhaps *karahāṭa* ([emetic nut](#)): 133
- emetic nut (*madana*) *Randia dumetorum*, Lamk. See [NK](#): 1, #2091: 126, 260
- false daisy (*bhṛṅga*) *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See [GVDB](#): 288: 73
- false daisy (*subhaṅgurā*) (su)bhaṅgura = *bhṛṅga*? *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. See [GVDB](#): 288: 132
- fermented rice-water (*dhānyāmla*) → *kāñjī*, *kāñjikā*, *sauvīra*. [GVDB](#): 458, [NK](#): 2, appendix VI, #18: 47, 48
- fern (*ajaruhā*) *Nephrodium* species [GVDB](#): 7, uncertain. Perhbaps *Christella dentata* (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy, which is reported to have folk applications against skin diseases in India: 129
- fire-flame bush (*dhātakī*) *Woodfordia fruticosa* (L.) Kurz. See [AVS](#): 5, 412, [NK](#): 1, #2626: 74, 126
- 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* (the [greater five roots](#)), with differing properties. Combined they are called *daśamūla* (ten roots). See also *Mahākośa*: 1, 468: [73](#)
- flame-of-the-forest (*palāśa*) *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub. [GVDB](#): 241. *pālāśa* in some sources: [74](#), [97](#)
- flax (*atasī*) *Linum usitatissimum*, L. See [NK#1495](#): [101](#)
- foxtail millet (*priyaṅgu*) → *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*: [40](#), [142](#), [147](#), [175](#), [176](#), [196](#), [279](#)
- foxtail millet (*priyaṅgū*) see [foxtail millet](#) (*priyaṅgu*): [186](#)
- fragrant lotus (*saugandhika*) A type of [white water-lily](#) (*kumuda*) or [blue water-lily](#) (*utpala*), [GVDB](#): 457: [31](#)
- fruit of the marking-nut (*āruṣkara*) see [marking-nut](#) (*aruṣkara*). “*āruṣkara* = *aruṣkara phala*” [ADPS](#): 23; see also [MW](#): 151: [176](#)
- gajpipul (*gajapippalī*) [GVDB](#): 469, 132, syn. *hastipippalī*. A controversial plant, but the conjecture of Singh and Chuneekar that *Scindapsus officinalis* (Roxb.) Schott is the more ancient identity is accepted here: [279](#), [295](#)
- gajpipul (*hastipippalī*) see [gajpipul](#) (*gajapippalī*), [GVDB](#): 469, 132: [184](#)
- 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](#)): [280](#)
- galls (*karkaṭa*) *Rhus succedanea*, L. See [NK](#): 1, #2136: [135](#)
- garjan oil tree (*aśvakarṇa*) *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* Gaertn. f. See [GVDB](#): 28, [Chopra](#): 100: [145](#), [183](#), [186](#)
- giant potato (*kṣīravidārī*) possibly → *kṣīraśukla*. *Ipomoea mauritiana*, Jacq. See [ADPS](#): 510, [AVS](#): 3, 222, [AVS](#): 3, 1717 ff: [101](#), [282](#), [285](#), [286](#), [288](#)
- ginger (*mahaśadha*) *Zingiber officinale*, Roscoe. See [ADPS](#): 50, [NK](#): 1, #2658, [IGP](#): 1232: [130](#)
- gold (*hema*) gold: [142](#)
- 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](#)”: [147](#)
- golden shower tree (*rājadruma*) *rājadruma* = *āragvadha*. *Cassia fistula* L. See [GVDB](#) 37: [146](#)
- golden shower tree (*rājavarṣa*) → *rājadruma* = *āragvadha*. *Cassia fistula* L. See [GVDB](#): 37: [73](#)
- golden shower tree (*āragvadha*) *Cassia fistula* L. [GVDB](#): 37–38. The plant has many synonyms.: [103](#), [174](#)
- gourd (*alābu*) *Lagenaria siceraria* Standl. [GVDB](#): 25. Some say *Lagenaria vulgaris*, Seringe ([NK](#): 1, #1419) but this is not appropriate for blood-letting: [27](#), [28](#), [126](#), [172](#)
- gourd (*vallīja*) see [gourd](#) (*vallīja*): [134](#)
- gourd (*vallīja*) This is a guess. According to some lexical sources, syn. for [black pepper](#) (*marica*) ([MW](#): 929). See [NK](#): 1, #1929. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 362) note that *vallīphala* may be [calabash gourd](#) (*kūṣmāṇḍa*), which I follow. The related [spiny bitter gourd](#)

- has poisonous seeds, but not flowers. Commenting on *Bṛhatsaṃhitā* 8.13ab and 16.24ab, Bhaṭṭotpala glossed it as *mudgādi*, "mung beans etc." : 279
- grapes (*drākṣā*) *Vitis vinifera* L.
GVDB: 208–209 : 177
- greater five roots (*bṛhatpañcamūla*)
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 : 279, 283, 291
- green gram (*māṣa*) *Vigna radiata* (L.) R. Wilcz. See ADPS: 296, IGP 1204 : 40, 101, 259
- 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." : 73, 100, 102, 175, 279
- gummy gardenia (*prthvikā*) ← *hingupatrikā*, *Gardenia gummiifera* L.f., GVDB: 257, q.v. for discussion : 176, 186
- hairy bergenia (*pāṣāṇabheda*) *Bergenia ligulata* (Wall.) Engl. GVDB: 246–247 : 74
- halfa grass (*darbha*) *Demostachya bipinnata* Stapf. GVDB: 201. Synonym of *kuśa* : 76, 101
- halfa grass (*kuśa*) *Desmostachya bipinnata*, (L.) Stapf. GVDB: 111, AVS: 2, 326 : 101, 169, 184
- hare foot uraria (*kroṣṭakamekhalā*) see hare foot uraria (*prśniparṇī*)
Mahākośa: 1, 246. *kroṣṭaka* can mean "jackal" *śṛgāla*, as in *śṛgālavinna*, "a kind of *prśnaparṇī*" *Mahākośa*: 1, 839 : 176
- hare foot uraria (*prthakparṇī*) → hare foot uraria (*prśniparṇī*) and rajmahal hemp (*mūrvā*) GVDB: 257. A component of lesser five roots : 103, 284
- hare foot uraria (*prśniparṇī*) → *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 *prthakparṇī*. A component of lesser five roots : 100, 101, 280
- heart-leaf sida (*balā*) *Sida cordifolia*, Linn. See ADPS: 71, NK: 1, #2297 : 49, 101, 104, 106, 142, 258
- heart-leaved moonseed (*amṛtā*) → *guḍūcī*. *Tinospora cordifolia*, (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.? See ADPS: 38, NK: 1, #2472, 624, Dastur #229 : 127, 141
- 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*) : 73, 102
- heart-leaved moonseed (*somavallī*) *Tinospora cordifolia* (Thunb.) Miers. GVDB: 456. Likely, but uncertain : 127
- heart-leaved moonseed creeper (*amṛtavallī*) See *amṛtā* : 258
- henna (*madayantikā*) *Lawsonia inermis*, L. See AVS: 3, 303, NK: 1, #1448, Potter_{rev}: 151 : 128
- hibiscus (?) (*ambasṭhā*) possibly *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.? 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. Singh and Chuneekar

