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A compiled review on the concept of *Keeta Visha* and its *Chikitsa*

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is an ancient Indian system of medicine having eight important branches. *Agadatantra* is one amongst the eight-fold branches of *Ayurveda* that deals with identification, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of various manifestations caused by *Sthavara Visha*, *Jangama Visha*, *Krithrima Visha* and *Khanija Visha*. *Acharya's Charaka, Susruta, Vagbhata, Madhavakara, Bhavamishra*, other classics and regional texts have recited concerning the origin of *Visha*, *Sthavara Visha* (*Vatasanbha, Kupeelu, Ahiphena* etc.) *Jangama Visha* (*Sarpa, Vruschika, Keeta, Loota, Alaraka* etc.) and *Krithrima Visha* (*Gara Visha* and *Dushi Visha*). *Acharya's* have described *Keeta Visha* under *Jangama Visha* and classified under four groups and elucidated 67 different types of *Keeta*. These are the largest groups of arthropods, which constitute 80% of all living animals, only 3% of the insect species are harmful to humans. *Keeta Visha* causes local symptoms to severe systemic manifestations like *Shopha, Granthi, Visrapa, Karnika, Kitibha* in the human beings, even death. Depending on its variety, diagnosis and treatment of *Keeta Visha* is found to be very difficult because these varieties are not yet properly identified and besides, regional variations of these *Keetas* expresses very differently. Here an attempt is made to collect signs and symptoms of *Keeta Visha* and their treatment modalities mentioned in different classical texts.

Key words: *Agadatantra, Jangama Visha, Keeta Visha*

INTRODUCTION

Acharya's have included *Keeta* under *Jangama Visha*. According to *Acharya Charaka*, insects are also called *Keeta*. They are originated from the waste products like stool and urine of the snakes.^[1] According to

Vachaspatya, it is defined that '*Krimibhyah Sthoole Kshudra Jantu Bhede*' i.e., *Keeta* is a variety of *Krimi* with macroscopic body. *Krimis* are animate things, which use their individual legs independently for movements. According to *Acharya Susruta*, *Keeta* are born from semen, excreta, urine, foul smelling, eggs of snakes.^[2] According to definitions, these may or may not be seen with naked eye. Therefore, they can even be interpreted as insects, worms and even microbes. The term *Keeta* refer to all living creatures which are small in size but visible, having two or more legs, with or without wings, some living in soil, some moving in air, some in crevices of buildings, roofs, walls etc, some on trees, possessing different shapes, colour, some crawl, some fly, some sting some scratch the skin with their claw, and some urinate on the body of man and thus inflict assaults in many other ways.^[3] *Acharya's* have explained different types *Keeta* like *Mashaka*,

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Makshika, Pipilika, etc. bite, different signs and symptoms such as *Srava, Visarapa, Sula, Karnika* etc. and different types of treatment modalities for specific *Keeta*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The principal source is collected from different classics and various published articles in different journals.

- *Charaka Samhitha, Chikista Sthana*, 23rd Chapter
- *Susrutha Samhitha, Kalpa Sthana*, 8th chapter
- *Astanga Hridaya, Uttarasthana*, 37th chapter
- *Astanaga Sangraha, Uttaratanttra*, 37th chapter
- *Madhavanidana*, 69th Chapter
- *Bhavaprakasha*, 67th Chapter
- *Cakradatta*, 67th chapter
- *Yogaratanakara*, 73rd chapter
- *Bhaisajya Ratnavali*, 72nd chapter

According to Acharya Charaka^[4]

Keetas are mainly divided into 2 types: 1. *Dushivisha Keeta* 2. *Pranahara Keeta*

The *Dushivisha Keeta* category cause red, black or brownish black coloration of bitten site covered with pimples, patient suffers from itching, burning sensation, thirst, anorexia, erysipelas, suppuration and sloughing.

The *Pranahara Keeta* category produces oedema, with strong smell and bleeding. Patient suffers from heaviness of eyes, fainting, pain and dyspnoea.

