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# A critical review on *Tarkshya Agada*

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** *Agadatantra* is one of the branches of *Ashtanga Ayurveda*, that consist of the science of poison (toxicology), which deals with different poisoning conditions, diagnosis, and treatment. Among all *Vishas*, *Sarpavisha* is most significant as it is the condition that needs emergency management. There are many *Agada Yogas* (anti-poisonous formulations) that are helpful in *Sarpavisha Chikitsa* mentioned by *Ayurvedic Acharyas*. *Tarkshya Agada* is one of the *Agada Yogas* mentioned by *Acharya Susruta* in *Susrutha Samhita* and *Acharya Vridda Vagbhata* in *Ashtanga Sangraha*. **Materials and Method:** The comprehensive review of *Tarkshya Agada* formulation is done from literatures such as *Susrutha Samhita* and *Ashtanga Sangraha*, by emphasizing its properties and action. **Observation and results:** *Tarkshya Agada* explained by *Acharya Susruta* has contains twenty-four drugs, and *Acharya Vridda Vagbhata* comprises twenty-five drugs, almost containing the same drugs whereas *Acharya Susruta* mentioned *Balaka* and *Chandana*, *Acharya Vridda Vagbhata* mentioned *Shunti*, *Padmaka* and *Sita* different drugs, all of which have *Vishahara* and *Shothohara* properties and can be used in the treatment of *Sarpavisha*. **Conclusion:** *Tarkshya Agada* mentioned by *Acharya Susruta* and *Acharya Vridda Vagbhata* in *Sarpavisha Chikitsa* may be found to be one of the effective anti-poisonous formulations which should be tried for experimental and clinical trials in *Sarpavisha Chikitsa*.

**Key words:** *Agada Tantra*, *Sarpadamsha Chikitsa*, *Tarkshya Agada*.

## INTRODUCTION

*Agadatantra* is one of the branches of *Ashtanga Ayurveda*<sup>[1]</sup> deals with signs and symptoms of *Visha* (poison) either resulting from *Sthavara* (plants origin) or *Jangama* (animal origin) or *Krithrima* (combination) along with its *Chikitsa*. *Gada* means *Roga* (disease),

*Agada* means to fight against *gada*.<sup>[2]</sup> There are numerous *Agada Yogas* in the treatment of *Visha* are mentioned in different classical textbooks. In the ancient era, animal poisoning was common as they reside in the forest. Among all the poisonous animals, snakes have been placed at the top. *Sarpavisha* is most significant as it is a condition that needs emergency management. In *Ayurvedic Samhitas* many *Adaga* preparations are described for the *Sarpavisha Chikitsa* among this *Tarkshya Agada* is one, to utilize this formulation with confidence the comprehensive review of *Tarkshya Agada* formulation is done from literatures by emphasizing in brief about its properties and its action.

### *Tarkshya Agada*

*Tarkshya Agada* is one of the *Agada Yogas* mentioned by *Acharya Susruta* in *Susrutha Samhita Kalpasthana* 5<sup>th</sup> chapter *Sarpadastavisha Chikitsa*,<sup>[3]</sup> and *Acharya*

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Vridha Vagbhata in Ashtanga Sangraha Uttaratanttra 42<sup>nd</sup> chapter Sarpavishapratishedho Adhyaya.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Table 1: The drugs of the Tarkshya Agada according to Susruta Samhita<sup>[3]</sup> and Ashtanga Sangraha<sup>[4]</sup>**

| SN  | Susrutha Samhita | Ashtanga Sangraha |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | Prapondarika     | Prapondarika      |
| 2.  | Devadaru         | Devadaru          |
| 3.  | Kalanusarya      | Kalanusarya       |
| 4.  | Katuka           | Katuka            |
| 5.  | Sthouneya        | Sthouneya         |
| 6.  | Dhyamaka         | Dhyamaka          |
| 7.  | Shaileya         | Shaileya          |
| 8.  | Guggulu          | Guggulu           |
| 9.  | Punnaga          | Punnaga           |
| 10. | Talisa           | Talisa            |
| 11. | Suvarchika       | Suvarchika        |
| 12. | Kutannata        | Kutannata         |
| 13. | Ela              | Ela               |
| 14. | Sveta Nirgundi   | Sinduvara         |
| 15. | Kustha           | Kustha            |
| 16. | Priyangu         | Priyangu          |
| 17. | Suvarnagarika    | Suvarnagarika     |
| 18. | Pippali          | Pippali           |
| 19. | Tagara           | Nata              |
| 20. | Rodra            | Lodra             |
| 21. | Saindava         | Lavanottama       |
| 22. | Mustha           | Ghana             |
| 23. | Balaka           | Shunti            |
| 24. | Chandana         | Padmaka           |
| 25. | -                | Sita              |

