

A REVIEW ON *VILWADI AGADA*

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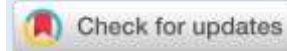
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ABSTRACT

Agadatantra is one of the eight therapeutic divisions of Ayurveda which focuses on the study of poisons, namely their sources, characteristics, actions, manifestations, and management. *Agadatantra* explains toxicity from an Ayurvedic perspective. *Agadatantra* explains the type of poison, its symptoms, treatment and many *Vishaghna yogas* (antitoxic formulations), which are helpful in managing toxicity. One of the most significant *Agada* formulations recorded in classics is *Vilwadi agada*. It is the primary medication of choice in acute toxicopathological situations. The references of *Vilwādi agada* can find in *Aṣṭāṅga Hridaya*, *Aṣṭāṅga samgraha*, *Kriyākoumudi*, *Viṣavaidya Jyōtsnika*, *Sahasrayoga* etc. *Vilwadi agada* has a wide range of applications, including poisons, bites and stings, gastrointestinal diseases, etc. This article is a humble effort to analyse *Vilwadi agada* with the help of different *Nighantus* and Ayurvedic classical texts.

Key words: *Vilwadi agada*, *Agadatantra*, *Vishaghna yogas*

INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra is one of the eight therapeutic divisions of Ayurveda which focuses on the study of poisons, namely their sources, characteristics, actions, manifestations, and management. *Agadatantra* explains toxicity from an Ayurvedic perspective. *Agadatantra* explains the type of poison, its symptoms, treatment

and many *Vishaghna yogas* (antitoxic formulations), which are helpful in managing toxicity. One of the most significant *Agada* formulations recorded in classics is *Vilwadi Agada*. It is the primary medication of choice in acute toxicopathological situations. The references of *Vilwādi Agada* can find in *Aṣṭāṅga*

Hridaya, Aṣṭāṅga samgraha, Kriyākoumudi, Viṣavaidya Jyōtsnika, Sahasrayoga etc. In Aṣṭāṅga Hridaya, the preparation is explained under the context of Sarpaviṣa pratiṣēdha in Uttaraśhāna. Ācārya indicated in conditions like Bhujanga (snake poisoning), Lūtha (spider), Unduru (rat poisoning), Vriśchika (scorpion), Viṣucika (cholera), Ajīrna (indigestion), Gara (artificial poisoning), Jvara (fever) and in infectious conditions. It can be used as anjana (collyrium), pāna (internal administration) and nasya (nasal instillation) form¹. After a detailed

analysis of several Nighantus, a description of Vilwādi Agada is written in this article.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Name of Yoga: Vilwādi Agada

Vilwādi Agada is the most commonly suggested and studied Agada in the purview of poisoning. Vilwādi Agada is an antitoxic combination mentioned in Aṣṭāṅga Hridaya, Aṣṭāṅga samgraha, Kriyākoumudi, Viṣavaidya Jyōtsnika, Sahasrayoga under the context of Sarpaviṣa Chikitsa. It is prepared by micro fined grinding of 13 drugs in goats urine.

CONSTITUENTS OF VILWĀDI AGADA

Table 1: Constituents of Vilwadi agada^{2,3}

Sl.no	Drug	Botanical name	Family	Common name	Parts used	Proportion
1	Vilwa	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corrêa	Rutacea	Bael tree Golden apple	Root bark	1 part
2	Surasa	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L	Lamiaceae	Holy basil	Inflorescence	1 part
3	Karañja	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre	Fabaceae	Indian beech	Seed	1 part
4	Nataṃ	<i>Valeriana jatamansi</i> Jones ex Roxb.	Valerianaceae	Indian valerian	Root	1 part
5	Surāhva	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> (Roxb. ex D. Don) G. Don	Pinacea	Deodar	Heart wood	1 part
6	Haritakī	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Combretaceae	Chebolic myrobalan	Fruit rind	1/3 part
7	Āmalakī	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Phyllanthaceae	Emblic myrobalan	Fruit rind	1/3 part
8	Vibhūtakī	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Combretaceae	Belleric myrobalan	Fruit rind	1/3 part
9	Pippalī	<i>Piper longum</i> L.	Piperaceae	Indian long pepper	Dried spikes	1/3 part
10	Nāgaram	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe.	Zingiberaceae	Dry Ginger	Rhizome	1/3 part
11	Maricam	<i>Piper nigrum</i> L.	Piperaceae	Black pepper	Fruit	1/3 part
12	Haridrā	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Indian saffron	Rhizome	1/2 part
13	Dāruharidrā	<i>Berberis aristata</i> DC	Berberidaceae J	Tree turmeric	Stem bark	1/2 part
14	Basta mūtra	<i>Capra aegagrus hircus</i> ⁴	Bovidae	-	Urine	Sufficient quantity

