



ISSN 2456-3110

Vol 8 · Issue 1

January 2023

Journal of  
**Ayurveda and Integrated  
Medical Sciences**

*www.jaims.in*

**JAIMS**

An International Journal for Researches in Ayurveda and Allied Sciences



**Maharshi Charaka**  
Ayurveda

**Indexed**

# A compilation of herbal drugs processing *Vishanut* (Anti-toxicity) properties as stated in *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*

Soubhagya R. Sarashetti

Professor & HOD, Department of Agadatantra, SMVVs RKM AMCH & PGRC, Vijayapura, Karnataka, India.

## ABSTRACT

The foundation of Ayurveda is based on 8 branches and in those one of the divisions is *Agada Tantra* or *Visha Tantra*. *Visha Tantra* means- "*Vishopashamane Tu Ya Saa Kriya*".<sup>[1]</sup> So, it is the science dealing with anti-poisonous measures. We come across 24 such measures,<sup>[2]</sup> among them *Aushadha / Dravya* are having greater importance in the treatment of *Visha*. While explaining certain *Dravyas* we come across the terminologies such as *Vishanut*,<sup>[3]</sup> *Vishapaham*, *Vishanashana*, *Vishajit* etc. to explain their *Vishaghna* properties. *Vishanut* refers to "*Visham Nudati Doorikaroti*" (shabda chandrika) - that which pacify *Vishokta Laxanas*. Here, we are concentrating only on *Vishanut Dravyas* according to *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*.

**Key words:** *Visha Tantra, Visha, Aushadhi Dravyas, Vishanut Dravyas, Anti-toxicity.*

## INTRODUCTION

*Visha*: the one which pervade the whole body immediately after ingestion.<sup>[4]</sup> In classics there are certain *Kashta Aushadhas, Rasa Aushadhas* that may produce *Vishokta Lakshana*. *Vishokta Lakshanas* may be produced because of the *Bheshaja* which is used in the form of *Apakva, Ashudha, Atimatra, Adhika Kala* etc. Simultaneously to pacify this, treatment is given for the same. We are also having references which is noticed by the bite of different poisonous animals like *Alarka, Luta, Vrischika, Mushika, Sarpa* etc. *Dravyas* which pacify these *Vishokta Lakshanas* in the form of

internal, *Lepa, Anjana, Nasya, Dhuma* etc. are beneficial.

A physician or practitioner knows various treatment modalities in different diseases. It is necessary to know which *Aushadha* is to be given or *Chikitsa* to be done to pacify the *Vishokta Lakshana*.<sup>[5]</sup> Hence, *Acharya Bhavaprakasha* has explained certain *Dravyas* with *Vishanut* properties, which can be used to treat the poisonous effects.

### *Vishanut Dravyas* according to *Bhavaprakasha*<sup>[6]</sup>

*Chandana, Shankhapushpi, Yashtimadhu, Kumari, Katuparni, Moksha, Kasamarda, Kundam, Kasturi, Sthoola Ela, Renuka, Trayamana, Rakta shali, Rasanjana.*

### Address for correspondence:

Dr. Soubhagya R. Sarashetti

Professor & HOD, Department of Agadatantra, SMVVs RKM AMCH & PGRC, Vijayapura, Karnataka, India.

E-mail: drsoubhagyashetty76@gmail.com

Submission Date: 16/11/2022 Accepted Date: 23/12/2022

### Access this article online

#### Quick Response Code



Website: [www.jaims.in](http://www.jaims.in)

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Drug name	Properties	Chemistry	Uses
<i>Chandana</i> <sup>[7]</sup>	Cooling, drying, bitter in taste, pleasing and is light in action.	Heart wood and roots contain tannins, ketosantallic acid, exonorbicycloclax antalal. Leaves contain wax,	Sandal wood oil is given internally to relieve burning micturation.