- propose that *ambāṣṭhā* 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 : 177
- Himalayan birch (*bhūja*) see [Himalayan birch](#) (*bhūrja*) : 184
- Himalayan birch (*bhūrja*) *Betula utilis* D. Don, [GVDB](#): 287 : 281
- 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)) : 147, 175, 176
- Himalayan monkshood (*atviṣā*) → *viṣā*
Aconitum heterophyllum Wall. [GVDB](#): 12, NK: 1, #39. Also “atis roots” : 92, 128, 130, 147, 184, 186
- Himalayan monkshood (*viṣā*) → *atviṣā* [GVDB](#): 12, 373 : 287
- Himalayan yew (*sthauneya*) see [Himalayan yew](#) (*sthauneyaka*) : 186
- Himalayan yew (*sthauneyaka*) 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 *Thuṇeraka* is etymologically cognate with the Sanskrit name. *T. contorta* is of medicinal importance, so its common name is used here : 175, 281
- hogweed (*punarnavā*) *Boerhaavia diffusa*, L. See [ADPS](#): 387, [AVS](#): 1, 281, NK: 1, #363 : 103, 128, 141, 177
- Holostemma creeper (*jīvanti*) → *sūryavallī*? *Holostemma ada-kodien*, Schultes. See [ADPS](#): 195, [AVS](#): 3, 167, 169, NK: 1, #1242 : 104, 286
- holy basil (*surasa*) *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, Linn. [GVDB](#): 438–439 : 177
- 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* : 109, 130, 196, 197
- horned pondweed (*śaivāla*) also *śaivāla, śevāra*. *Zannichellia palustris* L. The uncertainties of this identification are discussed by Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 409). Sometimes identified with [scutch grass](#) (*dūrṣvā*) ([GVDB](#): 409). Identified as *Ceratophyllum demersum* Linn. (“hornwort”) by [AVS](#): 2, 56–57x : 102, 281, 287
- hornwort (*jalaśūka*) → *jalanīlikā*. *Ceratophyllum demersum*, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 56, [IGP](#): 232. 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 : 49
- horse gram (*kaulattha*) See [horse gram](#) (*kulattha*) : 170
- horse gram (*kulattha*) *Macrotyloma uniflorum* (Lam.) Verdcourt, syn. *Dolichos biflorus*, L., *D. uniflorus*, Lam., [GVDB](#): 109, [POWO](#): sub *Macrotyloma uniflorum* : 105, 106, 174, 187, 281
- horseradish tree (*madhukaśigru*) *Moringa oleifera* Lam., [GVDB](#): 398–399. See [horseradish tree](#) (*śigru*) : 183
- horseradish tree (*murūṅgī*) see [horseradish tree](#) (*śigru*) ([GVDB](#): 311) : 176
- horseradish tree (*śigru*) *Moringa oleifera* Lam. See [IGP](#): 759, [GJM1](#): 603, [Dymock](#): 1, 396, [GVDB](#): 398–399 : 102, 103, 281
- hyacinth beans (*niṣpāva*) *Lablab purpureus* (L.) Sweet (1826) [GVDB](#): 228 : 91
- Indian barberry (*añjana*) → *rasāñjana, dāruharidrā*. *Berberis aristata*, DC. [Dymock](#): 1, 65, NK: 1, #335, [GJM1](#): 562, [IGP](#): 141 : 50, 129, 278
- Indian barberry (*dāruharidrā*) *Berberis*

- aristata, DC. See [Dymock](#): 1, 65, [NK](#): 1, #685, [GJM1](#): 562, [IGP](#): 141, [GVDB](#): 203 : 141, 142, 282, 291
- Indian barberry (*dārvī*) → [Indian barberry](#) (*dāruharidrā*) [GVDB](#): 203 : 197
- Indian barberry (*kālīyaka*) → *dāruharidrā*, *añjana*. *Berberis aristata*, DC. See [Dymock](#): 1, 65, [NK](#): 1, #685, [GJM1](#): 562, [IGP](#): 141 : 127
- Indian bat tree (*śuṅgā*) → *parkaṭīvrkṣa* according to [Śabdāsindhu](#): 1058; idem also suggests *vaṭavrkṣa*, i.e., *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. and *āmṛātaka*, *Spondias pinnata* (L.f.) Kurz. (native to S.E Asia but naturalized in S. Asia). Contrasted with *vaṭa* at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 3.2.32. Cf. [MW](#): 1081. : 77, 78
- Indian bdellium-tree (*guggula*) See [Indian bdellium-tree](#) *guggulu* : 175
- 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 : 109, 282
- Indian beech (*naktamāla*) *Pongamia pinnata*, (L.) Pierre. See [AVS](#): 4, 339, [NK](#): 1, #2003 : 40, 97
- 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*) : 103, 141
- Indian cherry (*śelū*) see [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*), [GVDB](#): 408 : 186
- Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakā*) see [Indian cherry](#) (*śleṣmātakī*) : 183
- Indian cherry (*śleṣmātakī*) *Cordia dichotoma* G. Forst., [AVS](#): 2, 180–183. See [POWO](#), sub [C. dichotoma](#); *Cordia myxa* L., according to 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.) : 176, 282
- Indian dill (*śatapušpā*) *Anethum graveolens* L. May also be *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill. See [GVDB](#): 388 for discussion : 104, 186
- Indian elm (*cirabilva*) *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch. [GVDB](#): 158, who also say that *pūtika* is a synonym; but that must be different than *pūtikā* : 282
- Indian elm (*ciribilva*) see [Indian elm](#) (*cirabilva*) : 183
- Indian frankincense (*gajavṛttikā*) *Boswellia serrata* Roxb.; equated with [Indian frankincense](#) (*śallakī*) by some, [GVDB](#): 392 : 177
- Indian frankincense (*śallakī*) *Boswellia serrata* Roxb., [GVDB](#): 392 : 282
- 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 : 282
- Indian fumitory (*reṇu*) see [Indian fumitory](#) (*parpaṭa*), [GVDB](#): 339. To be distinguished from pollen (?) (*reṇukā*) : 134
- 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 : 49, 102, 286
- Indian jujube (*sauvīraka*) *Zizphus jujuba* Mill., [GVDB](#): 458, [MBG](#): sub *jujuba* : 101, 170
- 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 : 49, 73
- Indian laurel (*plakṣa*) *Ficus microcarpa*, L. f. See ADPS: 377 : 184
- Indian madder (*mañjiṣṭhā*) *Rubia cordifolia*, L. See IGP, Chopra: 215, GVDB: 289 : 45, 142, 175, 176, 184
- 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) : 29
- Indian mustard (*sarṣapa*) *Brassica juncea*, Czern. & Coss. See AVS: 1, 301, NK: 1, #378 : 32, 134, 184
- Indian pennywort (*maṇḍūkaparnī*) *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban. See GVDB: 290, ADPS: 289–291 : 177
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sugandhikā*) see Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*) GVDB: 430, 436 : 176, 186
- Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*) → *anantā*. The *śveta* variety is *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–145, NK: 1, #1210, GVDB: 430; and the black form, black creeper, *pāṇḍī*. *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, (L.) R.Br. or *Cryptolepis buchanani*, Roemer & Schultes AVS: 3, 141, 145, 203, NK: 1, #1283, 1210, ADPS: 429–430 : 141, 142, 275, 279, 283
- Indian sarsaparilla (*śvetasārivā*) *Hemidesmus indicus*, (L.) R. Br. See Indian sarsaparilla (*sārivā*). ADPS: 434, AVS: 3, 141–145, NK: 1, #1210, GVDB: 430 : 283
- Indian snakeroot (*sarpagandhā*) *Rauvolfia serpentina*, (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. See NK: 1, #2099, ADPS: 439, GVDB: 425; cf. SS 5.5.76–78 : 177
- Indian symphorema (*ananta*) Not in GVDB but MW: 25 says “*sinduvāra*” on no authority (see Indian symphorema : 184
- Indian symphorema (*sinduvāra*) 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 : 175, 177, 186, 283
- Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*) *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. GVDB: 172–173. A component of greater five roots : 283
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭiṇṭuka*) → Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*). *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. GVDB: 172–173. A component of greater five roots : 280
- Indian trumpet tree (*ṭuṇṭuka*) see Indian trumpet tree (*śyonāka*), GVDB: 172–173 : 184
- indigo (*nīlinī*) *Indigofera tinctoria*, L. See NK: 1, #1309, GVDB: 229–230 : 283
- indigo (*nīlī*) see indigo (*nīlinī*) : 186
- Indrajao (*indrayava*) see *vrkṣaka* (Indrajao) *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G.Don 1837 GVDB: 376, 45 and 84 : 92
- Indrajao (*vrkṣaka*) → *indrayava*, *indrabīja*, *kaliṅga*, and *kuṭaja*. *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. ex G.Don 1837 GVDB: 376, 45 and 84 : 76, 258, 283
- itchytrees (*nicula*) *Barringtonia acutangula* (L.) Gaertn., GVDB: 224 : 184
- jambul (*jambū*) *Syzygium cumini*, (L.) Skeels. See ADPS: 188, NK: 1, #967, Potter_{rev}: 168, Wujastyk 2003 : 126, 196
- jequirity (*guñjā*) *Abrus precatorius*, L. See AVS: 1, 10, NK: 1, #6, Potter_{rev}: 168. See further jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) : 132, 133

