



# Vishadravya Formulations of *Brihatrayi* - A Review

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## ABSTRACT

*Visha* (poison) is a substance that causes destruction and sadness to the life. It is classified into two main groups- *Visha* and *Upvisha*. Though these *Vishadravyas* are known to be poisonous but still used for the ailment of various diseases after doing some sought of processing such as - *shodhana*, etc on them. *Acharya Charaka* has told that even a poisonous drug can show curative properties if used appropriately. So for the quick action of medicines various *Vishadravyas* are used in *Ayurvedic* formulations. There are many formulation found in *Brihatrayi* which contains *Vishadravya* as basic ingredient. These formulations are mentioned for the treatment of various diseases. In this study all these formulations mentioned in *Brihatrayi* text – *Charak Samhita*, *Sushrut Samhita* and *Asthang Hridaya* are compiled along with their therapeutic indication.

**Key Words:** *Vishadravya*, Formulation, *Brihatrayi* text – *Charak Samhita*, *Sushrut Samhita* and *Asthang Hridaya*

## INTRODUCTION

'*Brihat*' literally means "the great triad of compositions" and '*Trayi*' means three. *Brihatrayi* is comprised of three main treatises – *Charak Samhita*, *Sushrut Samhita* and *Asthang Hridaya*. These are the main treatises of *Ayurveda* which are considered most authentic and standard references for the *Ayurveda*. These three treatises of *Ayurveda* occupy the best positions for their authority and authentication.

These three treatises - has enumerated various facts about *Vishadravya*. *Acharya Charaka* has mentioned ten properties of *Vishadravya* -

*Laghu* (lightness), *Ruksha* (dryness), *Ashu* (fast acting), *Vishada* (clearness), *Vyavayi* (spreading), *Tikshna* (sharpness), *Vikasi* (opening channels), *Sukshma* (fineness), *Ushna* (hotness) and *Anirdeshya rasa* (unidentifiable taste). *Acharya Sushruta* has enumerated ten similar *gunas* of *visha* as that of *Charaka* but instead of *Anirdeshya rasa* he has mentioned *Apaaki*. *Acharya Vagbhata* has mentioned eleven *gunas* by including *Apaaki* and *Avyaktarasa* instead of *Anirdeshya rasa* of *Acharya Charaka*. It was told that *vishadravya*, which had all these ten *gunas* to its maximum extent, is known as *Mahavisha*,



while those had these *gunas* to smaller extent or less than ten *gunas* are known as *Upavisha*.

*Acharya Charaka* had mentioned about drug that if it is used in a good manner in proper situation it will act as a potential medicine but if not used properly it may act as a poison.

In *Rasashastra*, we found many references of detoxification of such drugs by the process of *Shodhana* which is known to remove the toxic elements from drugs. *Shodhana* includes processes like tituration, heating, dipping, washing etc with the help of various juices, decoction, milk or other substances. These processing and series of actions are done on *vishadravya* in order to achieve neutralization or removal of toxic principles present in them and also enhance its therapeutic potential. Many studies are working on usefulness and efficacy of these *Vishadravya* but still more work is needed to prove them. The authenticated text of *Bhritrayi* has included these substances in many formulations and indicated them for treating various diseases. So there is a strong belief that these formulations are of good therapeutic potential.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate various formulations mentioned in *Bhritrayi* containing *Vishadravyas* and their therapeutic indication.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Study is based on textual reviews.
- Materials related to *Vishadravya* were collected from *Charaka Samhita*.
- Materials related to *Vishadravya* were collected from *Sushrut Samhita*.
- Materials related to *Vishadravya* were collected from *Asthanga Hridya*.
- Interpretation of *Ayurvedic* formulations involving *Vishadravya* and their therapeutic indications.

## AYURVEDIC FORMULATIONS AND THEIR INDICATIONS

In this paper, the study has been done to review and compile all the *Ayurvedic* formulations of *Charak Samhita*, *Sushrut Samhita* and *Asthanga Hridya* that contains *Vishadravya* along with their therapeutic indication. The *Ayurvedic* formulations which contain *Vishadravya* are prepared in different dosage forms such as *vati*, *kwatha*, *choorna*, etc. Following are the list of *Ayurvedic* formulations containing *Vishadravya* as explained in *Charak Samhita* (Table 1), *Sushrut Samhita* (Table2) and *Asthanga Hridya* (Table 3) along with the name of disease on which they act as per the context of *Bharat Bhaisajya Ratnakar*.

