

A REVIEW ON AKUVISHANTAKA RASA- AN AGADA FORMULATION**Ravishankar K.^{*1}, Littija Alex², Ashwinkumar S. Bharathi³ and Gazala Hussain⁴**

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ABSTRACT

Agada Tantra is one among the eight branches of *Ayurveda* which deals with different poisoning conditions, diagnosis and treatment. *Mooshikavisha* or *Akuvisha* (Rat bite poisoning) is one among the types of *Jangama visha* (Animal origin poison). According to *Acharya Susruta* it is of 18 types. *Shukra* (Semen) is said to be the main *Adhistana* (Site) of *Mooshika visha* (Rat bite poisoning). *Akuvishantaka rasa* is a Herbo-mineral preparation explained in *Yogaratanakara* under *visha chikithsa adyaya* and is indicated in *Mooshika damsha* (Rat bite poisoning) and other *damsha* (bite) conditions. The ingredients are easily accessible and have a simple method of preparation may encourage the physician to use this formulation in the management of *Visha* (Poison) condition. Hence an effort is made to review the *Akuvishantaka rasa* for its *Vishahara* (Anti-toxic) property.

KEYWORDS: *Ayurveda*, *Agada tantra*, *Mooshika visha*, *Akuvishantaka rasa*.

INTRODUCTION

Agada Tantra is one among the eight branches of *Ayurveda*, which deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders caused by *Sarpa damsha* (Snake bite), *Keeta damsha* (Insect bite), *Loota damsha* (Spider bite), *Mooshika damsha* (Rat bite), etc. and poisons made from the combination of different poisons.^[1] Word meaning of *Agada* is *Roga Pratikara* which means to fight against disease.^[2]

In *Ayurveda*, *Mooshika visha* (Rat bite poisoning) is one among the types of *Jangama visha* (Animal origin poison). According to *Susruta*, varieties of *Mooshikas* (Rats) are 18 in number.

These include *Lalama*, *Putraka*, *Krisna*, *Hamsira*, *Chikkira*, *Chucchundara*, *Alasa*, *Kashaya dasana*, *Kulinga*, *Ajita*, *Chapala*, *Kapila*, *Kokila aruna*, *Mahakrisna*, *Undura*, *Mahashweta*, *Ardhakapila* and *Kapotabha*. Though mainly *Mooshika* (Rats) are poisonous by their *shukra* (semen), other *adhistanas* (site) are also described which include *nakha* (nail) and *danta* (teeth).^[3]

The signs and symptoms of *Mooshika visha* (Rat bite poisoning) includes development of *granti* (tumors), *shopha* (glandular swellings), *karnika* (round elevated patches having small eruptions), *mandala* (discolored patches), *pidakas* (profound multiple eruptions), *visarpa* (erysipelas), *kitibha*, (a kind of minor leprosy), *parvabheda* (severe joint pain), *murcha* (fainting), *angasada* (debility on the body parts), *jwara* (fever), *daurbalya* (weakness), *aruchi* (loss of taste), *shwasa* (dyspnea), *vamatu* (vomiting) and *lomaharsha* (horripilation).^[4]

In *Ayurveda* for *Mooshikavisha* (Rat bite poisoning) treatment various *Agada* formulations are described in different literatures, *Yogaratanakara* is one among them. It is the compilation of various formulations and has been written by referring vast *Ayurvedic* literature which were available on those days. *Akuvishantaka rasa* is a herbo-mineral preparation which is described in *Yogaratanakara* under *Vishachikithaka Adyaya*. It is a *vati kalpana* (tablet form) containing 9 ingredients and *Go-mutra* (Cow's urine) as *anupana* (vehicle).^[5]

Table 1: Ingredients of *Akuvishantaka rasa*.^[5]

S. N	Dravya (Drugs)	Latin name	Quantity
1	<i>Parada</i> (Mercury)	-	1 Part
2	<i>Gandaka</i> (Sulphur)	-	1 Part
3	<i>Vatsanabha</i>	<i>Aconitum ferox</i> Wall	1 Part
4	<i>Shunti</i>	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe	1 Part
5	<i>Maricha</i>	<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linn	1 Part
6	<i>Pippali</i>	<i>Piper longum</i> Linn	1 Part
7	<i>Tankana</i> (Borax)	-	1 Part
8	<i>Katuki</i>	<i>Picrorhiza kurroa</i>	1 Part
9	<i>Punarnava</i> (Swarasa)	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>	Quantity sufficient
10	<i>Go-mutra</i> (Cow's urine)	-	Quantity sufficient

Table 2: Properties and Action.