- jequirity (*kālakūṭa*) *Abrus precatorius*, L.? Cf. RRS 21.14. See AVS: 1, 10, NK: 1, #6, Potter_{rev}: 168. The etymology of the name *kāla-kūṭa*, “black-top” fits with the striking appearance of jequirty seeds. GVDB: 193 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: 134, 283
- kutki (*kaṭukā*) *Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth. (GVDB: 64–65): 92, 109, 284, 285
- kutki (*kaṭurohaṇī*) → kutki (*kaṭukā*), GVDB: 66, 64–65: 175
- kutki (*kaṭurohiṇī*) see kutki (*kaṭukā*), GVDB: 66, 64–65: 186
- leadwort (*agniśikhā*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *rosea*?), L. See NK: 1, #1966, 1967: 284
- leadwort (*citraka*) *Plumbago zeylanica* (or *indica*?), L. See RĀ. 6.124, ADPS: 119, NK: 1, #1966, 1967: 40, 74, 92, 97, 108, 175
- leadwort (*pālaka*) → *citraka*. *Plumbago zeylanica* (*indica*? *rosea*?), L. See Rā. 6.124, ADPS: 1, 119, NK: 1, #1966, 1967: 134
- leadwort (*vidyutśikhā*) see leadwort (*agniśikhā*): 133
- lemon grass (*uśīrabheda*) → *lāmajja*. *Cymbopogon jwarancusa* (Jones ex Roxb.) Schult.. See NK: 1, #176: 292
- lesser five roots (*laghupañcamūla*) Described at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.38.66–67 (Su 1938: 169). Consists of bull’s head, poison berry, yellow-berried nightshade, hare foot uraria, and beggarweed: 276, 279, 280, 291, 294
- liquorice (?) (*klītaka*) *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L.? GVDB: 123–124 discuss the many difficulties in identifying this plant: 132
- liquorice (*madhuka*) also *yaṣṭi* (*ka/kā*), *yaṣṭimadhuka*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, L. AVS: 3, 84, NK: 1, #1136, GVDB: 329 f.: 49, 73, 100–105, 107, 130, 140, 142, 175, 183, 186, 197, 284
- liquorice (*yaṣṭī*) see liquorice (*madhuka*): 176
- liquorice (*yaṣṭimadhuka*) see liquorice (*madhuka*): 50
- lodh tree (*lodhra*) *Symplocos racemosa*, Roxb. See GJM1: 597, ADPS: 279 f, NK: 1, #2420. 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*: 40, 142, 175, 197
- long pepper (*kr̥ṣṇā*) see long pepper (*pippalī*): 196
- long pepper (*māgadha*) see long pepper (*pippalī*): 129
- long pepper (*pippalī*) see long pepper (*pippalī*): 175
- long pepper (*pippalī*) *Piper longum*, L. See ADPS: 374, NK: 1, #1928, GVDB: 249–250, but cf. AVS: 3, 245: 73, 74, 97, 103, 104, 108, 109, 130, 142, 184, 187, 196, 258, 284, 291
- long pepper root (*pippalīmūla*) see long pepper (*pippalī*): 184
- long-stamen Wendlandia (?) (*prapaundarika*) See the substantial discussion by Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 261). They note that it is used mainly in eye troubles and frequently with liquorice, than which it is has been said to be thicker, and sweet in taste. A candidate they suggest is *Wendlandia heynei* (Schult.) Santapau & Merchant (formerly *W. exserta*), native to India; I have accepted that provisionally: 135, 175, 186, 284
- 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: 186, 292

- lotus (*nalina*) see [sacred lotus](#) (*kamala*),
GVDB: 218 : 196, 197
- lotus stalk (*mṛṇāla*) "Leaf stalk of [sacred lotus](#)" GVDB: 318 : 102
- luffa (*jālinī*) see ?? (*koṣātakī*), GVDB: 168 : 134
- luffa (*koṣavatī*) see [luffa](#) (*koṣātakī*) : 141
- 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 : 285
- mahua (*madhūka*) *Madhuca longifolia*, (Koenig) Macbride. See AVS: 3, 362 f : 73, 200–202
- maidenhair fern (*haṃsāhvayā*) *Adiantum lunulatum* Burm f. GVDB: 463 : 258
- Malay beechwood (*śrīparṇī*) → *kāśmarī*.
Gmelina arborea Linn., GVDB: 412, 96–97 : 73
- maloo creeper (*aśmantaka*) 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 : 177, 183
- mango (*āmra*) *Mangifera indica* Linn. GVDB: 37 : 126, 177, 184, 196
- mangosteen (*amla*) *Garcinia pedunculata* Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham. See GVDB: 20–21 : 174
- marking-nut (*aruṣkara*) *Semecarpus anacardium* L. See [bhallātaka](#) ([marking-nut tree](#)), GVDB: 23, ADPS: 85–86 : 133, 279
- marking-nut tree (*bhallātaka*) *Semecarpus anacardium*, L. See NK: 1, #2269, AVS: 5, 98, ADPS: 85–86 : 97, 129, 285
- marsh barbel (*ikṣuraka*) *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schumacher.) Heine (syn. *Asteracantha longifolia* (L.) Nees.), GVDB: 42–43 : 184
- medhshingi (*vijayā-2*) *Dolichandrone falcata* (Wall. ex DC.) Seem. The *Sauśrutaniḥaṇṭu* gives a number of synonyms for *vijayā* (Suvedī and Tivārī 2000: 5.77, 10.143). But one of them, *viṣāṇī* (also *meṣaśṛṅgī*), is sometimes equated with *Dolichandrone falcata* (DC.) Seemann (ADPS: 518; GVDB: 373 f, a plant used as an abortifacient and fish poison (NK: #862) : 133
- migraine tree (*agnimantha*) *Premna corymbosa*, Rottl. See AVS 1927, ADPS: 21, NK: 1, #2025, AVS: 4, 348; GJM1: 523: = *P. integrifolia/serratifolia*, L : 141, 280
- milk-white (*kṣīraśuklā*) An unidentified plant. GVDB: 126: see [purple roscoeia](#) and [giant potato](#) : 49, 288
- muddy (?) (*kardama*) unknown. : 134
- mulberry (*kramuka*) probably the [mulberry](#) (*tūda*); see discussion by Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 122) : 176
- mulberry (*tūda*) *Morus indica* L., GVDB: 189 : 285
- mung beans (*mudga*) *Phaseolus radiatus* L. GVDB: 310–311 : 101, 104, 202
- mung beans (*māṣaka*) *Phaseolus mungo* Linn. GVDB: 308 : 127
- munj grass (*nārācaka*) *Saccharum bengalense*, Retz.?. See NK: 1, #2184 : 134
- musk mallow (*latākastūrikā*) *Abelmoschus moschatus* Medik., GVDB: 348 : 285
- musk mallow (*ullaka*) [kutki](#) (*kaṭukā*) or [musk mallow](#) (*latākastūrikā*), according to GVDB: 54; I have chosen the latter identity since *A. moschatus* can cause phototoxic dermatitis (Diedrich et al.