Table 1: Different types of Keetas according Acharya Charaka^[5]

SN	Types	Signs and Symptoms
1.	<i>Krkalasaka</i>	<i>Shyava, Krishna</i> or <i>Nanavarna, Moha</i> and <i>Purishabedha</i> .
2.	<i>Manduka</i>	<i>Ekadramstaardita, Shoona, Ruk, Peethaka, Trit, Chardi</i> and <i>Nidra</i> .
3.	<i>Jalouka</i>	<i>Kandu, Shotha, Jwara</i> and <i>Moorcha</i> .

4.	<i>Grhagodika</i>	<i>Daha, Thoda, Sweda</i> and <i>Shotha</i> .
5.	<i>Shatapaadhi</i>	<i>Sweda, Ruja</i> and <i>Daha</i> .
6.	<i>Mashaka</i>	<i>Kandu, Shotha</i> and <i>Vedana</i> .
7.	<i>Makshika</i>	<i>Shyavaprasrava, Daha, Moorcha, Jwara</i> and <i>Pidaka</i> .
8.	<i>Kanabha</i>	<i>Visarpa, Shwayathu, Shoola, Jwara</i> and <i>Chardi</i> .

According to Acharya Susrutha^[6]

They possess features of *Vayu, Agni, Apya* and many kinds.

1. *Vayavya Keeta* - 18 types, causes aggravation of *Vata* in the body and causes diseases of *Vata* aggravation.
2. *Agneya Keeta* - 24 types, causes aggravation of *Pitta* in the body and causes diseases of *Pitta* aggravation.
3. *Apya Keeta* - 13 types, causes aggravation of *Kapha* in the body and causes diseases of *Kapha* aggravation.
4. *Sannipata Keeta* - 12 types, causes aggravation of *Tridoshas*, the site of bite resembles site of burning by caustic alkali and fire; red, yellow, white and or light red in colour.

Table 2: Different Types of Keeta according to Acharya Susrutha^[7]

SN	Types	Signs and symptoms
1.	<i>Kanabha</i>	<i>Thivravedana, Shwayathu, Angamarda, Gatra Guruthva</i> with <i>Krishnathva</i>
2.	<i>Godheraka</i>	<i>Shopha, Daha, Ruja, Granthi</i> and <i>Jwara</i> .
3.	<i>Galagolika</i>	<i>Sarshapikavarja, Daha, Shopha, Kleda, Hridayapeeda</i> and <i>Atisara</i> .
4.	<i>Shatapadi</i>	<i>Shopha, Vedana, Hridayadaha, Moorcha</i> and <i>Swethapeedaka</i> .
5.	<i>Ahinduka</i>	<i>Peethanga, Jwara, Atisara, Kandu</i> and <i>Kota</i> .

6.	<i>Pipilika</i>	<i>Shwayathu, Agnisparshavath, Daha and Shopha.</i>
7.	<i>Makshika</i>	<i>Shyava Pidaka, Jwara, Kandu and Shopha.</i>
8.	<i>Mashaka</i>	<i>Kandu and Daha.</i>
9.	<i>Jalouka</i>	<i>Shwayathu, Kandu, Moorcha, Jwara, Daha, Chardi and Sadana.</i>
10.	<i>Parvatiyake eta</i>	<i>Pidaka and Dahapaka.</i>

According to *Asthanga Hridaya*^[8]

Keetas are from putrefied urine, faeces, semen, egg and cadaver of snakes only and are four types, viz., *Vaayavya, Agneya, Apya* and *Sannipatika*.