	It cures tiresomeness, wasting, poisonous effects, <i>Kapha</i> diseases, thirst, haemorrhages and burning sensation.	betulinic acid, beta sitosterol, glucose, fructose and sucrose	The paste when applied cures itching, excess sweating and pimples. Relieves burning sensation in herpetic lesions
<i>Shankhaphus hpi</i> <sup>[8]</sup>	Laxative, braintonic, aphrodisiac and cures psychological diseases. It is astringent in taste, hot in potency, acts as a tissue vitalizer, boosts memory power, promotes lustre and vigour and is an appetizer. It alleviates, diseases of three doshas, epilepsy, evil spirits, poverty, skin diseases, worm infestation and poisonous effects.	Shankhaphushpine, sitosterol, kaempferol, n-hexacosanol	Considered by <i>Charaka</i> as the best brain tonic in the form of paste of the whole plant. Solid extract used to promote sleep in anxiety neurosis. Juice or paste is given in distension and constipation.

<i>Yashtimadhu</i> <sup>[9]</sup>	<i>Yashti</i> is cooling, heavy to digest, sweet in taste, good for eyes, provides strength, promotes complexion. It enhances secretions in the body, and increases the quantity of semen. It is a hair tonic, improves voice and reduces the problems of <i>Pitta</i> , <i>Vata</i> and <i>Rakta</i> . It cures the inflammatory edema, poisonous effects, vomitings, thirst, tiresomeness and wasting	Glycyrrhizin - a mixture of potassium and calcium salts of glycyrrhizic acid, glabranin A and B, glycyrrhetol glabrolide, iroglabrolide, iroflavones like formononetin, glabrone, commarins like herniarine, umbelliferone, triterpene sterols like onocerin, beta-amyrin, stigmasterol.	Decoction is used with butter milk in peptic ulcers to heal them up. Powder with honey is used as a brain tonic. Powder is used in all types of respiratory tract diseases
<i>Kumari</i> <sup>[10]</sup>	Aloe - expels out hard faeces, cold in potency, bitter and sweet in taste, good for vision,	Hydroxy anthraquinone derivatives i.e., aloin and 7 hydroxyaloin isomers. Aloe emodin, chrysophanol, chromone derivatives i.e., aloeresin B, with	Used as fresh juice or dried powder in Amenorrhoea, anaemia and constipation. Used as a laxative in small doses

	nourishing , acts as a tonic, aphrodisiac and cures the effects of <i>Vata</i> and poisons. It cures intestinal growths, spleen and liver problems, fever due to <i>Kapha</i> , glandular enlargements, burns, eruptive skin diseases, diseases due to <i>Pitta</i> and <i>Rakta</i> and skin diseases.	its P - coumaryl derivatives, aloe resins A and C and the aglycone aloesone.	and in jaundice. Externally applied as a moisturizing agent and highly useful in burns and scalds.
<i>Katuparni</i> <sup>[11]</sup>	This is purgative, bitter, removes the hardness of the faeces and gastric irritant. It brings relief from worms, itching sensation, poisonous effects, distension of abdomen, diseases due to <i>Kapha</i> , <i>Pitta</i> and	Phenolic compounds	Latex is used as a purgative in ascites and other hepato-biliary conditions. Externally the latex is applied on inflammatory edema.

	<i>Rakta</i> and skin diseases		
<i>Moksha</i> <sup>[12]</sup>	It is pungent and bitter in taste, hot in potency, absorbent, cures the diseases of <i>Kapha</i> and <i>Vata</i> , alleviates poisons, body fats, intestinal growths itching, diseases of bladder, worm infestation and is antiviral.	Mannitol, fructose and digalactoside - swietenose, bark and leaves contain tannins	Ghee prepared with the root of <i>Mokshaka</i> is useful in <i>Kushta</i> . Alkali or ash prepared from plant is considered the best. Bark is used as astringent and antiedematous. In unconsciousness, leaves are used for fumigation.
<i>Kasamarda</i> <sup>[13]</sup>	The leaves of <i>Kasamarda</i> are sweet in taste, promote taste perception , aphrodisiac, pacify cough, poisonous effects, diseases of <i>Rakta</i> , <i>Kapha</i> and <i>Vata</i> , act as digestant and clear voice. The leaves are particularly useful in	Cassioline, chrysophanol, emodol, anthraquinones, phytosterol, physcion, occidentol 1 and 2, dianthronic heteroside, seeds - emodin, toxalbumin and chryso-robin	Leaf juice is given with honey in all types of cough. Decoction of the entire plant is laxative. Leaf paste is applied externally in inflammatory edema

