Vishaghna Dravyas of Bhavaprakasha Nighantu: A Review

Manpreet Kaur1*, Anita Sharma2, Suparma Saha3 and Praveen Kumar4

1,2Dept. of Agad tantra, National Institute of Ayurved, Amer Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
3,4Dept. of Rasa Shastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana, National Institute of Ayurved, Amer Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT
Agad tantra is one of the most important branch of Ashtang Ayurveda under which description of visha (poison) is available. Visha is the one which pervades the whole body immediately after ingestion and disturbs all the functions of body by vitiation of dosha & dhatu and drugs which acts against the toxic substances and pacify the vitiated dosha & dhatus is called Vishaghna. There are many drugs described for the management of poison in ayurvedic classics but effective solution is still not established. So here an attempt is made to screen the vishaghna dravyas with their Rasa, Guna, Veerya and Vipaka from the dravyaguna treatise Bhavaprakasha nighantu.

KEYWORDS
Vishaghna, Dravyas, Bhavaprakasha, Nighantu, Visha
INTRODUCTION
A poison is anything that can harm someone if it is used in the wrong way and used by the wrong person or used in the wrong amount. It can come in four forms - solids (such as pain medicine pills or tablets), liquids (such as household cleaners, including bleach), sprays (such as spray cleaners) and gases (such as carbon monoxide). In Ayurveda term poison is described under the title ‘Visha’ which is derived from the root ‘vis’ (vyaptau) having ‘kt’ proportion which means to encompass or to get fully pervaded or to get occupied. Thus the one which pervades the whole body immediately after ingestion is called Visha. Or a substance which causes sadness to the world is also called as Visha. Thus Visha has been defined as a substance which is destructive or threatening to life and causes sadness. It possesses properties of Vyavayi, Vikasi, Ushna, Teekshna, Ruksha, Sukshma, Ashukar, Vishada, Laghu, Avyakta ras and Apaki which disturbs all the functions of body by vitiation of dosha & dhatu.
Acharya Vagbhatta divided this visha in two categories- Akritrim (Natural) and Kritrim (Unnatural). Sthavara (Inanimate) and Jangam (Animate) visha comes under akritrim visha and Garavisha comes under kritrim visha. A further type of category is also said by acharya which is called Dushivisha.
The drug which acts against the toxic substances and pacify the vitiated dosha & dhatus is called Vishaghna. There are many drugs described for the management of poison in ayurvedic classics but it is limited in Bruhatrayi (Charaka, Sushruta and Vagbhatt). So present work was planned to review and explore the potential drugs from Bhavprakasha nighantu for the management of poisons and its complications.

What is Nighantu?
Nighantu is a Sanskrit term for a traditional collection of words, grouped into thematic categories, often with annotations. Basically Nighantu are considered as the complete reference book for Indian medicines of all categories including herbs, minerals and animal products. These are the text dedicated for the study of all aspects of drugs from their place of origin to their pharmacological actions.

Bhavaprakasha nighantu, which is a part of Bhavprakash was written in 16th century by Bhavmishra and has important landmark in the history of Indian medicine. It is also called ‘Indian Materia Medica of Shri Bhavamishra’. As we know Bhavprakasha stands at the junction of the medieval and modern periods, so the main purpose of his work is to compile the ideas from his
predecessors to dispel darkness of ignorance on medicine. The nighantu found to be developed later on is based upon bruhatrayi and various other ayurvedic textbooks. Bhavaprakasha nighantu includes 426 drugs in 22 Vargas, which were screened for the properties of Vishaghna mainly and enlisted according to their varga along with their rasa, guna, veerya, vipaka and corresponding references mentioned in it. And in this study only the drugs which having Vishaghna karma described in shloka are taken.

