

A REVIEW ON PLANT POISONS AS ANTIDOTES FOR JANGAMA VISHA WITH REFERENCE TO RASA TARANGINI

Gazala Hussain*¹ and Archana B. Pagad²

¹Associate Professor, ²Assistant Professor

Dept. of Rasashastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana, Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Ayurveda & Hospital, Hassan.

***Corresponding Author: Gazala Hussain**

Associate Professor, Dept. of Rasashastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana, Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Ayurveda & Hospital, Hassan.

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ABSTRACT

Rasashastra is a branch in Ayurveda that deals with Ayurveda pharmaceuticals. It is a branch where formulations are designed utilizing drugs of various origin namely plant drugs, animal products, marine drugs, etc. Various treatise of Rasashastra are present in which Rasa Tarangini is a latest book of 20th century where detailed description of individual rasa dravya is described along with its indications and amayika prayoga. There is an exclusive chapter on vishopavisha (plant poisons) that deals with the description of the therapeutic utility of the plant poisons in various disorders. An interesting feature is the use of these plant poisons in the management of animal poisons. But the uses of the plant poisons are only after subjecting to proper shodhana and very judicious use in the appropriate dose and with the right combination. This article throws light on the use of these plant poisons in the treatment of animal poisons.

KEYWORDS: Plant Poisons, Jangama Visha, Rasa Tarangini, Vatsanabha.

INTRODUCTION

The treatise of rasashastra namely Rasatarangini has listed few herbs as vishopavisha. Vatsanabha is said as mahavisha. Few herbal drugs are enlisted as upavisha namely kupilu, ahiphena, jayapala, dhattura, bhang, gunja, bhallataka, arka, snuhi, langali and karaveera.^[1] These vishopavisha (plant poisons) are useful in therapeutics after they are subjected to proper shodhana (purification). They have wide utility in ayurveda formulations in various disorders.

An interesting feature is that these plant poisons are useful in the management of animal poisons like snake bite, scorpion sting, rat bite, etc. These vishopavisha (plant poisons) are utilized alone or in combination with other herbal drugs. In the treatise of Rasa tarangini, such recipes are mentioned.

The sthavara visha (plant poisons) have ushna veerya, ushna- tikshna- vyavayi guna (property) by which it may help in counter acting the poisonous manifestation of animal poisons.

Table 1: Properties of Visha- Upavisha.^[2]

Sl. No.	Visha- Upavisha	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Doshagnata	Indication in poison & indications
1	Vatsanabha (<i>Aconitum ferox</i>)	Katu (pungent), Tikta (bitter), Kashaya (astringent)	Ushna (Hot), Vyavayi	Ushna (Hot in potency)		Kaphavata nashaka (alleviates kapha and vata dosha)	Sarpavisha (snake poison), Mushaka visha (rat poison)
2	Ahiphena (<i>Papaver somniferum</i>)	Tikta (bitter)				Shleshmahara (alleviates kapha dosha), vatapittala	Vedanahara (analgesic), vranapida (reduces pain in wound)
3	Jayapala (<i>Croton tiglium</i>)	Tikta (bitter)	Guru (heavy), Sara (mobility), Ushna (hot)	Ushna (Hot in potency)		Vatashleshmahara (alleviates vata and kapha dosha), pittajanana	Vishapaha (anti- toxic), Vrishchikaadi vishapranut (useful in scorpion sting), useful in kandu (anti- pruritic), visharoga (poisonous)

							conditions), vrana (wound)
4	Dhattura (<i>Datura stramonium</i>)	Kashaya (astringent), Tikta (bitter), Katu (pungent), Madhura (sweet)	Ushna (hot), Guru (heavy)	Ushna (Hot in potency)		Shleshmashamana, Pittanashana (alleviates kapha and pitta dosha),	Amavisha
5	Bhang (<i>Canabis indica</i>)	Tikta (bitter)	Laghu (light), Tikshna (sharp)	Ushna (Hot in potency)		Kaphahara (alleviates kapha dosha), Pittala (increases pitta dosha)	Shula (useful in pain Nidranashana)
6	Gunja (<i>Abrus precatorius</i>)	Madhura (sweet)	Laghu (light), Ruksha (dry),	Sheeta (Cold in potency)		Vatapittahara (alleviates vata and pitta dosha)	Shothaghna (anti-inflammatory), vedanahara (analgesic), vranaghna (wound healing)
7	Vishamushti (<i>Strychnous nuxvomica</i>)	Tikta (bitter), Katu (pungent), Kashaya (astringent)	Laghu (light), Ushna (hot), Tikshna (sharp)	Ushna (Hot in potency)	Madhura	Pittahara (alleviates pitta dosha)	Srameya visha (dog bite), kandughna (anti-pruritic)
8	Arka (<i>Calotropis procera</i>)	Tikta (bitter)	Ushna (hot), Snigdha (unctuous)	Ushna (Hot in potency)			Useful in kushta (skin disorders), gulma (abdominal tumors) and udara roga
9	Snuhi (<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i>)	Katu (pungent)	Guru (heavy), Tikshna (sharp)			Vatahara (alleviates vata dosha)	Useful in visha (poisonous condition), shopha (inflammation), shula (pain)
10	Karavira (<i>Nerium indicum</i>)		Laghu (light), Ushna (hot)				Krimikandughna (antimicrobial and anti-pruritic)
11	Langali (<i>Gloriosa superba</i>)	Katu (pungent)	Ushna (hot), Sara, Tikshna (sharp), Laghu (light)	Ushna (Hot in potency)		Kaphavatahara (alleviates kapha and vata dosha), pittala (increases pitta dosha)	Useful in shotha (inflammation), shula (pain), vrana (wound)
12	Bhallataka (<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>)	Katu (pungent), Tikta (bitter), Kashaya (astringent), Madhura (sweet)	Ushna (hot), Laghu (light)	Ushna (Hot in potency)		Kaphavatahara (alleviates kapha and vata dosha)	Rasayana (rejuvenate), kriminashaka (antimicrobial)