- 2024: 621) : 286
 musk mallow (*ullika*) see [musk mallow](#) (*ullaka*) : 134
 myrobalan (*abhayā*) Terminalia chebula, Retz. See [ADPS](#): 172, [NK](#): 1, #2451, [Potter_{rev}](#): 214 : 92, 141, 147
 myrobalans (*pathyā*) Terminalia chebula Retz. See [NK](#): 1, #2451 : 196
 natron (*suvarcikā*) Sodium carbonate. [NK](#): 2, #45. Ḍalhaṇa identifies *suvarcikā* with svarjikṣāra 4.8.50 ([Su 1938](#): 441) : 108, 142, 175
 neem (*picumarda*) see [neem tree](#) (*nimba*), [GVDB](#): 247–248 : 183
 neem tree (*nimba*) Azadirachta indica A. Juss., [GVDB](#): 226 : 46, 258, 286
 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. Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 108) added that it could be a variety of rice, *ṣaṣṭika dhānya* : 147
 nutgrass (*mustaka*) Cyperus rotundus, L. See [ADPS](#): 316, [AVS](#): 2, 296, [NK](#): 1, #782 : 134
 nutgrass (*mustā*) Cyperus rotundus, L. See [ADPS](#): 316, [AVS](#): 2, 296, [NK](#): 1, #782 : 286
 oleander spurge (*mahāvṛkṣa*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 302–303 : 183
 oleander spurge (*nandā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*), [GVDB](#): 215 : 290
 oleander spurge (*snuhā*) see [oleander spurge](#) (*snuhī*) : 97, 134
 oleander spurge (*snuhī*) Euphorbia neriifolia, L., or E. antiquorum, L. See [ADPS](#): 448, [AVS](#): 2, 388, [AVS](#): 3, 1, [NK](#): 1, #988, [IGP](#): 457b. 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 : 286, 290
 orchid tree (*kovidāra*) Bauhinia purpurea Linn. or B. variegata Linn. (probably the former), [GVDB](#): 120, [AVS](#): 1, 256–260 : 170
 paddy rice (*śāli*) Oriza sativa, Linn. [GVDB](#): 395–396 mentioning 33 Sanskrit sub-variety names; [AVS](#): 4, 193 : 33, 288
 pale Java tea (*arjaka*) Orthosiphon pallidus Royle ex Benth., [GVDB](#): 24, based on Ḍalhaṇa's descriptions, and by Sharma 1982: 127, #60. But Ocimum basilicum L., according to [AVS](#): 4, 160 : 186
 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 : 141, 282
 peas (*hareṇu*) Pisum sativum, L. 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 : 102, 141, 142, 147, 176, 196, 286, 287
 peas (*hareṇukā*) see [peas](#) (*hareṇu*) : 186
 peas (*satīna*) see [peas](#) (*hareṇu*), [GVDB](#): 419–420 : 286
 peepul tree (*aśvattha*) Ficus religiosa, L. See [ADPS](#): 63 : 149
 periploca of the woods (*meṣaśṛṅga*) Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br. See [AVS](#): 3, 107, [NK](#): 1, #1173 : 129
 phalsa (*parūṣaka*) Grewia asiatica Linn., [GVDB](#): 238 : 74
 plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*dugdhikā*) synonym of [plants like](#)

- asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīrīṇī*), GVDB: 204–205, 127 : 287
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīrīṇī*) various milky plants, perhaps including *Euphorbia hirta* Linn. (asthma plant) and *E. microphylla* Heyne (Gulf sandmat) (GVDB: 127) : 282, 286, 287
- plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*yavaphalā*) synonym of plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*dugdḥikā*), and plants like asthma plant and Gulf sandmat (*kṣīrīṇī*), q.v., GVDB: 327, 127 : 186
- 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. : 291
- pointed gourd (*paṭola*) *Trichosanthes dioica*, Roxb., GVDB: 232–233 : 102, 141, 275
- poison berry (*br̥hatī*) *Solanum violaceum*, Ortega. See ADPS: 100, NK: 1, #2329, AVS: 5, 151 : 97, 103, 141, 142, 284
- poison-altar (?) (*viṣavedikā*) Unknown. Possibly, at a guess, *viṣamuṣṭika* (strychnine tree)? GVDB: 373 Or *viṣā* (Himalayan monkshood) : 133
- pollen (?) (*renukā*) An unidentifiable plant. Perhaps a misreading for peas (*hareṇu*), although this is a long shot. Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 339) suggest, on no authority, the synonyms *vr̥kṣaruhā*, *māṃsarohiṇī*, or *durvā*, none of which help : 133, 282
- pomegranate (*dāḍima*) *Punica granatum* Linn. GVDB: 201–202 : 73, 74, 107, 108, 177
- pondweed (*paripelavā*) Normally a neuter noun. 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. : 142
- pondweed (*śevāla*) *Zannichellia palustris* L. See horned pondweed : 31, 32
- pongame oiltree (*karañjikā*) Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 74–76) discuss complications, but probably *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre in *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6.3 : 184
- 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 : 186, 287
- powdered ruffle lichen (*śaileyaka*) see powdered ruffle lichen (*śaileya*) : 175
- prickly chaff-flower (*apāmārga*) *Achyranthes aspera*, L. See GJM1: 524 f, AVS: 1, 39, ADPS: 44 f, AVS: 3, 2066 f, Dymock: 3, 135 : 45, 49, 101, 185, 287
- prickly chaff-flower (*vasira*) also *vaśīra*. Perhaps *Achyranthes aspera*, L. GVDB: 362 describes several possible identities, including *sūryāvarta*, prickly chaff-flower and *markaṭatṛṇa*. See also *vasukavasira* (GVDB: 363) : 74
- prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojihvā*) syn. *gojī*. *Elephantopus scaber*, L. See AVS: 2, 357. 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 : 287
- prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojī*) Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 145–146) observe that this plant name is unique to the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*. Since the usage is similar to that of prickly-leaved elephant's foot (*gojihvā*), q.v, it is almost certain to be the same plant. : 184
- purging nut (*dravantī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. See AVS: 3, 261, NK: 1, #1374. A.k.a. *mūṣikaparṇī* : 288