**MATERIALS & METHODS**


**Table 1 List of Vishaghna Drayyas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name/English name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Guna</th>
<th>Rasa</th>
<th>Veerya</th>
<th>Vipaka</th>
<th>Ver/page</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>Glycyrrhiza glabra</td>
<td>Leguminoesae</td>
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<td>Madhura</td>
<td>Sheeta</td>
<td>Katu</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Kampillaka</td>
<td>Mallotus philippensis</td>
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<td>Katu</td>
<td>Ushna</td>
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<td>147/64</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Rasna</td>
<td>Pluchea lanceolata</td>
<td>Compositeae</td>
<td>Guru</td>
<td>Tikta</td>
<td>Ushna</td>
<td>Katu</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Naakulikanda (Rasnabheda, Sarpagandha)</td>
<td>Rarwolfia serpentine</td>
<td>Apocynaceae</td>
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<td>…·····</td>
<td>…···…</td>
<td>…····</td>
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<td>Katuparni</td>
<td>Argemone Mexicana</td>
<td>Papaveraceae</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Dhataki</td>
<td>Woodfordia fruticosa</td>
<td>Lytharaceae</td>
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<td>Kashaya</td>
<td>Sheeta</td>
<td>Katu</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Rasanjana</td>
<td>Extractum Berberis</td>
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<td>Ushna</td>
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<td>12.</td>
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<td>Cassia tora</td>
<td>Caesalpinaceae</td>
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<td>Katu</td>
<td>Ushna</td>
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### Karpooradi varga

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<th>No.</th>
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<th>Family</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Karpoora</td>
<td>Cinnamomum camphora</td>
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<td>Kastoori</td>
<td>Moschus moschiferus</td>
<td>Cervidae</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Santalum album, Laghu, raksha</td>
<td>Santalaceae</td>
<td>Tikta, Katu, Sheeta, Katu</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Rakta chandra</td>
<td>Pterocarpus santalinus</td>
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<td>Tagara</td>
<td>Valeriana wallichii</td>
<td>Valerianaceae</td>
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<td>Myristica fragrans</td>
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<td>Sthoola ela</td>
<td>Amomum subulatum</td>
<td>Zingiberaceae</td>
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<td>Mesua ferrea</td>
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<td>Bezoar</td>
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<td>Vetiveria zizanoidis</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Parpati</td>
<td>Pogostemon patchouli</td>
<td>Labiatae</td>
<td>Kashaya, Tikta, Sheeta</td>
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### Guduchyadi varga

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<th>No.</th>
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<td>Ushna Katu</td>
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<td>Tikta katu Ushna Katu</td>
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20. Kakajangha  Peristrophe bicayculata  Acanthaceae  Tikta, kashaya  Sheeta  251/42 6


22. Meshashringi  Gymnema sylvestre  Asclepiadaceae  Laghu, raksha  Kashaya, tikta  Ushna  Katu  255/42 8

23. Hansapadi  Adiantum lunulatum  Polypodiaceae  Guru  Kashaya  Sheeta  Madhura  256/42 9

24. Vrikshadani  Loranthis longiflorus  Loranthaceae  Tikta, kashaya, madhura  Sheeta  261/43 5

25. Sarpakshi  Ophiorrhiza mungos  Rubiaceae  Katu, tikta  Ushna  268/43 8

26. Shankhapushpi  Convolvulus pluricaulis  Convolvulaceae  Snigdha, piccchila  Tikta  Sheeta  Madhura  270/43 9

27. Brahmi  Bacopa monnieri  Scrophulariaceae  Laghu  Tikta  Ushna  Katu  281/44 6

28. Mandukaparni  Centella asiatica  Umbelliferae  Laghu  Tikta  Sheeta  Madhura  281/44 6

29. Vandhya-karkotaki  Momordica dioica  Cucurbitaceae  288/45 2

30. Markandika (Sanaya)  Cassia angustifolia  Leguminosae  Laghu, riksha, teeksha  Katu, tikta, madhura, kashaya  Ushna  Katu  290/45 3

31. Nagadami  Pupalia lappacea  Amaranthaceae  Raksha, teeksha  Madhura, tikta  Ushna  Madhura  301/45 8

**Pushpa varga**

1. Kamal keshara  Nelumbium speciosum  Nymphaeaceae  Laghu, snigdha, picchila  Kashaya, madhura, tikta  Sheeta  Madhura  3/468