SN	<i>Dravya</i> (Drug)	<i>Rasa</i> (Taste)	<i>Guna</i> (Properties)	<i>Veerya</i> (Potency)	<i>Vipaka</i> (Metabolic Property)	<i>Doshaghnata</i> (Action on dosha)	<i>Karma</i> (Action)
1	<i>Parada</i> ^[6] (Mercury)	<i>Shadrasa</i> (All six tastes)	<i>Snigdha</i> (Unctuous), <i>Sara</i> (Mobility), <i>Guru</i> (Heavy)	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)	<i>Tridosahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> , <i>Pitta</i> , <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Yogavahi</i> (Catalyst), <i>Rasayana</i> (Rejuvenate), <i>Balya</i> (Strengthens the body), <i>Vrishya</i> (Aphrodisiac)
2	<i>Gandaka</i> ^[7] (Sulphur)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent), <i>Tikta</i> (Bitter)	<i>Snigda</i> (Unctuous), <i>Sara</i> (Mobility)	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Kaphvatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Visarpagna</i> (Alleviates erysipelas), <i>Kustagna</i> (Alleviates skin disease), <i>Vishagna</i> (Anti-poisonous), <i>Rasayana</i> (Rejuvenate), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant)
3	<i>Vatsanabha</i> ^[8] (Aconitum ferox Wall)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)	<i>Ruksha</i> (Dry), <i>Tikshna</i> (Sharp), <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Vikasi</i> (Causing joint looseness by diminution of ojas), <i>Sukshma</i> (Minute), <i>Vyavayi</i> (Pervades the body before getting digested)	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)	<i>Tridosahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> , <i>Pitta</i> , <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Shothahara</i> (Alleviates swelling), <i>Vedanahara</i> (Analgesic) <i>Jwaragna</i> (Antipyretic) <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant)
4	<i>Shunti</i> ^[9] (Zingiber officinale Roscoe)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Snigdha</i> (Unctuous)	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)	<i>Vatakaphahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Shoolagna</i> (Analgesic), <i>Ruchya</i> (Increases taste), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant), <i>Pachana</i> (Digestive), <i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma)
5	<i>Maricha</i> ^[10] (Piper nigrum Linn)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Guru</i> (heavy), <i>Tikshna</i> (Sharp)	<i>Natyushna</i> (Not very hot)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)	<i>Kaphvataahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Shoolahara</i> (Analgesic), <i>Balya</i> (Strengthens the body), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant), <i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma) <i>Krimigna</i> (Anti helminthic), <i>Chedana</i> (cutting)
6	<i>Pippali</i> ^[11] (Piper longum)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Tikshna</i> (Sharp), <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Snigdha</i>	<i>Anushna</i> (Not hot)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)	<i>Kaphvatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i>	<i>Shoolanashaka</i> (Analgesic), <i>Kushtagna</i> (Alleviates

	Linn)		(Unctuous)			and <i>Kapha</i>)	skin disease), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant), <i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma) <i>Jwaragna</i> (Antipyretic)
7	<i>Tankana</i> ^[12] (Borax)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Tikshna</i> (Sharp), <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Sara</i> (Mobility), <i>Ruksha</i> (Dry)	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Amla</i> (Sour)	<i>Kaphvatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Vishagna</i> (Anti-poisonous), <i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant)
8	<i>Katuki</i> ^[13] (<i>Picrorhiza kurroa</i>)	<i>Tikta</i> (Bitter)	<i>Ruksha</i> (Dry), <i>Laghu</i> (Light)	<i>Sheeta</i> (Cold)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Pittakaphahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Pitta</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Dahahara</i> (Alleviates burning), <i>Jwaragna</i> (Antipyretic), <i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma) <i>Kustagna</i> (Alleviates skin disease), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant)
9	<i>Punarnava</i> ^[14] (<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>)	<i>Tikta</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Ruksha</i> (Dry)	<i>Sheeta</i> (Cold)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Pittakaphahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Pitta</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Shophanashaka</i> (Anti-inflammatory), <i>Grahi</i> (Binding), <i>Pandugna</i> (Alleviates anemia)
10	<i>Go-mutra</i> ^[15] (Cow's urine)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent), <i>Tikta</i> (Bitter), <i>Kashaya</i> (Astringent)	<i>Tikshna</i> (Sharp), <i>Ushna</i> (Hot), <i>Kshara</i> (Alkali), <i>Laghu</i> (Light)	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)	<i>Kaphvatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>)	<i>Shoolagna</i> (Analgesic), <i>Kustagna</i> (Alleviates Skin disease), <i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma), <i>Shothagna</i> (Alleviates swelling), <i>Agnideepaka</i> (Gastro stimulant), <i>Medhya</i> (Improves intellect)

METHOD OF PREPARATION^[5]

Shudda Parada and *Shudda Gandaka* are made into *Kajjali*, *Shudda Vatsanabha*, *Shunti*, *Maricha*, *Pippali*, *Shudda Tankana* and *Katuki* are taken in equal quantity and made into powder. This has to be made into tablet by *mardana* (trituration) with *Punarnava swarasa*.