- purging nut (*mūṣikā*) *Jatropha curcas*, L.
See [AVS](#): 3, 261, [NK](#): 1, #1374 : [129](#)
- purging nut (*putraśreṇī*) Commonly identified as [croton tree](#) (*nāgadantī*), [GVDB](#): 253 “a variety of [red physic nut](#) (*dantī*).” But it appears in a list with *nāgadantī* at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.6.3, and *Ḍalhaṇa* identified it there as [purging nut](#) (*dravantī*) : [184](#)
- purging nut tree (*mūṣikakarṇī*) *Jatropha curcas*, L. [AVS](#): 3, 261, [NK](#): 1, #1374, [GVDB](#): 317; [ADPS](#): 23–25 discuss this issue well : [127](#), [128](#)
- purple calotropis (*arka*) *Calotropis gigantea*, (L.) R. Br. See [ADPS](#): 52, [AVS](#): 1, 341, [NK](#): 1, #427, [Potter_{rev}](#): 57, [Chopra IDG](#): 305–308 : [40](#), [49](#), [97](#), [170](#), [183](#)
- 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. : [186](#)
- purple roscoea (*kṣīrakākolī*) [GVDB](#): 89 notes that many physicians use *Roscoea procera* Wall. in this context. But the identification is uncertain. Possibly connected to [milk-white](#) or [giant potato](#) : [101](#), [282](#), [285](#)
- pussy willow (*vetasa*) *Salix caprea* L., [GVDB](#): 380–381, q.v. for the argument that this is not the same as [rattan](#) (*vetra*) : [288](#)
- pussywillow (*vañjula*) see [pussy willow](#) (*vetasa*); Singh and Chunekar ([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*) : [102](#), [184](#)
- radish (*mūlaka*) *Raphanus sativus*, L. See [NK](#): 1, #2098 : [106](#), [135](#)
- rajmahal hemp (*moraṭa*) → *mūrvī*, *Marsdenia tenacissima* (Roxb.) Wight et Arn. Good discussion at [GVDB](#): 314–316, 324 : [141](#)
- 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*. Singh and Chunekar 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 : [104](#), [280](#)
- rattan (*vetra*) *Calamus rotang*, L. See [AVS](#): 1, 330, [NK](#): 1, #413. Singh and Chunekar ([GVDB](#): 381) prefer *C. tenuis*, Roxb., which is also native to S. and S.E. Asia : [288](#)
- realgar (*manahśilā*) *Arsenii disulphidium* [NK](#): 2, #11 : [196](#)
- red gourd (*bimbī*) *Coccinia indica*, W. & A. See [PVS](#) 1994.4.715; [NK](#): 1, #534 : [126](#)
- red ochre (*gairika*) Hellwig 2009: 140–141. [NK](#): 2, #40; the same source, at #6, gives kaoolinum or china clay : [142](#), [175](#), [177](#), [186](#), [196](#), [197](#)
- red physic nut (*dantī*) *Baliospermum solanifolium* (Burm.) Suresh, [GVDB](#): 200 : [95](#), [134](#), [184](#), [288](#)
- resin of white dammer tree (*sarjarasa*) [GVDB](#): 424–425. See [white dammer tree](#) (*sarja*) : [104](#), [186](#)
- rice grains (*taṇḍula*) *Oriza sativa*, Linn. Same as [paddy rice](#) (*śālī*) [GVDB](#): 174; or just “grains” : [33](#)
- rice-grain chaff (*śālitaṇḍulakāṇḍana*) See [chaff](#) : [33](#)

- rock salt (*saindhava*) See [NK](#): 2, M#48, [WattComm](#): 963–971: [32](#), [73](#), [108](#), [175](#), [196](#), [276](#)
- rosha grass (*dhyāmaka*) *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.) Wats. See [AVS](#): 2, 285, [NK](#): 1, #177: [142](#), [175](#), [186](#)
- royal jasmine (*mālatī*) *Jasminium grandiflorum*, L. See [NK](#): 1, #1364, [ADPS](#): 285–288: [127](#), [289](#)
- royal jasmine (*sumanā*) see [royal jasmine](#) (*mālatī*), [GVDB](#): 437: [186](#)
- sacred lotus (*kamala*) *Nelumbo nucifera*, Gaertn., [GVDB](#): 73–74, [Dutt](#): 110, [NK](#): 1, #1698: [285](#), [289](#)
- sacred lotus (*padma*) see [sacred lotus](#) (*kamala*), [GVDB](#): 235–236: [31](#), [102](#), [127](#), [186](#)
- saffron (*bāhlīka*) syn. of [saffron](#) (*kuṅkuma*), q.v., [GVDB](#): 273–274: [184](#)
- saffron (*kuṅkuma*) *Crocus sativus* Linn., [GVDB](#): 100: [289](#)
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkolla*) *Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang. [GVDB](#): 5–6. See also [AVS](#): 1, 77; cf. [NK](#): 1, #88: [126](#), [177](#), [289](#)
- sage-leaved alangium (*aṅkoṭha*) see [sage-leaved alangium](#) (*aṅkolla*): [183](#)
- 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: [74](#)
- sal tree (*śālā*) *Shorea robusta*, Gaertn.f. See [AVS](#): 5, 124: [196](#)
- 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.)): [75](#), [102](#), [104](#), [142](#), [170](#), [176](#), [185](#), [293](#)
- 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, Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#)) suggest *Lagerstroemeia parviflora* Roxb. (*sidhraka*/*siddhaka*) and *L. flos-reginae* Retz. (*jārula* by some). See [GVDB](#): 432: [183](#), [186](#), [288](#)
- sappanwood (*pattāṅga*) Also *pattāṅga*. *Caesalpinia sappan*, L. [AVS](#): 1, 323, K & B: 2, 847 f, [GVDB](#): 234: [40](#), [50](#)
- scarlet mallow (*bandhujīva*) *Pentapetes phoenicea*, L. [NK](#): #1836, [GVDB](#): 268: [128](#)
- scented pavonia (*bālaka*) *Pavonia odorata*, Willd. See [ADPS](#): 498, [NK](#): 1, #1822: [142](#)
- scented pavonia (*toya*) → *bālaka*? *Pavonia odorata*, Willd. [ADPS](#): 498, [NK](#): 1, #1822: [186](#)
- scramberry (*tālīsapatra*) see [scramberry](#) (*tālīśa*): [186](#)
- scramberry (*tālīśa*) Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 179, 458–459) discusses the several identifications and regional differences in identifying this plant. *Taxus baccata* Linn. is a common candidate, as is *Flacourtia jangomas* (Lour.) Raeusch. (scramberry): [102](#), [197](#), [289](#)
- screwpine (*ketaka*) *Pandanus tectorius* Parkinson ex Du Roi, [GVDB](#): 116: [274](#)
- scurfy pea (*bākucī*) Identified as *Cullen corylifolia* (L.) Medik. [ADPS](#): 69–70, [GVDB](#): 272: [288](#)
- scutch grass (*dūrvā*) *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers., [GVDB](#): 205: [281](#), [289](#)
- scutch grass (*granthilā*) see [scutch grass](#) (*dūrvā*), [Mahākośa](#): 1, 303, citing the *Rājanighaṇṭu*. It should be an aromatic in this context. Monier-Williams et al.: 371 said “two kinds of *Dūrvā* grass and of a kind of *Cyperus*” on lexical authority, perhaps also the *Rājanighaṇṭu* where it is listed amongst sweet-smelling plants. Other sources identify it as *Cissus quadrangularis*, L., i.e., Veldt grape (Ś. Gupta 1887: 272), or [Bengal quince](#) (*bilva*): [186](#)