2. Shala kamala  Ionidium suffruticosum  Violaceae  Katu, tikta, kashaya  Ushna  14/469

3. Maalati  Jasminum grandiflorum  Oleaceae  Laghu, snigdha, mridu  Tikta, kashaya  Ushna  Katu  28/476

4. Yathika(Juhi)  Jasminum auriculatum  Oleaceae  Laghu  Tikta, madhura, kashaya  Sheeta  Katu  30/479

5. Champaka  Michelia champaca  Magnoliaceae  Laghu, raksha  Tikta, katu, kashaya  Sheeta  Katu  32/480


7. Mallika  Jasmine sambac (variety)  Laghu  Tikta, katu  Ushna  40/484

8. Ashoka  Saraca asoca  Leguminosae  Laghu, raksha  Kashaya, tikta  Sheeta  Katu  48/487
9. **Saireyaka** Barleria prionitis Acanthaceae Laghu Tikta, madhura Ushna Katu 53/489
10. **Kunda** Jasminum pubescens Oleaceae Laghu, sheeta 54/491
11. **Muchakunda** Pterospermum aserifolium Sterculiaceae Picchila Kashaya, katu, tikta Ushna Katu 55/491
12. **Sindoori** Bixa orellana Bixaceae 59/494
13. **Marubaka** Origanum majorana Labiatae Laghu, raksha, teekshna Katu, tikta Ushna Katu 497
14. **Damanaka** Artemisia vulgaris Asteraceae/ Compositae Laghu, raksha, teekshna Tikta, kashaya Ushna Katu 68/498
15. **Barbari (van tulsi)** Ocimum basilicum Labiatae Laghu, raksha, teekshna Katu, tikta Ushna Katu 71/499

**Vatadi varga**
1. **Nandi Vriksha** Ficus retusa Moraceae Laghu Madhura, tikta, kashaya Katu 7/503
2. **Shirisha** Albizzia lebbeck Leguminosae Laghu, raksha, teekshna Kashaya, tikta, madhura Ishad Ushna Katu 14/506
3. **Sarjaka** Vateria indica Dipterocarpaceae Raksha Kashaya, madhura Sheeta Katu 21/509
4. **Arjuna** Terminalia arjuna Combretaceae Laghu, raksha Kashaya Sheeta Katu 27/511
5. **Irimeda (Vit khadira)** Acacia farnesiana Mimosaceae Laghu, raksha Tikta, kashaya Sheeta Katu 34/515
6. **Baboola** Acacia Arabic Mimosaceae Guru, raksha Kashaya Sheeta Katu 37/517
7. **Inguda (Hingota)** Balanitis roxburghii Simaroubaceae Tikta Ushna Katu 41/519
8. **Bhoorjapatra** Betula utilis Betulaceae Laghu Kashaya Ushna Katu 48/523
9. **Kootashalmali** Ceiba pentandra Bombacaceae Laghu, snigdha, picchila Madhura Sheeta Madhura 59/527
10. **Jalashirishika** Dalbergia volubilis 71/533

**Amradi varga**
1. **Shleshmataka** Cordia myxa Boraginaceae Snigdha, guru, picchila Madhura Sheeta Fruit-madhura, Bark-katu 106/571
2. **Nimbooka** *Madhur species* Citrus medica Rutaceae Laghu, snigdha Madhur Sheeta Madhura 138/58

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amal species</th>
<th>Teekshna</th>
<th>Amal</th>
<th>Ushna</th>
<th>Amal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Dhanyaka varga

1. **Rakta shali**
   - **Mishta nimboola**: Citrus limettioides
   - **Rutaceae**: Rutaceae
   - **Guru, teekshna**: Guru, teekshna
   - **Amal**: Amal
   - **Ushna**: Ushna
   - **Amal**: Amal
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 16/625

2. **Nishpav (Raj shimbhi)**
   - **Dhanyaka nimboola**: Dolicos lablab
   - **Papilionaceae**: Papilionaceae
   - **Ruksha, guru**: Ruksha, guru
   - **Madhur, ushna, amal**: Madhur, ushna, amal
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 47/633

3. **Tuvari**
   - **Shaka nimboola**: Eruca satica
   - **Cruciferae**: Cruciferae
   - **Shaka**: Shaka
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 68/641

### Shaka varga

1. **Tanduliya**
   - **Dhanyaka nimboola**: Amaranthus spinosus
   - **Amaranthaceae**: Amaranthaceae
   - **Laghu, ruksha, sheeta**: Laghu, ruksha, sheeta
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 12/654

2. **Loni (Noniya)**
   - **Dhanyaka nimboola**: Portulaca quadrifida
   - **Portulacaceae**: Portulacaceae
   - **Ruksha, guru, amal**: Ruksha, guru, amal
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 21/657

3. **Kasamarda**
   - **Shaka nimboola**: Cassia occidentalis
   - **Caesalpinaceae**: Caesalpinaceae
   - **Ruksha, laghu, teekshna**: Ruksha, laghu, teekshna
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 43/663