Table 3: Classification according to *Asthanga Hridaya*^[9]

SN	Types	Signs and symptoms
1.	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Hridpeeda, Urdwaanila, Stambha, Siraayama, Asthi-Parvaruk, Doornanovheshthanam and Gatrashyavata.</i>
2.	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Sanjnanaasha, Ushnanishvasa, Hrididaha, Katukasyatha, Mamsavadharana, Shopha with Rakta-peethavarna</i>
3.	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Chardi, Arochaka, Hrilasa, Praseka, Uthklesha, Peenasa, Shaithya, and Madhuryasyatha,</i>

According to *Madhvanidana*^[10]

Table 4: Different types according *Madhvanidana*

SN	Types	Signs and Symptoms
1.	<i>Kakala Dasta (lizard bite)</i>	Bite area becomes blackish, bluish or multi-coloured, <i>Moha</i> and <i>Varchabeda</i>
2.	<i>Kanabha Dasta</i>	<i>Visarapa, Swaythu, Sula, Jwara and Chardi</i>
3.	<i>Uccitinga Dasta</i>	Horrpilation, <i>Sthadha Linga, Sula</i> , the patient feels as if his body is drenched with cold water

4.	<i>Mandhuka Dasta (frog-bite)</i>	<i>Paka, Sula, yellowish discoloration, Trishna, Chardi, Atinidra</i>
5.	<i>Matsya Dasta (fish bite)</i>	<i>Daha, Paka, Ruja</i>
6.	<i>Jaluoka (leech bite)</i>	<i>Kandu, Paka, Jwara and Murccha</i>
7.	<i>Grhagadhika (lizard)</i>	<i>Paka, Toda, Sweda</i>
8.	<i>Satapadi Dasta</i>	<i>Sweda, Ruja, and Daha</i>
9.	<i>Mashaka Dasta</i>	<i>Kandu, Paka, Ruja</i> <i>Asadhya Makshika causes Fatal</i>
10.	<i>Makshika Dasta</i>	<i>Pidhaka black in colour, Daha, Murccha, Jwara</i>

According to *Bhavamishra*^[11]

Table 5: Different types according to *Bhavaprakasha*

SN	Types of Keeta	Lakshana
1.	<i>Krkalasa Visha</i>	<i>Shotha, blackish discoloration, Moha, Varchabeda</i>
2.	<i>Kanabha Visha (Poison of wasp)</i>	<i>Visarpa, Swaythu, Ruja, Jwara, Chardi,</i>
3.	<i>Uccitinga Visha (Poison of Shrimp)</i>	<i>Sthadha Linga, Ruja</i> feels as though immersed in cold water
4.	<i>Mandhuka Visha (Poison of frog)</i>	<i>Shopha, Ruja, yellow discoloration, Trishna, Chardi, Nidra</i>
5.	<i>Matsya Visha</i>	<i>Daha, Shotha and Ruja</i>
6.	<i>Jaluoka Visha</i>	<i>Kandu, Shotha, Jwara and Murccha</i>
7.	<i>Grhagadhika Visha</i>	<i>Daha, Shotha, Thodha and Prasedha</i>
8.	<i>Satapadi Visha</i>	<i>Sweda, Ruja, Daha,</i>
9.	<i>Mashaka Visha</i>	<i>Kandu, Shotha and Ruja</i>
10.	<i>Makshika visha</i>	<i>Srava Pidhaka, Blackish discoloration, Daha and Murccha</i>

General treatment for Keeta Visha**According to Dosh predominance^[12]**

- The *Dosha* what so ever present, based on symptoms should be assessed and treatment done for it with drugs possessing opposite qualities.
- *Vata* aggravation - Application of *Khanda* (paste of sesame) over the wound, massage with sesame oil, *Nadi*, *Pulaka* types of fomentation therapies and nourishing diet.
- *Pitta* aggravation - Affusion which is very cold, which is *Stambhana* and application of cold ointments.
- *Kapha* aggravation - *Lekhana*, *Chedana*, *Swedana* and *Vamana Karma*.
- For the three kinds of insects (*Vata*, *Pitta-Kapha Pradhana*) three kinds of treatments are suitable - *Swedana*, *Lepana*, *Seka* which should be done in warm, expect when the person has lost the consciousness, when there is ulceration by bite or putrefaction at the bite.
- Bite by insects of powerful poison should be treated similar to bite of snakes of the *Darvikara*, *Rajimantha*, *Mandalini* and treatment also being same of three kinds.