- sedge (*kuṭannaṭa*) → *plava*, *tagara*, or *śyonāka*, according to commentators (GVDB: 102–103). Singh and Chuneekar leans towards the *plava*, but that plant too is difficult to identify. Various sources identify *kuṭannaṭa* as *Cyperus rotundus* L., *C. scariosus* R. Br., *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz (= *Bignonia Indica* L.) or even *Cinnamomum verum* J. Presl. The *Cyperus* genus comprises about 700 species of sedges, and I have chosen “sedge” as a generic indication of the likely identity of this plant: 175, 290
- sedge (*kuṭannaṭā*) see [sedge](#) (*kuṭannaṭa*): 186
- sesame (*tila*) *Sesamum indicum* L. GVDB: 183: 186, 187
- sesame oil (*taila*) *Sesamum indicum* L. GVDB: 183: 49, 170
- shami tree (*śamī*) *Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Druce GVDB: 390: 183, 276
- silk-cotton tree (*śālmālī*) *Bombax malabarica*. See [Issar](#): 152: 186
- siris (*śirīṣa*) *Albizia lebbeck*, Benth. See [AVS](#): 1, 81, [NK](#): 1, #91, GVDB: 399–400. Cf. [white siris](#): 141, 170, 185, 186, 196, 293
- siris seeds (*śirīṣamāṣaka*) *Albizia lebbeck*, Benth. See [AVS](#): 1, 81, [NK](#): 1, #91: 126
- small-flowered crape myrtle (*sidhraka*) *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb., GVDB: 432: 146
- smooth angelica (*coraka*) *Angelica glauca* Edgw. GVDB: 161. Distribution: Afghanistan, Himalaya, western Tibet (POWO). Edgeworth even recorded the indigenous name “chura” (Edgeworth 1851: 53): 177, 184, 290
- smooth angelica (*taskara*) see [smooth angelica](#) (*coraka*), GVDB: 176: 186
- 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): 132
- spikenard (*jaṭā*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭamāṃsī*): 186
- spikenard (*jaṭamāṃsī*) *Nardostachys jatamansi* (D. Don) DC, GVDB: 163. See also [NK](#): 1, #1691: 290
- spikenard (*māṃsī*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭamāṃsī*): 142, 176, 186
- spikenard (*nalada*) see [spikenard](#) (*jaṭamāṃsī*): 124, 176, 186
- 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): 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*): 133
- spurge (*saptalā*) Singh and Chuneekar (GVDB: 421–422) discuss the four candidates for this plant, three of which are *Euphorbias*: 106, 177
- strychnine tree (*viṣamuṣṭika*) *Strychnos nux vomica* Linn. GVDB: 373: 287
- sugar (*sitā*) *Ḍalhaṇa* makes this equation at 1.37.25 ([Su 1938](#): 162): 142, 177
- sugar (*śarkara*) *Saccharum officinarum*, Linn. [NK](#): #2182: 130
- sugar cane (*ikṣu*) *Saccharum officinarum*, Linn. [NK](#): #2182: 130
- sunflower (*sūryavallī*) → *ādityavallī*, *sūryamukhī*, *Helianthus annuus* Linn. GVDB: 35, 443: 141
- sweet flag (*vacā*) *Acorus calamus* Linn. See [GVDB](#): 352–355: 101, 108, 184
- sweet plants (*madhuravarga*) The sweet plants are enumerated at *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 1.42.11. See also [GVDB](#): 127: 49

- sweet-scented oleander (*aśvamāraka*)
 Nerium oleander, L. See [ADPS](#): 223,
[NK](#): 1, #1709, [GVDB](#): 77, which
 discusses the white and red forms: [132](#)
- teak (*śāka*) *Tectona grandis*, L.f. See
[AVS](#): 5, 245, ([MW](#): 1061): [183](#)
- Tellicherry bark (*kuṭāja*) *Holarrhena*
pubescens Wall. ex G.Don, with
Wrightia tinctoria and *W. arborea*
 considered [GVDB](#): 101–102,
[ADPS](#): 267–270: [97](#), [183](#), [279](#)
- ten roots (*daśamūla*) Described at
Suśrutasaṃhitā 1.38.70–71 ([Su](#) 1938: 169)
 as a combination of the [lesser five roots](#)
 and the [greater five roots](#): [279](#)
- the three myrobalans (*triphālā*) [chebulic](#)
[myrobalan](#) [beleric myrobalan](#) and
[emblic myrobalan](#) (*haritakī bibhītaka*
 and *āmalaka*) One of the most-often
 mentioned drugs in the *Bṛhatrayī*
[GVDB](#): 194–196: [95](#), [175](#), [176](#), [275](#)
- the three pungent drugs (*kaṭutrika*) see the
[three pungent drugs](#) (*trikaṭu*): [186](#)
- the three pungent drugs (*trikaṭu*) [dried](#)
[ginger](#), [long pepper](#), and [black pepper](#)
 (*śuṇṭhī*, *pippalī*, and *marica*) [GVDB](#): 193:
[175](#), [291](#)
- the two types of clitoria (*śvete*) see [white](#)
[clitoria](#) (*śvetā*): [186](#)
- the two types of turmeric (*haridre*) see
[turmeric](#) (*haridrā*) and [Indian barberry](#)
 (*dāruharidrā*), [GVDB](#): 465–466: [186](#)
- thorn apple (*karambha*) *Datura metel*, L.
 See [GVDB](#): 76 for useful discussion.
 Also, [AVS](#): 2, 305 (cf.
Abhidhānamāñjarī), [NK](#): 1, #796 ff.
[Potter_{rev}](#): 292 f, [ADPS](#): 132. Possibly the
 same plant as [plumed cockscomb](#)
 (*indīvara*) ([GVDB](#): 76, 44–45): [133](#), [134](#),
[275](#), [287](#)
- 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: [76](#), [141](#)
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇa*) *Crataeva*
magna (Lour.) DC. See [AVS](#): 2, 202; cf.
[NK](#): 1, #696: [129](#), [177](#), [184](#), [291](#)
- three-leaved caper (*varuṇaka*) see
[three-leaved caper](#) (*varuṇa*): [186](#)
- toothed-leaf limonia (*surasī*) *Naringi*
crenulata (Roxb.) Nicolson (formerly
Limonia crenulata Roxb.), [GVDB](#): 439:
[176](#), [186](#)
- top layer of fermented liquor (*surāmaṇḍa*)
[K & B](#): 2, 502, [NK](#): 2, appendix VI, #49,
[McHugh](#) 2021: 39: [47](#), [48](#)
- tree cotton (*kārpāsa*) *G. arboreum* L.
[ADPS](#): 231. Pace the identifications of
 Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB](#): 92, 247),
 since *G. barbadense* L. is native to
 South America and *G. herbaceum* L.
 which is native to Africa: [46](#), [291](#)
- tree cotton (*picu*) See [tree cotton](#) (*kārpāsa*):
[48](#), [50](#)
- tree of heaven (*arala*) probably *Alianthus*
excelsa Roxb., [GVDB](#): 21–22: [183](#)
- turmeric (*gaūrī*) *Curcuma longa*, L. See
[ADPS](#): 169, [AVS](#): 2, 259, [NK](#): 1, #750:
[102](#)
- turmeric (*haridrā*) *Curcuma longa* Linn.
[GVDB](#): 465: [103](#), [141](#), [147](#), [175](#), [291](#)
- turmeric (*rajanī*) *Curcuma longa*, L.
[ADPS](#): 169, [AVS](#): 2, 259, [NK](#): 1, #750:
[32](#), [142](#), [176](#)
- turpeth (*trivṛt*) → *trvṛtā*. *Operculina*
turpethum (Linn.) Silva Manso =
Ipomoea turpethum R. Br. [GVDB](#): 197.:
[95](#), [130](#), [175](#), [260](#), [275](#)
- two kinds of salt (*vasukavasira*) See the
 discussion by 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*): [73](#)
- unknown fruit poison (*veṇuka*) see
[unknown fruit poison](#) (*veṇukā*): [133](#)