**Table 2: Ingredients of Tarkshya Agada with botanical name and family**

| SN  | Dravya                      | Botanical Name                    | Family           |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Prapondarika                | Nelumbo nucifera gaertn           | Nelumbonaceae    |
| 2.  | Devadaru                    | Cegrus deodera (Roxb.) Loud.      | Pinaceae         |
| 3.  | Mustha and Ghana            | Cyperus rotundus Linn.            | Cyperaceae       |
| 4.  | Kalanusarya (Kalanu Sariva) | Hemidismus indicus R.Br.          | Asclepidaceae    |
| 5.  | Katuka                      | Pictrirhiza kurroa Royleex Benth  | Scrophulariaceae |
| 6.  | Sthouneya                   | Taxus baccata Linn.               | Taxaceae         |
| 7.  | Dhyamaka                    | Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats  | Poaceae          |
| 8.  | Guggulu                     | Commiphora mukul (hook ex stocks) | Burseraceae      |
| 9.  | Punnaga                     | Colopfiyllum inophyllum linn.     | Guttiferae       |
| 10. | Talisapatra                 | Abies webbiana Lindle             | Pinaceae         |
| 11. | Suvarchika                  | Potassium nitrate                 |                  |
| 12. | Kutannata (Shonyaka)        | Oroxylum indicum Vent             | Bignoniaceae     |
| 13. | Ela                         | Elattaria caedamomum              | Zingiberaceae    |
| 14. | Swetha Nirgundi             | Vitex negundo Linn.               | Verbenaceae      |
| 15. | Saileya                     | Parmelia pertala, Ach.            | Parmeliaceae     |
| 16. | Kusta                       | Saussurea lappa C.B. Clarke       | Compositae       |
| 17. | Tagara                      | Valerina wallichii DG             | Valerianaceae    |
| 18. | Priyangu                    | Callicarpa macrophylla Vahl.      | Verbenaceae      |
| 19. | Rodra (lodra)               | Symplocos racemose                | Styraceae        |

|     |               |                            |               |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 20. | Balaka(ambu)  | water                      |               |
| 21. | Svarnagairika | Ferrous oxide              |               |
| 22. | Pippali       | Piper longum Linn.         | Piperaceae    |
| 23. | Chandana      | Santalum album Linn.       | Santalaceae   |
| 24. | Saindava      | Rock salt                  |               |
| 25. | Shunti        | Zinzibera officinale Rosc. | Zingiberaceae |
| 26. | Padmaka       | Prunus ceasoides D. Don.   | Rosaceae      |

**Table 3: Ingredients of Tarkshya Agada and its properties<sup>[5]</sup>**

| SN | Dravya  | Rasa                        | Guna                         | Veerya | Vipaka  | Karma  |
|----|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------|---------|--|
| 1. | Prapon darika                                     | Kashaya<br>Madhura<br>Tikta | Laghu<br>Snigdha<br>Picchila | Sheeta | Madhura | Kapha<br>pittashamaka  |
| 2. | Devadaru <sup>[6]</sup>                           | Tikta                       | Laghu<br>Snigdha             | Ushna  | Katu    | Kapha<br>vatashamaka<br>Shotahara<br>Vedanasthapaka<br>Hrudaya<br>uttejaka |
| 3. | Mustha <sup>[7]</sup> and<br>Ghana <sup>[8]</sup> | Tikta<br>Kashaya<br>Katu    | Laghu<br>Ruksha              | Sheeta | Katu    | Kapha<br>pittashamaka<br>Shotahara,<br>Lekhana<br>Vishagna                 |
| 4. | Kalanusarya<br>(kalanusariva)                     | Madhura<br>Tikta            | Guru<br>Snigdha              | Sheeta | Madhura | Raktaprasada<br>Tridosha<br>Shamaka<br>Rochana<br>Shothahara               |
| 5. | Katuka  | Tikta                       | Ruksha<br>Laghu              | Sheeta | Katu    | Kaphapittahara<br>Rochana<br>Yakruthuttejaka                               |