Specific treatment for different Keeta Visha according to different classics**According to Acharya Charaka^[13]**

1. Application of paste of the bark of *Ksiri-Vrksas* (*Nyagrodha*, *Udubara*, *Asvatta*, *Vetasa* and *Plaksha*) after *Shodhana* (administration of five elimination therapies) cures *Keeta Visha*.
2. Application of paste of *Muktha* (pearls) by triturating with water is best to cure swelling, pricking pain, burning sensation and fever.
3. Flower of *Kusumba*, *Go-danta* (tooth of cow), *Svarnakisri*, stool of *Kapota*, *Danti*, *Trivrt* and *Saindhava* cure *Karnika* (granulomatous growth) in the wound caused by *Keeta Visha*.
4. The decoction, paste and powder of *Katabhi*, *Arjuna*, bark of *Sirisa*, *Selu*, and the barks of *Ksiri-*

Vrksas (*Nyagrodha*, *Udumbara*, *Asvatta*, *Vetasa* and *Plaksha*) cures ulcers caused by *Keeta Visha*.

5. *Paramo-Gada* - *Vacha*, bark of *Vamsa*, *Patha*, *Nata*, inflorescence of *Surasa*, *Bala*, *Maha-bala*, *Nakuli*, *Kusta*, *Sirisa*, *Haridra*, *Daruharidra*, *Guha*, *Atiguha*, *Sweta*, *Ajagandha*, *Silajatu*, *Katrina*, *Katabhi*, *Ksara*, *Grha-dhuma* and *Manashila* should be made triturating with the bile of *Rohita*. This is called '*Paramo*'-'*gada*'. Administration of this recipe in the form of *Nasya*, *Anjana*, and *Lepa* is useful in the poisonous bites of insects like *Visvambharas*.
6. *Satapadi Dmasha* - Use of *Svarjika*, *Ksara* of the goat's droppings, *Surasa* and *Aksi- Pidaka* triturated with the supernatant part of *Madira* (a type of alcohol) is useful in *Satapadi*.
7. *Grhagodhika Dmasha* - The recipe comprising *Kapittha*, *Aksi-Pida*, seeds of *Arka*, *Sunthi*, *Pippali*, *Maricha*, *Karanja*, *Lata-karanja*, *Haridra* and *Daruharidra* cures the poison of house-lizard.
8. *Pancha-Sirisa-Agada* - Fruits, roots, barks, flowers and leaves of *Sirisa* all taken in equal quantities should be added with ghee. It is most effective remedy for all types poison.

According to Acharya Susruta^[14]

1. *Utakarika* made of *Sirisa*, *Katuka*, *Kusta*, *Vaca*, and *Haridra*. *Saindhava*, milk, marrow, muscle-fat, ghee, *Sunthi*, *Pippali* and *Devadaru* drugs is useful for fomentation.
2. *Trikantaka Damsha* - *Kustha*, *Tagara*, *Vaca*, *Patha*, *Bilva* root, *Suvarchika*, *Grha-dhuma*, *Haridra* and *Daruharidra*.
3. *Galagolika Damsha* - *Haridra*, *Grha-dhuma*, *Tagara*, *Kustha* and *Palasha* seeds
4. *Satapadi Damsha* - *Kukuma*, *Tagara*, *Sigru*, *Padamka*, *Haridra* and *Daru-haridra*.
5. *Mandhuka Dmasha* - *Mesashrunji*, *Vaca*, *Patha*, *Nicula*, *Rohini*, and *Jala* all together are antidote.
6. *Visvamabhara* - *Dhava*, *Asvagandha*, *Atibala*, *Bala*, *Salaparni* and *Prsniparni*.

7. *Ahindhuka* - *Sirisa*, *Tagara*, *Kustha*, *Salaparni*, *Mudghaparni*, *Haridra* and *Daru-haridra*.
8. *Kandumuka* - Cooling measures are employed in night as they do not succeed in day because in day because of the poison being potentiated by power of sun rays.
9. *Sukavrnta* - 1.*Tagara*, *Kustha* and *Apamarga*, 2. *Krishanvalmikamurthika* (black earth ant-hill) pounded with *Brngaraja Swarasa*.
10. *Pipilika-Mashaka-Makshika* - *Krishanvalmikamurthika* (black earth ant-hill) with *Go-mutra*.