**Table 1** List of Formulations of *Charaka Samhita* containing *Vishadravyas*.

Sr.no	Formulation/kalpa	Vishadravya	Indication	References
1.	<i>Amritam Ghrita</i>	<i>Arka</i>	<i>Visha</i>	C.S. Chi. 23/242-249
2.	<i>Arshohar Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhi, Arkaksheer</i>	<i>Arsha</i>	C.S. Chi. 14/52-57



3.	<i>Kusthghan Mahakashaya</i>	<i>Bhilawa, Karveer</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	C.S. Su. 4/13
4.	<i>Shwetakarveer Tailam</i>	<i>Karveer, Arkamula</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	C.S. Chi. 7/105-107
5.	<i>Kusthaadi Tailam</i>	<i>Arka, Karveer</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	C.S. Chi. 7/102-104
6.	<i>Tiktashvakadi Tailam</i>	<i>Langili</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	C.S. Chi. 7/108-110
7.	<i>Gandeeradh Arishta</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Sotha</i>	C.S. Ch.12/ 29-31
8.	<i>Chitrakadi Lepa</i>	<i>Arkamula</i>	<i>Mandala</i>	C.S. Chi. 7/85
9.	<i>Trikantakadi Ghritam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Prameha</i>	C.S. Chi. 6/38-39
10.	<i>Bhallatak Ksheeram</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Rasayana</i>	C.S. Chi. 1/13
11.	<i>Bhallatak Kshodram</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Rasayana</i>	C.S. Chi. 1/14
12.	<i>Bhedanya Kashaya Dashakh</i>	<i>Arka, Langili</i>	-	C.S. Su.4/4
13.	<i>Bhallatakadh Kshara</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Grahani</i>	C.S. Chi.15/177
14.	<i>Bhallatak Ghritam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	C.S. Chi. 5/143-146
15.	<i>Bhallatak Tailam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Rasayana</i>	C.S. Chi. 1/15
16.	<i>Madhva Aasava</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Grahani, Sotha, Kustha, Kilasa, Prameha</i>	C.S. Chi.15/41-44
17.	<i>Muktaadi Choorna</i>	<i>Arkamula, Arkatwaka</i>	<i>Hikka, Shwasa</i>	C.S. Chi.17/125-128
18.	<i>Mahagandhhasti Agada</i>	<i>Dhatura</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	C.S. Chi.23/77-94
19.	<i>Swedopagdashako Mahakashaya</i>	<i>Arka, Eranda</i>	-	C.S. Su. 4/22
20.	<i>Snuhiksheradham Ghritam</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Udararoga</i>	C.S. Chi. 13/140
21.	<i>Kshara Gutika</i>	<i>Snuhi, Arkamula</i>	<i>Grahani</i>	C.S. Chi.19/185

**Table 2** List of Formulations of *Sushrut Samhita* containing *Vishadravyas*.

S.no	Formulation/kalpa	Vishadravya	Indication	References
1.	<i>Kalayanak Lavanam</i>	<i>Arka, Snuhi</i>	<i>Vatavyadhi</i>	Su. S. Chi. 4/32
2.	<i>Kanda Lavanam</i>	<i>Snuhikanda</i>	<i>Vatavyadi</i>	Su. S. Chi. 4/31
3.	<i>Chitrakaadham Tailam</i>	<i>Arka, Snuhi, Karveer, Langili</i>	<i>Bhagandar</i>	Su. S. Chi. 8/40-42
4.	<i>Dravantyaadi Tailam</i>	<i>Snuhi, Arka, Langli</i>	<i>Vrana</i>	Su. S. Chi. 2/89-92
5.	<i>Dhanvantri Ghritam</i>	<i>Bhilawa, Snuhi</i>	<i>Prameha Pidika, Kustha, Gulma, Udara</i>	Su. S. Chi. 12/5
6.	<i>Bhallatak Ghritam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	Su. S. Chi. 9/5
7.	<i>Shvitra Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhi, Kaner, Bhallatak, Aarka</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	Su. S. Chi. 9/27-28
8.	<i>Mahanila Ghritam</i>	<i>Arka</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	Su. S. Chi. 9/34-38
9.	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhi, Arka</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	Su. S. Chi.9/40
10.	<i>Kriminashak Lepa</i>	<i>Kaner</i>	<i>Krimihar</i>	Su. S. Chi.9/42
11.	<i>Vajraka Tailam</i>	<i>Arka, Snuhi, Kaner, Langli,</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	Su. S. Chi.9/54-56
12.	<i>Mahavajraka Tailam</i>	<i>Arka, Snuhi, Bhilawa, Langli, Kaner, Vatsanabh,</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	Su. S. Chi. 9/59-631
13.	<i>Kshara Agada</i>	<i>Snuhi, Bhallatak, Arka, Erand</i>	<i>Sarva Sarpvishaghna, Ashmari</i>	Su. S. K. 6/3