### Dhatvadi varga

1. **Suwarna**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Aurum
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Madhur, tikta, kashaya**: Madhur, tikta, kashaya
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 11/591

2. **Swarna-makshika**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Copper pyrite
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Madhur, tikta**: Madhur, tikta
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 60/597

3. **Rajata-makshika**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Iron pyrite
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Madhur, tikta**: Madhur, tikta
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 64/598

4. **Tuttha**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Copper sulphate
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Katu, kashaya**: Katu, kashaya
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 68/599

5. **Sindoora**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Red oxide of lead
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Ushna**: Ushna
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 77/599

6. **Mruta Abhraka**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Ash (Bhasma) of Mica
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Kashaya, madhura, sheeta**: Kashaya, madhura, sheeta
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 124/605

7. **Manah Shila**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Red arsenic
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Guru, katu, tikta, ushna**: Guru, katu, tikta, ushna
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
   - **Page**: 133/607

8. **Srotoanjana**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Lead sulphide/Galena
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **Snigdha, grahi**: Snigdha, grahi
   - **Madhur, kashaya**: Madhur, kashaya
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
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9. **Chumbaka**
   - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Magnetite
   - **-------------------**: -------------------
   - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
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10. **Gairika**
    - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Ochre
    - **-------------------**: -------------------
    - **Snigdha, sheeta**: Snigdha, sheeta
    - **Madhur, kashaya**: Madhur, kashaya
    - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
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11. **Kaseesa**
    - **Dhatvadi nimboola**: Iron sulphate
    - **-------------------**: -------------------
    - **Amal, tikta, kashaya, ushna**: Amal, tikta, kashaya
    - **ISSN**: 2350-0204
    - **Page**: 153/609
DISCUSSION

After a detailed review of Bhavaprakash nighantu it was found that a total of 118 drugs were found as Vishghna among them 13 drugs belonged to Haritakyadi varga, 21 drugs belonged to Karpooradi varga, 31 drugs belonged to Guduchyadi varga, 15 drugs belonged to Vatadi varga, 10 drugs belonged to Amradi varga, 3 drugs from Dhanyaka varga, 6 drugs belonged to Shaka varga, 12 drugs belonged to Dhatvadi varga, 2 drugs belonged to Ghrit varga, 1 drug was from Taila varga and other one was from Madhu varga and remaining vargas were devoid of vishghna dravyas.

It is said in Samhitas that Ruksha guna aggravates Vata, Ushna guna aggravates Pitta & Rakta, Avyakta guna aggravates Kapha. And according to Vagbhatta the samprapti of Visha is as follow – Poison (Visha) after entering the body vitiates the blood (Rakta) followed by Kapha, Pitta and Vata dosha along with their respective seats. Then it invades the heart and leads to the death.

From the above study we observed that most of the vishghna drugs of bhavaprakasha nighantu have tikta, kashaya, katu & madhura rasa, laghu (mainly), ruksha & teekshna guna, katu vipaka and both ushna (mainly) & sheeta veerya. As per Rasa prabhav, Tikta, Kashaya & Madhura rasa pacify Pittadosha & Rakta dhatu (due to similarity of properties with pitta), Madhura rasa pacify Vata dosha and Katu, Tikta, Kashaya rasa pacify Kapha dosha and Tikta and Madhura rasa also have Vishghna effect in itself.

As per Veerya prabhav, Ushna veerya pacify Vata & Kapha dosha and Sheeta veerya pacify Pittadosha and Rakta dhatu. If see Vipaka prabhav, Katu vipaka is
Kaphashamaka, so it removes the covering of kapha.

As per Guna prabhav, most of the drugs have laghu, ruksha & teeksha guna which have the property of circulation among all micro-channels. That’s why these drugs have the therapeutic effect on all the channels of body. And some drugs have Guru, Snigdha & Picchila guna which are antagonist of Laghu, Ruksha & Vishada guna of Visha. Hence these drugs are helpful in the treatment of poison and effective on visha prabhav (poisoning)\(^9\text{-}^{10}\).

**CONCLUSION**

From the above discussion we conclude that there are 118 drugs has been mentioned as Vishaghna in bhavaprakasha nighantu. As the activity of visha dravyas depends on the dominance of guna possessed by it, so the drugs of choice for management of poisoning are depends on physician judgement and there are so many possibilities to manage the poisoning and its complication through ayurvedic drugs, but for this purpose further experimental or analytical etc studies are required to establish the anti-toxic effect of these drugs.
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