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## A Literary Review on the Use of *Visha Dravya's* in Ayurvedic Formulations of *Sarangdhar Samhita*

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### ABSTRACT

Ayurveda includes one of its branches as *Danshrachikitsa*, *Agadtantra* or *Vishatantra*. *Vishatantra* is a subject, which is dedicated solely to the concept and treatment of *visha* of various forms. *Visha* has been defined as a substance which is destructive to life.

Some of the *Ayurvedic* classics and texts in medieval period have classified poisons into two categories as *Visha* and *Upvisha* based on their toxicity and potency.

It is necessary to have an awareness regarding the poisonous drug that- though they are destructive to the life, but when used in the proper form and prescribed dose they act as a potent therapeutic agents. However, the methods of purification (*Shodhana*) and processing have been described in the ayurvedic texts to render them non-toxic and safe for human use.

*Sharangdhar samhita* is considered as an authentic textbook of the *Bhaishajya Kalpana*. It is one pioneering work, included in the list of *Laghutrayi*. In *Sharangdhar Samhita* there are many *kalpas* (*Ayurvedic* Formulations) which contain *visha dravya* and *upvishadravya* as their ingredient and that formulations are stated to poseed quick effect on our body due to its properties. So this article is henceforth state to enlighten the various *kalpas* mentioned in *SharangdharSamhita*.

### KEYWORDS

*Danshrachikitsa*, *Visha*, *Upvisha*, *Sharangdhar*, *Ayurvedic* Formulations (*Kalp*).



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## INTRODUCTION

*Ayurvedic* medicine is a system of healing that was originated in the ancient India. So, *Ayurveda* has been defined as the “Knowledge of living” or the “Science of Longevity”. In *Ayurveda* various types of *visha* are explained such as *Jangam* (Animate), *Sthavar* (Inanimate) and *Kritrim* (*Dushi* and *Gara*) *visha* i.e Artificial poisoning.

*Sharangarhsamhita* had very important role in *Ayurveda*, as it has mentioned various formulations (*Kalp*) which are containing *Visha* and *Upvisadravya* after their proper *shodhan* and these formulations are posed to have useful therapeutic properties.

*Sharangdharsamhita* have enumerated 9 *dravya* in ‘*Visha*’ group. Also *AcharyaSharangdhar* listed eight properties of *vishas*, they are *Vyavayi* (Quickly absorbing), *Vikasi* (Depressing), *Sukshma* (Subtle), *Chhedi* (Penetrating), *Madavaha* (Intoxicating), *Agneya* (Hot), *Prananashak* (Life-Threatening) and *Yogvahi* (Adapting). *Visha* is any substance which, when on contact, inhaled or ingested leads to deleterious effect on body. It is important to have a knowledge regarding poisonous drugs because when we use it in proper form and in prescribed dose they act as a potent therapeutic agent. Those drugs

which possess these properties are called ‘*Visha*’ (poisons) and those which are less in virulence than *vishas* are called ‘*Upvisha*’ (sub-poisons).

In *ayurvedic* text, there are various references which depicts that we can use the *vishadravya* as a medicine as mentioned in the *Charaksamhita* that even an acute poison become an excellent drug if it is administered properly and similarly even a drug if not administered properly become an acute poison<sup>1</sup>. Most of classical literature have used *vishadravya* in various *ayurvedic* formulation after *shodhan* for the ailments of disease and also had explained their benefits. *Shodhana* is an *Ayurvedic* process for detoxification and modification of therapeutic activities of poisonous medicinal plants. *Ayurvedicshodhana* is not only the process of detoxification and purification, but also a process of *samaskara* (potentiating the therapeutic efficacy) of such drugs. *Visha* and *Upvishadravya* from the therapeutic point of view are considered highly valuable in accordance of the quick effectiveness in smaller doses.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the role of *Visha* and *Upvishadravya* in *ayurvedic* formulation as an excellent remedy.



## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Study is based on textual reviews.
- Materials related to *Vishadravya* were collected from *SarangdharSamhita*.
- Interpretation of *Ayurvedic* formulations involving *Vishadravya*.

### ABOUT SHARANGDHARSAMHITA

In *SharangdharSamhita* various *Ayurvedic* drug formulations have been explained in *MadhyamaKhand* and *UttarKhand*.