	cough, control <i>Pitta</i> , absorb water and are light in action.		
<i>Kundam</i> <sup>[14]</sup>	<i>Kundam</i> is cold in potency, light in action and cures <i>Kapha</i> diseases, head ache, poisonous effects and vitiated <i>Pitta</i> .	Jasmultiside, friedelin, dupeol, betulin, geraniol, farnesol, eugenol, vaniline etc.	Flowers and pippali grinded are given in bronchitis. Leaves are made into a poulice and used in non healing ulcer.
<i>Kasturj</i> <sup>[15]</sup>	It is pungent and bitter in taste, has <i>Kshara</i> property, hot in potency increases semen and is heavy. It eliminates <i>Kapha</i> , <i>Vata</i> , poisonous effects, vomiting, cold, bad smell of the body and tuberculosis.	Ammonia, oleine, cholesterin, fat, wax, muscone, steroids etc.	Acts as <i>Nadi Balya</i> , <i>Mastishka Dourbalya</i> and <i>Aakshephara</i> .
<i>Sthula Ela</i> <sup>[16]</sup>	This drug is pungent in taste and post digestive effect,	Cineol and terpenenes are present.	It's hot infusion is gargled to relieve gum diseases. Its seed

	increases <i>Vata</i> and is light in action. It is drying hot in potency and cures <i>Kapha</i> diseases, haemorrhages, itching sensation, dyspnoea and thirst. It subsides regurgitation, poisonous effects and diseases of urinary bladder, oral cavity and upper clavicular areas. It controls vomiting and cough.		powder is given along with cucumber seed in urinary calculi. Its powder is used to reduce hepatitis.
<i>Renuka</i> <sup>[17]</sup>	It is pungent in post digestive effect, pungent and bitter in taste, neither hot nor cold in potency and is light in action. It increases <i>Pitta</i> , acts as an appetizer, brain tonic,	Lactones sesquiterpenes, Umbelliprenine terpene alcohol.	One among the herbs used for <i>Prayogika Dhumapana</i> , also mentioned in the formulations such as <i>Mrita Sanjivini Agada</i> .

	digestant and abortifacient. It increases <i>Kapha</i> and <i>Vata</i> and reduces thirst. Itching sensation, poisonous effects and burning sensation.		
<i>Trayamana</i> <sup>18]</sup>	<i>Trayanti</i> is bitter and astringent in taste, laxative, pacify excess <i>Pitta</i> and <i>Kapha</i> and cure fever, cardiac problems, intestinal growths, haemorrhoids, vertigo, colic and poisonous effects.	Catapol and aucubin from roots and rhizomes.	<i>Trayamana</i> is boiled in milk and given in hepatic lesions. Powder is given with milk in fevers. Powder is given with honey in haemorrhoids and hepatomegaly.
<i>Rakta Shali</i> <sup>19]</sup>	<i>Rakta Shali</i> : out of all the varieties of rice, <i>Raktashali</i> is considered the best. It strengthens the body, enhances complexion, pacifies	Rich source of antioxidants, iron, magnesium, calcium and zinc.	<i>Kritanna Kalpana</i> preparations can be made out of this drug.

	all the three <i>Dosas</i> , beneficial for vision, diuretic, improves voice and semen and cures thirst, fever, poisons, ulcers, dysnoea, cough and burning sensation and boosts the digestive capacity. All the other varieties of rice are inferior to it.		
<i>Rasanjana</i> <sup>20]</sup> - a solidified water extract of <i>Daru Haridra</i>	<i>Rasanjana</i> is pungent and bitter in taste and pacifies <i>Kapha</i> , poisonous effects and eye diseases. It is heat generating, vitalizer, expectorant and cleanses and heals wound/ulcers.	Berberine, Karachine, Taxilamine, Palmatine, Jatrorrhizine, Oxycanthine.	Decoction of <i>Daru Haridra</i> and milk are to be boiled in equal quantity till solidification. Then, that substance is known as <i>Rasanjanam</i> which is very useful for eyes.