|     |                          |                             |   |        |         |  |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------|---------|--|
|     |                          |                             |   |        |         | medhorogahara  |
| 6.  | Sthouneya <sup>[6]</sup> | Tikta<br>Madhura            | Laghu<br>Tikshana   | Ushna  | Katu    | Kaphavatas<br>hamaka<br>Shotahara<br>Jwaragna          |
| 7.  | Dhyamaka <sup>[7]</sup>  | Katu                        | Laghu<br>Ruksha   | Ushna  | Katu    | Raktashodhaka  |
| 8.  | Guggulu <sup>[7]</sup>   | Tikta<br>Katu               | Laghu<br>Ruksha<br>Tikshana<br>Vishada<br>Sukshma<br>Sara | Ushna  | Katu    | Tridosahara<br>Shothahara<br>Vranashodhana             |
| 9.  | Punnaga                  | Madhura<br>Kashaya          | Laghu<br>Ruksha   | Sheeta | Katu    | Kapha<br>pittashamaka<br>Stambana<br>Raktapittashamaka |
| 10. | Talisaptra               | Tikta<br>Madhura            | Laghu<br>Tikshana   | Ushna  | Katu    | Kaphavatas<br>hamaka<br>Shotahara<br>Jwaragna          |
| 11. | Suvarchika               | Katu                        | Tikshana<br>Ruksha<br>Laghu                               | Sheeta | Katu    | Vishagna   |
| 12. | Kutannata<br>(shonyaka)  | Madhura<br>Tikta<br>Kashaya | Laghu<br>Ruksha   | Ushna  | Katu    | Kaphavata<br>shamaka<br>Shothahara<br>,<br>Mutrala     |
| 13. | Ela                      | Katu<br>Madhura             | Laghu<br>Ruksha   | Sheeta | Madhura | Tridosahara<br>Mukhashodana<br>Hrudya                  |
| 14. | Swethanirgundi           | Katu<br>Tikta               | Laghu<br>Ruksha   | Ushna  | Katu    | Kaphavatas<br>hamaka<br>Vishagna                       |

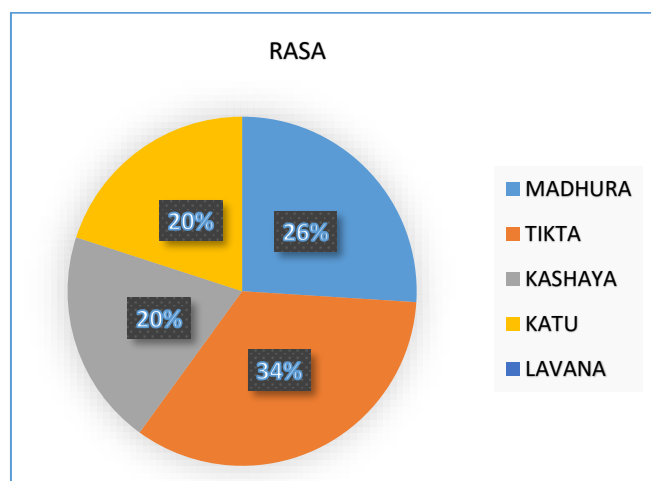
|     |                                |                             |                             |                   |         |  |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|--|
|     |                                |                             |                             |                   |         | Shotahara<br>Vranaropana<br>Kandugna,<br>kusthagna                       |
| 15. | Saileya                        | Tikta<br>Kashaya            | Laghu<br>Snigdha            | Sheeta            | Katu    | Pittashamaka<br>Shotahara<br>Vedanasthapanana                            |
| 16. | Kusta                          | Tikta<br>Katu<br>Madhura    | Laghu<br>Ruksha<br>Tikshna  | Ushna             | Katu    | Kaphavata<br>shamaka<br>Durgandan<br>ashaka<br>Kustagna<br>Rasayana      |
| 17. | Tagara                         | Katu<br>Tikta<br>Kashaya    | Laghu<br>Snigdha            | Ushna             | Katu    | Kaphavata<br>shamaka<br>Yakruttejaka<br>Vishagna<br>Hrudayatejaka        |
| 18. | Priyangu                       | Tikta<br>Kashaya<br>Madhura | Guru<br>Ruksha              | Sheeta            | Katu    | Tridoshash<br>amaka<br>Raktashodaka<br>Raktapittas<br>hamaka<br>Vishagna |
| 19. | Rodra<br>(lodra)               | Kashaya<br>Madhura<br>Tikta | Ruksha                      | Sheeta            | Katu    | Pittakaphas<br>hamaka<br>Shotahara<br>Vishagna                           |
| 20. | Balaka <sup>16</sup><br>(ambu) | Water                       |                             |                   |         |  |
| 21. | Svarnagarika                   | Kashaya<br>Madhura          | Snigdha<br>Vishada          | Sheeta            | Madhura | Pittashamaka<br>vranaropaka  |
| 22. | Pippali                        | Katu                        | Laghu<br>Snigdha<br>Tikshna | Anushna<br>sheeta | Madhura | Pittashamaka<br>Yakruttejaka<br>Raktashodaka<br>Rasayana                 |