DOSAGE^[5]

2 *Gunja* (~250 mg).

ANUPANA^[5]

Go-mutra (Cow's Urine).

INDICATION^[5]

Mooshika damsha (Rat bite poisoning) and other *damsha* (bite) conditions.

Table no. 3: Showing symptoms of *Mooshikavisha* (Rat bite poisoning), action of *Akuvishantaka rasa* and the responsible ingredients.

Symptoms	Action of <i>Akuvishantaka rasa</i>	Responsible ingredients
<i>Granthi</i> (Tumors) & <i>Shopha</i> (Glandular swellings)	<i>Kapahavatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>), <i>Margavishodana</i> (Clears the channel), <i>Shophagna</i> (Anti-inflammatory), <i>Shotagna</i> (Alleviates swelling)	<i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Shunti</i> , <i>Maricha</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Tankana</i> , <i>Punarnava</i> , <i>Go-mutra</i>
<i>Karnika</i> (Round elevated patches having small eruptions), <i>Pidaka</i> (Profound multiple eruptions), <i>Visarpa</i> (Erysipelas)	<i>Pittahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Pitta</i>), <i>Visarpagna</i> (Alleviates herpes),	<i>Gandaka</i> , <i>Katuki</i> , <i>Punarnava</i>
<i>Mandala</i> (Discolored patches), <i>Kitiba</i> (A kind of minor leprosy)	<i>Kushtagna</i> (Alleviates skin disease)	<i>Gandaka</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Go-mutra</i>
<i>Ruja</i> (Pain)	<i>Shoolagna</i> (Analgesic), <i>Vatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i>)	<i>Shunti</i> , <i>Maricha</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Go-mutra</i>
<i>Angasadana</i> (Debility on the body parts), <i>Daurbalya</i> (Weakness)	<i>Balya</i> (Strengthens the body), <i>Rasayana</i> (rejuvenate)	<i>Parada</i> , <i>Gandaka</i> , <i>Maricha</i> , <i>Pippali</i>
<i>Aruchi</i> (Loss of taste)	<i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant), <i>Pachana</i> (Digestive), <i>Ruchya</i> (Increases taste)	<i>Gandaka</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Shunti</i> , <i>Maricha</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Tankana</i> , <i>Katuki</i> , <i>Go-mutra</i>
<i>Jwara</i> (Fever)	<i>Jwaragna</i> (Antipyretic)	<i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Katuki</i>
<i>Swasa</i> (Asthma),	<i>Swasahara</i> (Alleviates asthma)	<i>Shunti</i> , <i>Maricha</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Tankana</i> , <i>Katuki</i> , <i>Go-mutra</i>
<i>Vamatu</i> (Vomiting)	<i>Kapahavatahara</i> (Alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>), <i>Deepana</i> (Gastro stimulant), <i>Pachana</i> (Digestive),	<i>Gandaka</i> , <i>Shunti</i> , <i>Maricha</i> , <i>Pippali</i> , <i>Tankana</i> , <i>Go-mutra</i>

DISCUSSION

PROBABLE MODE OF ACTION

Based on *Veerya* (Potency) of ingredients

Most (60%) of the ingredients of *Akuvishantaka rasa* are having *Ushna Veerya* (hot potency) which helps in *Srotoshodana* (Clearing the channels) leading to proper movement of *Doshas* (Humors) in body.

Based on the *Doshaghnata* (Action on *Dosha*) of ingredients

The majority of the ingredients of this formulation is having *Kapha-Vatahara* (Alleviates *Kapha* and *Vata*) and *Tridosahara* (Alleviates *Vata*, *Pitta*, *Kapha*) property which help in counteracting the ill effects caused because of *Visha* (Poison).

Based on Pharmacological action

Drugs like *Vatsanabha*^[16], *Shunti*^[17], *Maricha*^[18], *Pippali*^[19], *Tankana*^[20], *Katuki*^[21], *Punarnava*^[22] and *Gowmutra*^[23] are proven to have Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic, Antiseptic, Anti-oxidant and Anti-toxic properties, which helps in reducing the inflammation, pain, prevents cell damage and reduce the toxin level in body.

CONCLUSION

When *Visha* (Poison) comes in contact with body it produces both local and systemic ill effects. The Herbo-mineral preparation *Akuvishantaka rasa* explained by *Yogaratanakara* is having simple method of preparation and easily accessible ingredients possessing *Kaphavatahara*, *Tridoshagna*, *Shophagna* (Anti-inflammatory), *Shoolagna* (Analgesic) and *Vishagna* (Anti-toxic) actions by which it can counteract the ill effects of *visha* (poison) and alleviates the *visha* (poison) effectively.

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