According to Acharya Astanga Hridaya^[15]

1. Equal quantities of *Tanduliyaka* and *Trivrt* should be consumed mixed with ghee; such a person does not get shaken by the poison of insects just as the mountain *Kailasa* by the wind.
2. Application of paste of *Ksiri-Vrksas* after the person has undergone purificatory therapies destroys the poison of insects.
3. Applications of paste of *Muktha* (pearls) are best to cure swelling, pricking pain, burning and fever.
4. *Dasanga Agada* - *Vacha*, *Hingu*, *Vidanga*, *Saindhava*, *Gajapippali*, *Patha*, *Prathivisha* and *Vyosha* (are made into nice paste and rolled into pills) this *Dasanga Agada* formulated by *Kashyapa* cures of all kinds of insects.

According to Cakradatta^[16]

1. *Katabhyadi Kasya-Kalka-Curna* - Administration of the decoction or paste prepared from *Katabhi Twak*, *Arjuna Twak*, *Sariyaka Twak*, *Slesmataka Twak* and *Pancha Ksrir Vriks Twak* destroy poisoning by *Keeta*.
2. *Mina Visha* - Fumigation with leaves of *Ankotha* and bloodletting by the application of *Shrngi*.
3. *Godha* and *Varati Visha* - Application of the paste of *Kudakarani Mula* alleviate the poisonous effect.
4. *Mandhuka Vishara Yogas* - 1. The paste of *Sirisa Bija* lavigate with *Snuhi Ksira* should be applied

locally to cure. 2. Administration of *Curna* prepared from *Ankotha Mula* and *Kusta* for three days.

5. *Marichadi Lepa* - The paste of *Maricha*, *Sunthi*, *Balaka* and *Nagakesara* should be applied locally in the poison due to *Makshika*.
6. *Patolamuladi Lepa* - Local application of paste *Patola Mula* and *Nilika* is efficacious in poisoning by saliva
7. *Dasanga Agada* - *Vacha*, *Hingu*, *Vidanga*, *Saindhava*, *Gajapippali*, *Patha*, *Prathivisha*, *Sunthi*, *Pippali* and *Maricha* all in equal quantity. Dose - 3gms, *Anupana* - Honey and ghee. Indications - all types of *Keeta Visha*.
8. *Jalauka Visha* - All the treatment measures of *Keeta Visha* should be adopted.

According to Yogarathankara^[17]

1. Paste, decoction or powder of the barks of *Katabhi*, *Arjuna*, *Sirisa*, *Selu* and latex-allays the poisoning of insects like spider etc.
2. *Dasanga Agada* - *Vaca*, *Hingu*, *Vidanga*, *Saindhava*, *Gajapippal*, *Patha*, *Prathivisha* and *Vyosha*, poisoning of all the insect bites are overcome
3. *Varati Visha* (wasp-sting) - application of the paste of *Maricha*, *Nagara*, *Saindhava* and *Saurvarcha-Bhavana* with *Phanivalli*.
4. *Mandhuka-Visha* (frog-bite) - Applying the paste of *Sirisa Bhavana* with *Kulisadruma Ksira*.
5. *Bhrngi* fish -1. Decoction of *Krisnavetra* added with *Grihta*, 2. *Dhumpana* with tail of peacock.
6. Centipede bite- 1. Application of the oil of burning lamp (trickled oil), 2. Paste of the two *Haridras* or *Gairika*.
7. Black-bee-bite - Application of the paste of *Nagara*, faeces of a pet pigeon, the juice of *Bijpura*, *Haratala* and *Saindhava* nullifies the poisoning of black-bee-sting.
8. *Makshika Pitika* - Application of the paste of *Somavalka*, *Asvakarna*, *Gojihva*, *Hamsapadi* the two *Rajani's* and *Gairika*.