|     |          |                   |                  |        |         |   |
|-----|----------|-------------------|------------------|--------|---------|---|
| 23. | Chandana | Tikta<br>Madhura  | Laghu<br>Ruksha  | Sheeta | Katu    | Kaphapittas<br>hamaka<br>Dhahapras<br>hamana<br>Kothaprash<br>amana<br>Kustagna |
| 24. | Saindava | Lavana<br>Madhura | Laghu<br>Snigdha | Sheeta |         | Vrushya   |
| 25. | Shunti   | Katu              | Laghu<br>Snigdha | Ushna  | Madhura | Kaphavatas<br>hamaka<br>Shothahara<br>raktashodh<br>aka                         |
| 26. | Padmaka  | Kashaya<br>Tikta  | Laghu            | Sheeta | Katu    | Kaphapittas<br>hamaka<br>Kandugna<br>Kustagna<br>vishagna                       |

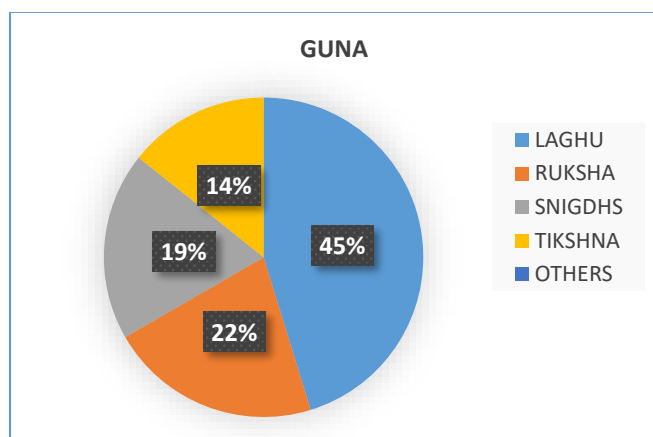
### Method of preparation

*Ashtanga Sangraha* and *Susrutha Samhita* have mentioned method of preparation. All the drugs mentioned in the formulation should be taken in equal quantity and made finely powdered form and fill in the horn and soak in honey. This formulation can be used in the form of *Paana* (oral administration), *Nasya* (nasal drops), *Anjana* (collyrium), *Abyanjana* (Massage).<sup>[9]</sup>

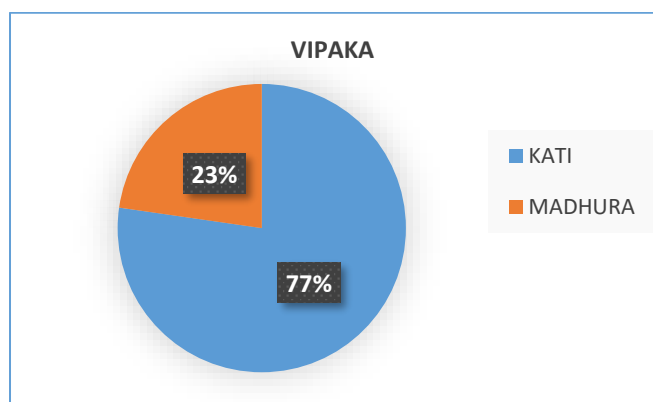
### Diagram 1: Analysis of Rasa of ingredients of Tarkshya Agada.



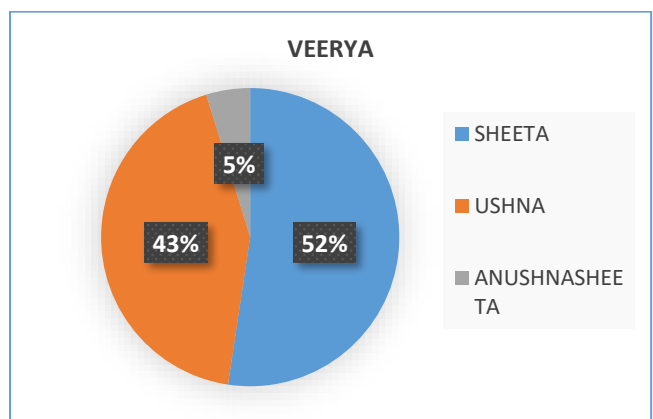
**Diagram 2: Analysis of Guna of ingredients of Tarkshya Agada.**



