

Described as large (*vipulā*), of great strength (*mahāśakti*); when Vibhīṣana was struck by Prahasta with a *gadā*, he took up his Śataghantā *gadā* and after reciting *mantras* over it (*abhimantrya*), threw it on Prahasta's head; the *gadā*, falling swiftly with the roar of a lightning, cut off the head of Prahasta 3. 270. 2-4. [See Śataghantā¹]

Śaravarṣa nt. : Name of a missile (so called because it produced, when released, a shower of arrows?).

Used, among other missiles (*astrapūga* 3. 163. 31) by Arjuna against Kirāta (Śiva); Śiva swallowed all those *astras* (*jagrāsa ... tāni sarvāṇy astrāṇi*) 3. 163. 32. [See Śarolbaṇa]

Śarolbaṇa nt. : Name of a missile (so called because it produced, when released, excessive number of arrows?).

Used, among other missiles (*astrapūga* 3. 163. 31) by Arjuna against Kirāta (Śiva); Śiva swallowed all those *astras* (*jagrāsa ... tāni sarvāṇy astrāṇi*) 3. 163. 32. [See Śaravarṣa].

Śākra astra nt. : See Aindrāstra.

Śārṅga nt. : Name of the bow of Viṣṇu, Kṛṣṇa (*śārṅgam tu vaiṣṇavam prāhuḥ ... dhārūyām āsa yat kṛṣṇaḥ* 5. 155. 6).

A. Acquisition : In his fight against Naraka, Kṛṣṇa cut off the nooses of the demon Muru, killed him, then conquered the demon Naraka, son of Bhūmi (*bhauma*), and brought back with him the jewelled *kuṇḍalas*, sixteen thousand excellent women and various jewels; he then received the best Śārṅga bow (*pratipede hr̥ṣīkeṣaḥ śārṅgam ca dhanur uttamam*) 5. 155. 8-9. B. Description : heavenly (*divya*) 5. 155. 6; 3. 21.

24 (*dhanuṣā divyena* not named); splendid (*rucira*) 3. 23. 1; best (*uttama*) 5. 155. 9; lustrous (*tejomaya*) 5. 155. 6; causing fear to the army of the enemy (*parasenābhayaṇa*) 5. 155. 6. C. Association with Kṛṣṇa : As Kṛṣṇa's bow, it is mentioned among the weapons placed on his chariot when he started from the Khāṇḍavaprastha to Dvārakā 2. 2. 12; Kṛṣṇa asked his charioteer Dārūka to place the bow (not named) in his chariot when it was to be made ready for Kṛṣṇa's eventual intervention in the war 7. 56. 32; Śārṅga bow, along with conch, disc, mace and Śakti appeared on Kṛṣṇa's different arms when he manifested his fierce form, as a great wonder, in the Sabhā of the Kauravas 5. 129. 9-10; Kṛṣṇa (and Viṣṇu) have epithets like *śārṅgadhanvan* 3. 120. 6; 3. 189. 30; 5. 73. 2; 5. 135. 30; 6. 61. 35; 7. 9. 71; 8. 5. 16 (*śārṅga° dhanvan*); 10. 13. 6, 9; 12. 200. 6; 13. 135. 120; 14. 52. 6; 16. 9. 14; *śārṅga-dhanurdhara* 6. 61. 45; *śārṅgarathāṅgapāṇi* 6. 55. 94; *śārṅgagadādhara* 2. 41. 33; *śārṅgacakraḡadādhara* 2. 42. 34; 16. 4. 44; *śārṅgacakraṣipāṇi* 12. 43. 16. D. Use : Kṛṣṇa used it in his fight with Śālva; Kṛṣṇa's arrows released from Śārṅga first failed to reach the Saubhapura of Śālva 3. 21. 18; he again released *ayutas* of arrows against Śālva from his heavenly bow 3. 21. 24; the arrows released from Śārṅga pierced the bodies of the demons in the Saubhapura and they fell down in the ocean 3. 21. 28; due to the *māyā* of Śālva, Kṛṣṇa saw the son of Śūra (Vasudeva) falling down from the Saubha; as a result, he was confused and the Śārṅga slipped down from his hand 3. 22. 22-25; when Kṛṣṇa knew the truth, he picked up the splendid bow and shot arrows from it which cut off the heads of the