According to Shri Govinda Dasaji in Bhaisajya Ratnavali^[18]

1. Decoction of plant *Ankotha* and re-cook it with *Ghritam* - internally or *Abhyanga* with this oil cures the bite of insect poison.
2. Decoction prepared by *Katabhi*, *Sirisa*, barks of *Arjuna* and *Selu* as well as plants exuding latex should be taken internally and should be used to coat the bitten spot.
3. Application of *Kalka* prepared *Katabhi*, *Sirisa*, barks of *Arjuna* and *Selu* over the bite site.
4. *Churna* prepared by *Katabhi*, *Sirisa*, barks of *Arjuna* and *Selu* is sprinkled over the bitten part.
5. *Goha* and *Girgit Dasta* - *Kukum*, *Manashila*, meat of crab, *Haritala* and powder of *Kusum* flower, prepare small pills by giving *Bhavana* with water. Rotate these pills around the spot bitten.
6. *Matsya Dasta* - *Dhumpana* with leaves of *Angkotha*.
7. *Godha* and *Varati Dasta* - *Kalka* prepared by *Kusthakrani* (a famous drug of *Vanga Desi*).
8. *Mandhuka Dasta* - 1. Applying a *Kalka* prepared by compounding *Sirisa* seeds and *Snuhi Ksheera*. 2. Drinking the *Kalka* prepared of *Kutaja* (root) and *Angkotha* (root) for three days.
9. *Makshika Dasta* - Applying *Kalka* prepared of black pepper, *Mahaosudha*, *Sugandhabala* and *Nagakesara*.
10. *Lala Visha* - Applying the *Kalka* of *Parava* and neem root.
11. *Dasanga Agada* - *Vacha*, *Hingu*, *Vidanga*, *Saindhava*, *Gajapippali*, *Patha*, *Prathivisha*, *Sunthi*, *Pippali* and *Maricha* all in equal quantity. Dose - 2-4gms *Anupana* - Water. Indications - This mixture is capable of checking poisoning caused by all types of insects.

DISCUSSION

By the above discussion, *Acharya's* have described four groups of *Keeta* and elucidated in 67 different types. *Godha*, *Makshika*, *Mashaka*, *Pipilika* etc. are included

under *Keeta*. Every *Keeta Visha* causes local manifestations to more severe manifestations in human beings. Each *Keeta* exhibits specific signs and symptoms. These helps for us to diagnose and their management for each specific *Keeta*. In general *Keeta Visha* can be treated based on the *Dosha* predominance for three kinds of *Keeta* - *Vata*, *Pitta*, *Kapha Pradhana* - three kinds of treatment *Swedana*, *Lepana* and *Seka* respectively should be done. Many local applications have been explained such as *Ksheer Vriksha Kalka*, *Muktha Kalka*, *Marichadi Lepa*, *Patolamuladi Lepa* which helps to cure local symptoms like *Srava*, *Daha*, *Kandu*, *Shotha* etc., *Dhupana* and *Raktha Moskahna* with *Shrngi* for *Matsya Damasha*. Internally many decoctions have been explained which counteracts the poison effect of *Keeta*, like equal quantities *Tanduliyaka* with *Trivrit* mixed with ghee for all types *Keeta*. Some formulations like *Parmo Agada*, *Dasanga Agada* have been mentioned by *Acharya's* specifically for *Keeta Visha* which can be used as *Nasya*, *Anjana*, *Lepa* which cures all types of poison effect caused by the *Keeta*. Hence, we can follow different treatment modalities for *Keeta Visha* as said in the classical text books.

CONCLUSION

Hence the *Keeta* observation by the *Acharya's* helps us to know the importance of each *Keeta* nomenclature, the names, identification should be known because each *Keeta* exhibit different signs and symptoms from local to severe manifestations, which helps for diagnose according *Dosha* predominance in various *Keetas* and their treatment according to *Dosha* and symptoms, which helps us to alleviate the poison from the body. Through this article we tried to compile the knowledge about *Keeta Visha* from various classical textbooks.

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