*Sharangdhar* has explained various *Ayurvedic* formulations consisting of *vishadravya* (Poisonous drug), which worked as an excellent remedy. But *vishadravya* can be used only after *Shodhan* (Purification / Detoxification) mostly when taken internally. *Shodhan* is the process which involves the transformation of any

poisonous drug into beneficial, non-poison or non-toxic drug.

### AYURVEDIC FORMULATIONS AND THEIR INDICATIONS

In this paper the work has been done to compile all the *ayurvedic* formulations of *sharangdharsamhita* which contains *vishadravya* in them and also the diseases in which that formulation are stated to give. These *ayurvedic* formulations containing *visha* are in various dosage forms such as *vati*, *kwatha*, *choorna*, etc. Following are the list of *ayurvedic* formulations containing *visha dravya* as explained in *Sharandhar Samhita Madhayam khand* and *Uttar khand*<sup>2</sup> along with the disease on which they act as per the context of *bharat bhaisajya ratnakar*<sup>3-7</sup> are shown in the (Table1).

**Table 1** (List of *Ayurvedic* Formulations mentioned in *Sharangdhar Samhita* containing *Visha Dravyas* )

Sr. No.	<i>Ayurvedic</i> Formulations ( <i>Kalp</i> )	<i>Vishadravya</i>	Indications	Reference
1.	<i>Rasnaadi Kwath</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Antravridhi</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 2/123</i>
2.	<i>Rasnasaptak</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Parsva Prusth Shool</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 2/86-87</i>
3.	<i>Rasnapanchak</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Aamvaat</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 2/85</i>
4.	<i>Maharasnaadi kwath</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Pakshaghat, Grudhrasi</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 2/88-94</i>
5.	<i>Pipalyadi Kalk</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Urusthambh</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 5/16</i>
6.	<i>Panchnimbadi Choorna</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Sarv Kusthahar, Rasayan</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 6/150-155</i>
7.	<i>Narayan Choorna</i>	<i>Snuhi, Jaypal</i>	<i>Udar , Vaatvyadhi, Arsh</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 6/83-91</i>
8.	<i>Akarkarabhadi Choorna</i>	<i>Ahiphen</i>	<i>Shukrsthambhkar</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K 6/164-166</i>
9.	<i>Suran Vatak</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Slipad, Bhagandar</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 7/28-33</i>



10.	<i>Sanjeevani Vati</i>	<i>Vatsanabh, Bhallatak</i>	<i>Ajeerna, Gulm, Sarpdansh, Sannipataj</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 7/18-21</i>
11.	<i>Kutajavleha</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Pandu, Kamla, Raktapitta</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 8/38-44</i>
12.	<i>Bahushal Guda</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Aamvaat, Udar, Halimak</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 8/6-12</i>
13.	<i>Karanjadi Tailam</i>	<i>Karveer</i>	<i>Indralupta</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 9/156</i>
14.	<i>Kashishadi Tailam</i>	<i>Langli, Arkasheer, snuhiksheer, Dhatura</i>	<i>Arsha, Kshara karma</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 9/142-145</i>
15.	<i>Marichadi Tailam</i>	<i>Karveer Mul, Arkasheer</i>	<i>Pundrik, Vicharchika</i>	<i>Sha. Ma. K. 9/148-152</i>
16.	<i>Prasarini Tailam</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Grudhrshi, Ardit</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/119-123</i>
17.	<i>Mashadi Tailam</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Ashepak, Urusthambh</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/124-132</i>
18.	<i>Pinda Tailam</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Vaatrakt</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/146</i>
19.	<i>Arka Tailam</i>	<i>Arka patra</i>	<i>Pama, Kacchu, Vicharchika</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/147</i>
20.	<i>Vajri Tailam</i>	<i>Dhatur, Snuhi, Arka, Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Kusth</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/182-186</i>
21.	<i>Karveeradi Tailam</i>	<i>Karveer</i>	<i>Lomshatan</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/187</i>
22.	<i>Nirgundi Langli Tailam</i>	<i>Langli</i>	<i>Gandmala</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/195</i>
23.	<i>Dhatur Tailam</i>	<i>Dhatur, Karveer, Erand</i>	<i>Hanusthambh, Sheer-kamp</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 9/198-209</i>
24.	<i>Mrugankpottali Ras</i>	<i>Langali</i>	<i>Kas, Shwas, Grahni</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/86-96</i>
25.	<i>Unnmat Ras</i>	<i>Dhatura</i>	<i>Sannipataj Rog</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/135</i>
26.	<i>Swachendbhairav Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Vaatvyadhi</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/166-169</i>
27.	<i>Vidyadhar Ras</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Gulma, Pleeha</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/213-214</i>
28.	<i>Agnitundi Vati</i>	<i>Kuchala, Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Agnimandya</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/222-224</i>
29.	<i>Ajeernkantak Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Vishuchika, Ajeerna</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/225-227</i>
30.	<i>Vaatmashan Ras</i>	<i>Ahiphen, Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Aakshep, Vaatvikar</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/231-233</i>
31.	<i>Vajrakapat Ras</i>	<i>Bhanga</i>	<i>Sangrahni</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/254-259</i>
32.	<i>Anandbhairav Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Tridosaj Atisar</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/117-120</i>
33.	<i>Suchikabharan Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Sarpdansh, Murccha</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/121-126</i>
34.	<i>Sarveshwar Ras</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer, Arkasheer, Kuchala, Dhatura, Karveer</i>	<i>Mandal kusth, Supti Kusth</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/194-200</i>
35.	<i>Hemgarbhapottali Ras</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer, Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Kas, Shwas, Grahani</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/97-106</i>
36.	<i>Hanshpottali Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh</i>	<i>Grahni</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/170-171</i>
37.	<i>Mahavannhi Ras</i>	<i>Snuhiksheer, Erand, Jaypal</i>	<i>Udar, Udavart</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/208-212</i>
38.	<i>Icchabhedi Ras</i>	<i>Jaypal</i>	<i>Vishthambak, Adhman</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/141-142</i>