Vatsanabha

Vatsanabha is said to be useful in sarpa visha (snake bite), akhu (rat bite), vrischika (scorpion sting) and luta

visha by combining it with different media like oil, ghee and other herbs.

Table 2: Use of vatsanabha in different jangama visha (animal poisons).^[3]

Sl. No.	Particulars	Mode of administration	Indications
1	Vatsanabha grinded with Shirisha (<i>Albizia lebeck</i>) patra (leaves) or pushpa (flowers)	Internal	Akhu visha (rat poison)
2	Vatsanabha with kadali kanda rasa mixed with goghrita (Cow's milk)	Internal and externally as anointment	Sarpa visha (snake bite)
3	Vatsanabha with takra (buttermilk)	Internal	Mushaka visha
4	Vatsanabha rubbed with tila taila (gingely oil)	As lepa (anointment)	Vrischika visha (scorpion sting)
5	Vatsanabha with kushta (<i>Saussurea lappa</i>), ela (<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>), bakuchi,	As lepa (anointment) mixed with water	In all types of poisons

	jatamamsi (<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>), devadaru (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>) and tagara (<i>Valeriana wallichii</i>)		
6	Vatsanabha rubbed with arka dugdha (latex of <i>Calotropis procera</i>)	As lepa (anointment)	Luta visha (Spider poison)

Table 3: Upavisha and its indications.

Sl. No.	Upavisha	Particulars	Dose & Mode of administration	Indications
1	Kupilu (<i>Strychnos nuxvomica</i>)		1/30 th to 1/16 th part through suchivedha	In sleep caused due to snake poison and in ahiphenadi visha (opium toxicity) ^[4]
2		Saarameyavishaapaha yoga	Powder of shuddha kupilu (purified strychnous) is said to be taken daily for a month.	Dog bite. ^[5]
3	Jayapala (<i>Croton tiglium</i>)	Vrischikavishahara lepa- Jayapala is rubbed with water	As lepa (external application)	Scorpion sting ^[6]
4	Dhatuira (<i>Datura stramonium</i>)	Dhatuira mixed with Kakodumbura churna and taken with rice water	Internally through oral route	Dog bite ^[7]
5		Dhattura juice with arka dugdha (latex of <i>Calotropis procera</i>) and guda (jaggery)	Internal use	Dog bite ^[8]
6	Gunja (<i>Abrus precatorius</i>)	Gunja mula (root)	-	Vishahara (anti-poisonous) ^[9]
7	Snuhi ksheera (<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i>)	Latex of euphorbia	-	Reduce the visha (anti-poisonous) ^[10]

DISCUSSION

A literary search through Rasa Tarangini has put light on the vishopavisha (plant poisons) use in the management of various jangama visha (animal poisons). Eleven vishopavisha are said out of which vatsanabha and five upavisha namely kupilu, jayapala, dhatura, gunja and snuhi ksheera are used in the management of animal poison. Jayapala is indicated in vrischika visha, the excess pitta comes out by which the visha (poisonous effect) reduces. As the upavisha have the same property like that of visha like vyavayi, ushna, teekshna it will probably act in giving a antagonizing effect. Acharya charaka explains that animal poison is situated below, and vegetable poison is situated above and hence one counteracts the other. This mutually antagonizing nature is made use of in the treatment and one acts as an antidote to the other.^[11]

CONCLUSION

A review through Rasa Tarangini has put light that shows that vatsanabha and a few other upavisha are antidotes for jangama visha. Vatsanabha is useful in most of the jangama visha viz. akhu visha (rat poison), sarpa visha (snake bite), vrischika visha (scorpion sting), luta visha (Spider poison) with different combinations. The ushna, tikshna, vyavayi property of the plant poisons

may help in giving an antagonistic effect in animal poisons.

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