- unknown fruit poison (*veṇukā*) Bambusa bambos, Druce?. See [NK](#): 1, #307, [GVDB](#): 380. The Nepalese transmission has the m. *veṇuka*, not the f. *veṇukā* Singh and Chunekekar ([GVDB](#): 380) note that this is an unknown fruit-poison: 291
- velvet bean (*svayamguptā*) Mucuna pruriens DC., [GVDB](#): 461 : 196
- velvet-leaf (*pāṭhā*) Cissampelos pariera, L. See [ADPS](#): 366, [NK](#): 1, #592, [GJM1](#): 573, [AVS](#): 1, 95; cf. [AVS](#): 2, 277 : 40, 76, 92, 108, 141, 175, 176, 280
- velvet-mite (*indragopa*) Kerria lacca (Kerr.). Lienhard 1978 : 125
- verbena (*bhārgī*) see [verbena](#) (*bhārgī*) : 176, 186
- verbena (*bhārgī*) → phañjī.
Clerodendrum serratum (L.) Moon or C. serratum; see [AVS](#): 2, 121, [ADPS](#): 87 : 292
- verbena (*phañjī*) Clerodendrum serratum, L. See [AVS](#): 2, 121, [ADPS](#): 87 : 128
- vetiver (*uśīra*) Chrysopogon zizanioides (L.) Roberty, also called “khus.” [NK](#): 1, #180, [GVDB](#): 54 identify it as vetiver : 74, 127, 170, 292
- vetiver and lemon grass (?) (*uśīre*) “the two uśīras,” perhaps [vetiver](#) (*uśīra*) and [lemon grass](#) (*uśīrabheda*) : 186
- viburnum (*tilvaka*) Viburnum nervosum D.Don. In their thoughtful article, Singh and Chunekekar ([GVDB](#): 185–186) separate *tilvaka* from *lodhra*, a conflation they attribute to Dr̥ḍhabala. [AVS](#): 5, 219 makes the same separation, noting that in Kerala the plant Jatrophacurcas L. is used in this context. Cf. many varieties listed by Griffiths (IGP: 1200 ff.). [POWO](#) confirms that V. nervosum has an appropriate Himalayan distribution. [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*) is sometimes wrongly considered to be a synonym of [long-stamen Wendlandia](#) (?) (*tilaka*) ([GVDB](#): 186) : 95, 184, 284, 292
- viburnum extract (*tailvaka*) see [viburnum](#) (*tilvaka*) : 196
- ‘Virāṭa’s plant’ (*vairāṭaka*) unknown. See ? : 134
- water snowflake (?) (*kumudavati*) see [water snowflake](#) (?) (*kumudavatī*) : 134
- water snowflake (?) (*kumudavatī*) This is an unidentifiable plant whose name means, etymologically, “with lilies.” [MW](#): 292 gives Nymphoides indica (L.) Kuntze (formerly Villarsia indica) on no authority; I have used the common name of N. indica as a possibility, but this is not known to be poisonous; on the contrary, it is used medicinally (Khan et al. 2018). N. indica is illustrated on p. 6 of the Voynich manuscript. Khan et al. (2018) assert that this is the same plant as *tagara*, although this is not a widely-held view (see [crape jasmine](#) (*tagara*)) : 133, 277, 292
- watered buttermilk (*udaśvit*) [MW](#): 183 : 126
- weaver’s beam tree (*mokṣaka*) see [weaver’s beam tree](#) (*muṣkaka*) : 292
- weaver’s beam tree (*muṣkaka*) Schrebera swietenoides, Roxb. See [AVS](#): 5, 88, Lord, [NK](#): 1, #2246, [GVDB](#): 242–243 : 97, 146, 292
- weaver’s beam tree (*pāṭalī*) usually a synonym for [crimson trumpet-flower tree](#) (*pāṭalā*), but Singh and Chunekekar ([GVDB](#): 242–243) argue that it is [weaver’s beam tree](#) (*mokṣaka*) because some authors distinguish two colours (unlike *pāṭalā*) : 97, 183, 186
- weaver’s beam tree (*viśalyā*) Schrebera swietenoides Roxb. ← *kuberākṣī*. Singh and Chunekekar ([GVDB](#): 371) notes that this name is a synonym for many other plants, including *lāṅgālī*, *indravāruṇī*, *guḍūcī* etc. Ḍalhana identified it with *pāṭalā*, *kāṣṭhapāṭalā*, and *agnīśikhā* tree, all of which may be called *śvetamokṣaka* or *kuberākṣī* : 175

- weevil wort (*tālamūlikā*) [GVDB: 178–179](#): 293
- weevil wort (*tālapatrī*) → *tālamūlikā*, [weevil wort](#), q.v. [GVDB: 178](#): 177
- white babool (*arimeda*) Acacia leucophloea, (Roxb.) Willd. See [AVS: 1, 23](#): 40, 184
- white calotropis (*alarka*) Calotropis procera, (Ait.) R. Br. See [NK: 1, #428](#), [Chopra: 46b](#), [Chopra IDG: 305–308](#): 49
- 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: 127, 176, 177, 185, 291
- white cutch tree (*somavalka*) Acacia polyacantha, Willd. See [AVS: 1, 30](#), [IGP 7, GJM1: 602](#), [AVS: 2, 935](#); *pace* [NK: 1, #1038](#): 128, 146
- white dammer tree (*sarja*) Vateria indica, L. See [NK: 1, #2571](#), [AVS: 5, 349 f](#), [AVS: 1, 292 f](#), [Chopra: 253a](#). Singh and Chuneekar ([GVDB: 424](#)) discussed whether this term might be broadened to any resinous tree and decided against: 40, 73, 288, 293
- white dammer tree (*sarjja*) see [white dammer tree](#) (*sarja*): 183
- white sandalwood (*bhadraśriya*) Santalum album Linn. See [white sandalwood](#) (*bhadraśrī*): 102, 186
- 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*: 75, 293
- white siris (?) (*kapitana*) 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: 183
- white siris (*kaṭabhī*) Albizia procera (Roxb.) Benth. or A. lebbeck (Linn.) Benth. [GVDB: 63–64](#), [AVS: 1, 81–84](#). Cf. [siris](#): 170, 290
- white siris (*kiṇihī*) Albizia procera (Roxb.) Benth., [GVDB: 98](#), which also discusses past confusions; [NK: 1, #93](#): 141, 176, 177
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarī*: 197
- white teak (*kāśmarya*) see [white teak](#) (*kāśmarī*): 186
- white teak (*kāśmaryā*) see [white teak](#) (*kāśmarī*): 74
- white teak (*kāśmarī*) → *kāśmarya*, *kāśmarī*, *madhuparṇī*. Gmelina arborea, Roxb. See [GJM1: 543](#), [Trees: 51](#), [ADPS: 240](#), [GVDB: 96–97](#): 102, 104, 280, 293
- white teak (*madhuparṇī*) → *kāśmarī*: 73
- white water-lily (*kumuda*) Nymphaea alba, Linn., [GVDB: 105](#): 31, 186, 279
- wild asparagus (*bahuputrā*) Asparagus racemosus, Willd. See further [wild asparagus](#) (*śatāvarī*) Possibly a syn. for *nandana*. The bark of wild asparagus is toxic: 128
- 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](#): 100–102, 104, 202, 293
- wild celery (*agnika*) → may be *bhallātaka*, *lāṅgalī*, *ajamodā*, *moraṭa*, or *agnimantha*, [GVDB: 4](#). Uncertain A plant often cited in *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, but rarely in *Carakasamhitā* ([GVDB: 4](#)). Ḍalhaṇa glossed it at 5.2.45 ([Su 1938: 566](#)) as *ajamodā* but noted that others consider it to be *moraṭa*. There is considerable complexity surrounding the identification of *moraṭa*/*mūrvā* itself and