Table 2: Pharmacodynamics of vilwadi agada³

Sl no	Drug	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Karma
1	Vilwa	Kaṣāya Tikta	Laghu Rūksha	Uṣna	Katu	Kapha-vata śāmaka
2	Surasa	Katu Tikta	Laghu Rūksha Tīkṣna	Uṣna	Katu	Kaphavātajit viṣāpaha
3	Karañja	Katu Tikta	Laghu Tīkṣna	Uṣna	Katu	Kapha-vātajit bhūtagna
4	Natam	Katu	Laghu Snigdha	Uṣna	Katu	Kaphavātahara viṣāpaha
5	Surāhva	Tikta	Laghu	Uṣna	Katu	Kaphavātahara
6	Harītakī	Madhura Amla Katu Tikta Kaṣāya	Laghu Rūksha	Uṣna	Madhuram	Tridoṣasamana
7	Āmalakī	Amla Kaṣāya Katu Tikta Madhura	Sara Rūksha	Sēta (as per Cakrapāni Mruduvērya)	Madhuram	Tridoṣasamana
8	Vibhītakī	Kaṣāya	Laghu Rūksha Sara	Sēta	Madhuram	Kaphapithajit
9	Pippalī	Katu	Snigdha Sara Laghu Tīkṣna	Anuṣnasēta	Katu	Vātakaphanāsana rasāyana
10	Nāgaram	Katu	Guru Tīkṣna Rūksha	Uṣna	Madhuram	Vātakaphahara
11	Maricam	Katu	Laghu Tīkṣna Rūksha	Uṣna	Katu	Kaphagna
12	Haridrā	Katu Tikta	Rūksha	Uṣna	Katu	Kaphapithaśamana viṣānāsana
13	Dāruharidrā	Tikta	Rūksha	Uṣna	Katu	Kaphanāsana

Bhavana Dravya: Ajamootra⁵

Rasa – Katu, Tikta, Lavana

Guna – Uṣna, Tīkṣna, Snigdha

Veerya – Uṣna

Vipaka – Katu

Karma – Kapha samana, Vāta anulomana, Pithāvirodhi

Table :3
Phytoconstituents & pharmacological properties

Sl.no	Drug	Phytoconstituents	Pharmacological property
1	<i>Vilwa</i>	marmenol, marmin, marmelosin, marmelide, psoralen, alloimperatorin, rutaretin, scopoletin, aegelin ⁶	Antidiarrhoeal, Antimicrobial, Radioprotective, Anticancer, Anti-inflammatory, Ulcer healing potential ⁷
2	<i>Surasa</i>	Linalool, Eugenol, methyl eugenol, carvacrol, five fatty acids – stearic, palmitic, oleic, linoleic, linolenic acids	Antibacterial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, immunomodulatory ⁸
3	<i>Karañja</i>	Demethoxy-kanugin, gamatay, kaempferol, kankone, kanugin, karangin, pinnatin, pongamol, pongapin, quercitin, saponin.	Antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anthelmintic, and insecticidal activities ⁹
4	<i>Natam</i>	Valepotriates, flavones, sesquiterpenoids, terpenoids, phenolic compounds ¹⁰	antioxidant, neuroprotective anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, antidepressant, antispasmodic, analgesic
5	<i>Surāhva</i>	sterols, β-himachalene, sesquiterpene, Deodarin, Himachalol, Cedeodarin, β-sterol, shikimic acid ¹¹	Anticancer, Antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, Antiarthritic
6	<i>Harītakī</i>	5-methylindolo-quinoline, gallic acid, ellagic acid, tannic acid, chebulic acid, chebulagic acid, corilagin, mannitol ¹²	Antibacterial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, hypoglycemic
7	<i>Āmalakī</i>	apigenin, gallic acid, ellagic acid, chebulinic acid, quercetin, chebulagic acid, Emblicanin A, corilagin ¹³	Anti-inflammatory, anti-pyretic, antineutrophil and antiplatelet properties, anti-bacterial, anti-viral ¹⁴
8	<i>Vibhītakī</i>	gallic acid, chebulic, chebulagic, chebulinic acids ellagitannins, corilagin, ellagic acid, triterpenes and triterpenoidal glycosides ¹⁵	antidiabetic, antiulcer, analgesic, antifungal, antibacterial, anti-hypertensive activity
9	<i>Pippalī</i>	piperine, methyl piperine, pipernonaline, asarinine, pellitorine, piperlongumine ¹⁶	Hepatoprotective, cardioprotective, antimicrobial, anti-tumour, antiapoptosis
10	<i>Nāgaram</i>	gingerols, shogaols, 3-dihydroshogaols, paradols, dihydroparadols, acetyl derivatives of gingerols, gingerdiols ¹⁷	antimicrobial, anticancer, antioxidant, antidiabetic, nephroprotective, hepatoprotective, immunomodulatory activity
11	<i>Maricam</i>	Piperamide, Pipericide, Piperine, B, Sarmentine, Sarmentosine, Brachyamide B ¹⁸	antioxidant, antitumor, antipyretic, analgesic, anti-inflammatory
12	<i>Haridrā</i>	Curcumin, demethoxycurcumin, bisdemethoxycurcumin, tumerone, diferuloylmethane ¹⁹	Antimicrobial, anticancer, neuroprotective, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant ²⁰
13	<i>Dāruharidrā</i>	Protoberberine, berbamine, Berberine, oxycanthine, palmatine, dehydrocaroline, jatrorrhizine and columbamine ²¹	Hepatoprotective, antimalarial, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial ²²
14	<i>Ajamootra</i>	Nitrogenous constituents: nitrogen, urea, uric acid, allantoin, creatinine, creatine, ammonia. Non nitrogenous constituents: carbonates, bicarbonates, phosphates, sulphates, chlorides, calcium, magnesium ²³	Antimicrobial activity