**Diagram 3: Analysis of Vipaka of ingredients of Tarkshya Agada**



**Diagram 4: Analysis of Veerya of ingredients of Tarkshya Agada**



## DISCUSSION

*Susrutha Samhita* and *Ashtanga Sangraha* have given the same name as *Tarkshya Agada* in *Sarpadamsha Chikitsa* almost contain same drugs whereas *Acharya Susrutsa* mentioned *Balaka* and *Chandana*, *Acharya*

*Vridha Vagbhata* mentioned *Shunti*, *Padmaka* and *Sita* different drugs.

Based on *Rasa* in this formulation about 26% of ingredients have *Madhura rasa*, 34% of ingredients have *Tikta rasa*, and 20% of ingredients have *Kashaya* and *Katu rasa*. *Katu*, *Tikta*, *Kashaya rasa* pacifies *Kapha dosha*. *Kashaya*, *Tikta*, *Madhura rasa* pacifies *Pitta dosha* and *Madhura rasa* pacifies *Vata dosha*.<sup>[10]</sup>

Based on *Guna* in this formulation have 45% of ingredients have *Laghu Guna*, 22% of ingredients have *Ruksha Guna* and 19% of ingredients have *Snigdha Guna*, 14% of ingredients have *Tikshna Guna*. *Laghu* and *Ruksha* and *Tikshna Guna* facilitates easy spreading of the medicine helps in fast penetration of *Dravyas* to provide faster action on *Visha*,

Based on *Veerya* in this formulation, 52% of the ingredients have *Sheeta Veerya*, and its acts as *Pittahara*, *Sthambaka*, *Raktaprasadaka*. 43% of ingredients have *Ushna Veerya* and it's on *Kapha* and *Vata Doshahara* helps for digestion of *Dravyas*. And 5% of ingredients have *Anushna sheeta Veerya*.<sup>[11]</sup>

Based on the *Vipaka* in this formulation, 77% of ingredients have *Katu vipaka* that pacifies *Kapha dosha* and 23% of the drugs have *Madhura Vipaka* that pacifies *Pitta* and *Vata Dosh*.<sup>[12]</sup>

Most of the ingredients having *Tridosahara*, *Shothahara*, *Vishagna*, *Kandugna*, *Kustagna*, *Raktashodaka* and *Raktaprasadaka*. As it contains *Pippali*, *Kutannata*, *Kusta*, *Suvarchika* act as *Deepana* and *Pachana* maintains *Agni* in cellular level. *Svarnagarika*, *Chandana*, *Lodra*, *Nata*, *Dhyamaka* acts as *Balya*, *Vrushya*, *Kusthagna*, *Vishagna*, *Shotahara*, *Yakruttejaka*, *Raktashodhana* and exhibits their antitoxic action and cure *Sarpavisha* and other skin diseases.

## CONCLUSION

*Sarpadamsha Visha* is a condition that needs emergency management. The diagnosis of snakebite in *Ayurveda* is unlike other systems of medicine. *Acharya Vagbhata* has mentioned in *Ashtanga Hrudaya* that poison has entered the body vitiates the *Raktadhatu* first then enters into *Kapha Dosh* *Pitta dosha* and

lastly enters *Vatadosha* then invades the *Hrudaya* to death of the body.<sup>[13]</sup> Here it mainly focused on vitiation of *dosha* caused by *Visha*. In present days ASV (Anti snake venom) is being used for snakebite conditions that may lead to many difficulties and side effects, and the practice of *Agada* formulations (anti-poisonous preparations) in *Sarpavisha Chikitsa* is limited. Thus, to overcome this condition without side effects and complications, by this review of literature *Tarkshya Agada* may be found to be one of the effective formulations mentioned by *Acharya Susruta* in *Susrutha Samhita* and *Acharya Vridha Vagbhata* in *Ashtanga Sangraha* in the treatment of *Sarpavisha* and also it removes the effect of poisoning even by *Takshaka*. All the above-mentioned herbal ingredients are safe, harmless, easily available, and cost-effective. Hence further detailed experimental and clinical researches are needed for a better understanding of efficacy also to explore the mode of action of this formulation and for better application in the field of snakebite management.

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