- related synonyms (GVDB: 314–316) :
141, 294
- wild celery (*ajamodā*) *Apium graveolens*, L. Sometimes identified with *agnika* (wild celery), q.v. : 141, 175
- wild Himalayan cherry (*padmaka*) *Prunus cerasoides* D.Don, GVDB: 236, AVS: 4, 353–355. MW: 585 is wide of the mark : 102–104, 175, 176, 186
- 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 : 108
- wild spider flower (*tailaparnika*) see wild spider flower : 185
- wild spider flower (*tilaparnī*) *Cleome gynandra* L., GVDB: 184–185, but see the discussion of the other drug plants sometimes intended by this name : 294
- wild sugar cane (*kāṇḍekṣu*) *Saccharum spontaneum* L., GVDB: 90 : 73
- winged-stem canscora (*giriḥvā*) see winged-stem canscora (*girikarṇikā*) : 176
- winged-stem canscora (*girikarṇikā*) sometimes → *śvetā*, in which case possibly *Clitoria ternatea*, L., see AVS: 2, 129, NK: 1, #621. Since *śvetā* and *giriḥvā* are cited as separate constituents of one formula (e.g., *Suśrutasaṃhitā* 5.5.75 (Su 1938: 579) they cannot be the same plant. GVDB: 138–139 argued for *Symphorema polyandrum* Wight, which they also assigned to *sinduvāra*. When discussing *śaṅkhapuṣpī*, another possible synonym, Sivarajan and Balachandran (ADPS: 425–427) also suggest *Canscora alata* (Roth) Wall. (syn of *Canscora decussata* Schultes & Schultes f.) and *Convolvulus pluricaulis* Choisy. The former has a more appropriate distribution and is chosen here : 294
- winged-stem canscora (*giryāhvā*) see winged-stem canscora (*girikarṇikā*) : 293
- Withania (*aśvagandhā*) *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal. See AVS: 5, 409 f, Dymock: 2, 566 f, 150, GVDB: 29, Chevillard: 152 : 49, 96, 103, 177
- wolfsbane (*vatsanābha*) *Aconitum napellus*, L. See AVS: 1, 47, NK: 1, #42, Potter_{rev}: 4 f. Or *Aconitum chasmanthum* Stapf ex Holmes, GVDB: 357 : 134, 274
- wood apple (*kapittha*) *Limonia acidissima*, L. See AVS: 3, 327, NK: 1, #1021 : 103, 127, 129, 177, 183, 196
- woody turmeric (*kāleyaka*) *Coscinium fenestratum* (Goetgh.) Colebr., GVDB: 95. See V. K. Gupta et al. 2015: 173–175 : 186
- woody-fruited jujube (*gopaghonṭā*) *Ziziphus xylopyra* (Retz.) Willd. GVDB: 147 → *ghonṭā* : 184
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*) *Solanum virginianum* L. (also called *Solanum xanthocarpum*, Schrad. & Wendl.) GVDB: 68–69. A component of lesser five roots : 284, 294
- yellow-berried nightshade (*kṣudrā*) see yellow-berried nightshade (*kaṇṭakārī*), ADPS: 100, NK: 1, #2329, AVS: 5, 164 : 141, 142

Fauna

- bad-marked rat (*kuliṅga*) etymologically, “having bad-marks” MW: 286, but unidentifiable : 181
- black rat (*kṛṣṇa*) perhaps the widespread Black Rat or Common House Rat, *Rattus Rattus* L., BIA: 210 : 181
- brown rat (*kapila*) name from etymology; unidentified. see **tawny rat** (*aruṇa*) : 181
- chital deer (*pṛṣata*) *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 *pṛṣata* may also be simply Chital or Spotted Deer. See also IW: 93 : 130, 176
- civet (*mārjāra*) BIA: ch. 4 *et passim*, McHugh 2012 : 176
- 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 : 181
- fondling rat (*lālana*) based on etymology. An unknown rat or mouse : 181
- gajpipul rat (*vasira*) 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 : 181
- house shrew (*chuchundara*) *Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus, 1766), Wikipedia, BIA: 168–169 and plate 38. Probably a Dravidian loan word related to Tamil *cunṭaṇ*, see DED₂: #2661 and CDIAL: #5053 : 181
- 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 : 189, 295
- Indian monitor lizard (*godhā*) *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802), Reptiles: 58–60, ill. : 49, 130, 295
- invincible rati (*ajita*) etymological meaning; unidentifiable : 181
- 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 : 147, 176, 186
- 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 433, p. 144. 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 Deuti 2020; IW: 40, 135–136 : 78

- little rat (*cikkira*) likely related to the Tulu “cikkeli, a small variety of mouse,” and other Dravidian works related to Tamil *cikka* “small,” *DED*₂: #2495. See also *CDIAL*: #4779 on *cikka* “mouse or muskrat,” from lexical sources, and #4781 *cikkā* “small” from Drav., Burrow 1948: #141: 181
- mole-rat (*kokila*₁) *Bandicotqa bengalensis* (Gray & Hardwicke). Etymologically, “brown as a Kokila”. *CDIAL*: #4324 relates *kokila* to *golaka* but it may more likely be a Dravidian loanword from *koko*, *kogi*, *koki*, meaning “small, little, young” *DED*₂: 2030. This is possibly supported by Kannada *kok* and Telugu *golatta*, *koku* for the mole-rat, reported by Prater (*BIA*: 205): 181
- mongoose (*nakula*) *Urva edwardsii* or the often sympatric *U. auropunctatus* (small Indian mongoose, usually an eater of smaller creatures than snakes) (*BIA*: ch. 5), On mongooses and snakes, see *BIA*: 98–99; *IW*: 112: 130, 176
- pigeon-like (*kapotābha*) etymologically “like a pigeon;” presumably of grey colour: 181
- rala rat (*arala*₁) a hapax legomenon in Sanskrit, probably a Dravidian loan from forms like Pengo, Maṇḍa, Kuwi etc., *orli*, *urli*, etc., *DED*₂: #994: 181
- rat (*unduru*) Also *undura* or *indūra* in some sources, including the vulgate. A common name for a rat or mouse in many S. Asian languages from Prakrit to contemporary, *CDIAL*: #2095: 181
- 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*): 181
- river dolphin (*śiśumāra*) *Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck), *BIA*: 313–314, plate on p. 289, *MW*: 1076: 187
- sonny rat (*putraka*) unidentified mouse or rat. Perhaps related to Dravidian forms like Pengo *puṭki*, *DED*₂: #4257 (itself perhaps just a form related to Tamil *poṭi* “little”): 181
- 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): 186
- 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” ??: 181, 295
- tortoise (*kūrma*) Perhaps *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff), *Reptiles*: 30 and plate, *MW*: 1076: 187
- white rat (*śveta*₁) 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: 181

Minerals

ashes (*bhasma*) ashes, corrosive when wet :

134

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. :

134

orpiment (*haritāla*) Arsenii trisulphidum.
See NK v. 2, p. 20 ff : 134
vermilion (*rakta*) speculative, based on
Mahākośa: 1, 667, under *raktadhātu*,
citing the *Dhanvantarīyanighaṇṭu* : 134

Glossary

kalpa - procedure: [180](#)

mūṣikā - rats: [180](#)

procedure - *kalpa*: [180](#)

rats - *mūṣikā*: [180](#)