METHOD OF PREPARATION

Vilwadi Agada comes under *kalka Kalpana*; however, for convenience, it is sold as *vati* preparation. All 13 drugs are taken according to the proportion mentioned in Table 1 and triturated by using *Basta mūtra* (goat's urine). While explaining urine collection, urine should be collected from female *Basta*²³ after digestion of the food. Considering the duration of *bhāvana*, different opinions exist. One opines it needs six *yāma* (one *yāma* approximately 3 hours). According to *Aṣṭavaidya Vaidymadom Ceriya Narayanan Nambūtiri*, it requires three to four hours per day²⁴. As per the general practice, *bhāvana* for three to five hours a day for six months. *Samyak Kalpana* of the preparation says it should be '*susūkṣma piṣṭa*' (very fine in consistency) and then made into *vati Kalpana*. Both internal and external administration of formulation is mentioned.

DISCUSSION

Vilwadi Agada is mentioned in the context of snake bite management by *Ācārya Vāgbhaṭā*. *Ācārya* indicated in conditions like *Bhujanga* (snake poisoning), *Lūtha* (spider), *Unduru* (rat poisoning), *Vrischika* (scorpion), *Viṣucika* (cholera), *Ajīrna* (indigestion), *Gara* (artificial poisoning), *Jvara* (fever) and in infectious conditions. Majority of drugs are *Kapha-vatahara*, *Tikta katu rasa pradhana*, *Katu vipaka* and *Usna virya*. Most of the drugs in this formulation have *Viśaśamana* properties. It is indicated in snake bites, spider poisoning, rat poisoning, scorpion poisoning, etc. While assessing the *doṣaharatva* of the drug, it is mainly *Kapha-vātahara* in nature. Nevertheless, the anti-poisonous effect is by the *prabhāva* of the formulation. In indications, *Ācārya* mentioned the conditions *Viṣucika*, *Ajīrna*, *Jwara* etc. Drugs in this formulation show *Sangrāhi* and *Dīpana* effect, which help in gastrointestinal diseases. Most medications in *Vilwadi Agada* possess anti-microbial, antiviral, antiseptic, antifungal, anti-diarrheal, and anti-protozoal, indicating its *Bhūtaghna* property.

CONCLUSION

Vilwadi Agada is a polyherbal drug which have been in use for conditions like *Bhujanga* (snake poisoning), *Lūtha* (spider), *Unduru* (rat poisoning), *Vrischika* (scorpion), *Viṣucika* (cholera), *Ajīrna* (indigestion), *Gara* (artificial poisoning), *Jvara* (fever) and in infectious conditions. The action of *Vilwadi Agada* is due to its *Samyoga visheshata* (because of the uniqueness of combination, it possesses particular action). Most drugs are *Kapha-vatahara*, *Tikta katu rasa pradhana*, *Katu vipaka* and *Usna virya*, which help the formulation to act as an antidote. The formulation also has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antioxidant, and antibacterial properties and is beneficial for illnesses including gastroenteritis and allergy problems.

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