**DISCUSSION**

Pharmacological actions of the above mentioned drugs are discussed below. Depending upon the *Visha*

*Laxanas* one can use the drugs which reduces the effects of *Visha*.

- 1. Chandana:** Tannins - non nitrogenous constituents. Astringent and protective to mucous membranes. Betulinic acid - anti-inflammatory. Glucose, fructose and sucrose.
- 2. Shankhapushpi:** Antidepressant, carbohydrates. Alkaloid - Shankhapushpin. Sitosterol - acts on radiation induced toxicity. Kaempferol: acts as potent inhibitors of airway inflammation. n - hexacosanol - neurotrophic activities on cultured neurons and to attenuate the degeneration of cholinergic neurons after injury.
- 3. Yashtimadhu:** Glacyrrhizin - pharyngeal demulcents - useful in cough due to irritation of the pharyngeal mucosa above the epiglottis. Glabranin - anti-inflammatory, antiallergic and antibacterial. Antitussive and expectorant. Anticoagulant, antiulcer, hepatoprotective and immunomodulator.
- 4. Kumari:** mild laxative - anthraquinone, antioxidant, anti inflammatory, antiseptic, aloin and emodin act as analgesics.
- 5. Katuparni:** phenolic compounds act as antimicrobial.
- 6. Moksha:** Mannitol reduces intra cranial and intraocular pressure. Act as anti-glaucoma, promotes the urinary excretion of toxic materials and protects against nephrotoxic. Fructose act as anti-nausea.
- 7. Kasamarda:** Chrysophanol - act as hepatoprotective, neuro protective, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcer and anti-microbial. Emodol - Act as analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-pyretic etc. Anthraquinones act as anti-bacterial, anti-parasitic, insecticidal, fungicidal, anti-viral and anti-cancer. Phytosterol act as anti-cancer and anti-oxidant. Also has anti-inflammatory action.
- 8. Kundam:** Dupeol - anti cancer and anti-inflammatory, Betulin - anti-inflammatory, Geraniol - anti oxidant and anti-inflammatory,

Eugenol - anti bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-oxidant.

- 9. Kasturi:** used in the treatment of psychiatric disorders, neurological diseases, nausea, bad odor, strengthening cardiac muscles and respiratory diseases.
- 10. Sthula Ela:** Cineol act as anti-inflammatory, Terpenenes act as anti-plasmodial.
- 11. Renuka:** act as anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial.
- 12. Trayamana:** Catalpol is effective in Ischemic stroke. Aucubin act as Hepatoprotective, can protect liver from poison.
- 13. Rakta Shali:** helps in regulating insulin level. It also gives pulmonary benefits.
- 14. Rasanjana:** berberine - a natural isoquinoline alkaloid - shown efficacy in the treatment of mood disorders. It modulates neurotransmitters and their receptor system within the central nervous system.

## CONCLUSION

When a person consumes *Vishadravya* or *Visha* accidentally or purposely, the main aim is to get rid from the effects of *Visha* through any of the *Chaturvimashati Upakrama*. The above discussed drugs can be used to pacify *Visha Laxanas*, if used by the *Yukti* of practitioner depending upon the *Guna Karma* of each *Dravyas* and thereby it free's from toxic effects. Thus, we can make use of different formulations prepared by the drugs named under *Vishanut Dravyas* according to *Bhavaprakasha*.

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**How to cite this article:** Soubhagya R. Sarashetti. A compilation of herbal drugs processing Vishanut (Anti-toxicity) properties as stated in Bhavaprakasha Nighantu. J Ayurveda Integr Med Sci 2023;01:126-132.

**Source of Support:** Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

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