39.	<i>Narach Ras</i>	<i>Jaypal</i>	<i>Adhman, Malavstham</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/138-140</i>
40.	<i>Panchvaktra Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh, Dhatura</i>	<i>Jwar</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/131-134</i>
41.	<i>Sheetari Ras</i>	<i>Arkasheer, Snuhiksheer</i>	<i>Tritayak-Chaturthak Jwar</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/50-54</i>
42.	<i>Kanaksundar Ras</i>	<i>Vatsanabh, Langli</i>	<i>Shwet Kustha, Visaarp</i>	<i>Sha.Ma.K. 12/234-239</i>
43.	<i>Indralupthar Lepa</i>	<i>Gunja, Bhallatak</i>	<i>Indralupta</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/20-21</i>
44.	<i>Daran Lepa</i>	<i>Bhallatak, Snuhi, Arka</i>	<i>Vran</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/85-86</i>
45.	<i>Sleepathhar Lepa</i>	<i>Dhatura, Erand</i>	<i>Sleepath</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/103</i>
46.	<i>Updanshar Lepa</i>	<i>Karveermool</i>	<i>Updansh</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/105</i>
47.	<i>Apchinashak Lepa</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Apchi, Gandmala</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/98</i>
48.	<i>Vaatvidradhihar Lepa</i>	<i>Erand</i>	<i>Vidradhi</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/93</i>
49.	<i>Langaladi Lep</i>	<i>Langli</i>	<i>Keetvisha, Visphot</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/8</i>
50.	<i>Dhaturadi Lep</i>	<i>Dhatur</i>	<i>Vicharchika, Pama</i>	<i>Sha. Uth. K. 11/51-53</i>
51.	<i>Bhallatakadi Lep</i>	<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Sotha</i>	<i>Sha.U.K. 11/7</i>

## CONCLUSION

In today's scenario, the concerns that are raising are about the use of poisonous drugs in the *ayurvedic* formulations but not towards the toxicity caused by them. The use of *vishadravya* in the formulations are mentioned in our *ayurvedic* texts for the treatment of various diseases. They are said to possess fast action and more effective than herbal drugs as their action are said to be very quick because of their properties. But they must be used after proper processing. As the demerits of the not proper processed *visha's* are also mentioned in *ayurvedic* classics.

Current need of present pharmacies is to develop easy and time saving methods to detoxify the poisonous herbal drugs. And further studies are to be done for the

analytical and clinical evaluation of these *ayurvedic* formulations.

## SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Take research projects for evaluation of toxic effects of *Ayurvedic* formulations.
- Research work regarding short term and long term toxicities of these medicines should be supported and published according to global standards.
- Pharmacological, toxicological and clinical documentation of *Ayurvedic* formulations and Pharmacovigilance.



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