**Table 3** List of Formulations of *Asthang Hridya* containing *Vishadravyas*.

S.no	Formulation/kalpa	Vishadravya	Indication	References
1.	<i>Vashisth Haritaki</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Kasa</i>	A.H. Chi.3/133-140
2.	<i>Kasisaadi Tailam</i>	<i>Snuhi, Arkaksheer</i>	<i>Arsha</i>	A.H. Chi. 8/15
3.	<i>Arsho Dupan</i>	<i>Arkamula</i>	<i>Arsha</i>	A.H. Chi. 8/8
4.	<i>Arsho Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer, Arkaksheer, Bhallatak</i>	<i>Arsha</i>	A.H.Chi.8/22-26
5.	<i>Kalyanak Kshara</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Arsha</i>	A.H. Chi.8/140 -143
6.	<i>Trikutaadh Gutika</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Arsha</i>	A.H.Chi.8/155
7.	<i>Mushak Tailam</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Atisara</i>	A.H. Chi.9/53-54
8.	<i>Madhuka Asava</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Grahani</i>	A.H. Chi.10/47 -50
9.	<i>Kshara Vatika</i>	<i>Snuhi Kanda, Arkamula</i>	<i>Grahani</i>	A.H. Chi.10/59 -60



10.	<i>Pramehanashak Tailam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Prameha</i>	A.H. Chi.12/17 -18
11.	<i>Dhanvantram Ghritam</i>	<i>Snuhimula, Arkamula, Bhallatak</i>	<i>Prameha</i>	A.H. Chi.12/19 -24
12.	<i>Sukumar Tailam</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Vidradi</i>	A.H. Chi.13/41 -47
13.	<i>Dadhika Ghritam</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.13/11 -12
14.	<i>Shardhul Choorna</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.14/36
15.	<i>Ansaphalak Kwatha</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.14/48-50
16.	<i>Bhallatak Ghritam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.14/80-82
17.	<i>Mishrita Sneha</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.14/89-90
18.	<i>Virechana Choorna</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer, Jaypala</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.14/98-99
19.	<i>Yonivirechanavidhi</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Gulma</i>	A.H. Chi.14/124-26
20.	<i>Snuhi Ghritam</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Udara</i>	A.H. Chi.15/31
21.	<i>Hingwadi Kshara</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Udara</i>	A.H. Chi.15/70-73
22.	<i>Eranda Tailam</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Vatavyadi</i>	A.H. Chi.17/28-29
23.	<i>Granthibedana Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhi, Arkaksheer, Bhallatak</i>	<i>Granthi</i>	A.H. Chi.18/26
24.	<i>Kustha Rasayana</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/43
25.	<i>Pathyadi Gutika</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/47
26.	<i>Kusthaghana Lepa</i>	<i>Karveermula</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/61
27.	<i>Shivitrakusthahar Lepa</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/64
28.	<i>Dadrunashak Choorna</i>	<i>Karveertwaka</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/67-68
29.	<i>Vicharchikanashak Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhikanda</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/69
30.	<i>Kusthaghana Lepa</i>	<i>Arkaksheer</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/70
31.	<i>Vajraka Tailam</i>	<i>Arka</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/79-80
32.	<i>Mahavajraka Tailam</i>	<i>Eranda, Bhallatak, Arka, Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/81-82
33.	<i>Kusthanashak Yoga</i>	<i>Vatsanabh, Snuhiksheer, Arkaksheer</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/83
34.	<i>Chitrakaadi Lepa</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Kustha</i>	A.H. Chi.19/86-87
35.	<i>Shivitranaashak Lepa</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer, Bhallatak</i>	<i>Shivitra</i>	A.H. Chi.20/9-11
36.	<i>Shivitranaashakbhallatakaadi Tailam</i>	<i>Bhallatak, Snuhi, Arkamula and ksheer, Langli</i>	<i>Shivitra</i>	A.H. Chi.20/16-17
37.	<i>Kriminashak Tailam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Shivitra</i>	A.H. Chi.20/32
38.	<i>Tilyaka Ghritam</i>	<i>Eranda</i>	<i>Vatavyadi</i>	A.H. Chi.21/32-33
39.	<i>Panchtikta Ghrita Guggul</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Vatavyadi</i>	A.H. Chi.21/58-61

## CONCLUSION

Today's concern in medicine is of effective and safe formulation. New drug discovery is very time consuming and costly. So it's better to find out some alternative by using *Ayurvedic* formulations referred in *Ayurvedic* texts. *Ayurvedic* formulations containing poisonous drugs after *Shodhana* are indicated in treatment of various diseases. These formulations are supposed to possess potential efficacy and their quick action in lesser doses. So these possible leads for diseases should be verified by the modern tools in pre-clinical and clinical trials

compared to drug which has already proven efficacy.

## SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Researchers can take the projects for evaluation of toxic effects of these *Ayurvedic* formulations in pre clinical and clinical studies.
- Research work regarding short term and long term toxicities of these formulations should be done and published according to global standards.
- Pharmacological, toxicological and clinical documentation of *Ayurvedic* formulations should be done.



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