

MANAGEMENT OF STHAVARA VISHA W.S.R TO KERALEEYA VISHA CHIKITSA GRANTHAS

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ABSTRACT

In Agadatantra, Visha is broadly categorized into two major origin-based classes: Sthavara Visha and Jangama Visha. Sthavara Visha encompasses toxic substances derived from plant sources as well as minerals and metals. Survey data and classical literature highlight that among various Sthavara Visha exposures, Bhallataka (*Semecarpus anacardium*) poisoning is the commonest reported. Other poisons such as Agnishikha (*Gloriosa superba*), Datura (*Datura metel*), and Kupilu (*Strychnos nux-vomica*) are also frequently encountered. Furthermore, concepts such as Dooshivisha (latent/chronic toxin) and Bhinna Visha (partially neutralized or altered toxin) share close therapeutic parallels with Sthavara Visha, requiring structured management protocols. A conceptual study on how to manage sthavara visha as per Keralैया visha granthas been

carried out in this study.

KEYWORDS: Sthavara visha, chikitsa, kerala visha chikitsa, bhallataka.

INTRODUCTION

In Agadatantra, Visha is broadly categorized into two major origin-based classes: Sthavara Visha (inanimate/vegetable poisons) and Jangama Visha (animate/animal poisons). Sthavara Visha encompasses toxic substances derived from plant sources as well as minerals and metals. Historically and clinically, Sthavara Visha represents a critical domain of study due to

its potential for both lethal toxicity and potent therapeutic utility when appropriately purified (Shodhana) and processed. Classical Ayurvedic treatises (Bruhatrayees and Laghutrayees) provide detailed taxonomies and classifications of Sthavara Visha based on origin, plant parts, and pharmacological potency.

Classification by Acharya Sushruta (Sushruta Samhita)^[1]

Acharya Sushruta enumerates 10 sources/locations (Adhisthanas) of Sthavara Visha, totaling 55 specific poisonous plants/minerals:

1. Mula Visha (Root poisons) - 8 types (e.g., Klyptaka, Javaka)
2. Patra Visha (Leaf poisons) - 5 types (e.g., Vishapatra, Varadhana)
3. Phala Visha (Fruit poisons) - 12 types (e.g., Kumudvati, Karambha)
4. Pushpa Visha (Flower poisons) - 5 types (e.g., Vetra, Kadamba)
5. Twak, Sara, and Nirryasa Visha (Bark, Heartwood, Exudate poisons) - 7 types
6. Ksheera Visha (Latex/Milky sap poisons) - 4 types (e.g., Arka, Snuhi)
7. Dhatu Visha (Mineral poisons) - 2 types (Phenashma, Haratala/Manahshila)
8. Kanda Visha (Tuberous poisons / Mahavisha) - 13 types (e.g., Vatsanabha, Mustaka, Sringi)

Classification by Acharya Charaka (Charaka Samhita)^[2]

Acharya Charaka describes 21 types of Sthavara Visha based on plant/mineral origin and mentions 10 general poisonous plant parts, emphasizing their pharmacological properties (Visha Gunas) such as Laghu, Ruksha, Ashu, Vishada, Vyavayi, Vikasi, and Tikshna.

Classification by Acharya Vagbhata (Ashtanga Hridayam / Sangraha)^[3]

Acharya Vagbhata synthesizes the Sushruta and Charaka views, classifying Sthavara Visha into Mahavisha (major highly toxic substances, predominantly tuberous like Vatsanabha) and Upavisha (semi-toxic plants / secondary toxic agents like Bhallataka, Kupilu, Datura, Gunja, Arka, and Snuhi).

Symptoms, Fatal Dose, and Fatal Period of Major Sthavara Vishas^[4]

The clinical presentation, toxicodynamics, fatal dosage, and estimated fatal period for key Sthavara Vishas (toxic plant products) are summarized below based on classical texts and forensic toxicology standards.

Table showing symptoms, Fatal Dose, and Fatal Period of Major Sthavara Vishas

Plant / Poison (Visha)	Clinical Features / Symptoms	Fatal Dose	Fatal Period
Bhallataka (Semecarpus anacardium)	Severe skin blistering, burning sensation, severe itching, edema, ulceration, painful gastrointestinal inflammation, dark urine, hypotension.	5 - 10 grams (or 5-10 seeds / extract)	12 - 24 hours (or up to a few days due to secondary complications)
Agnishikha (Gloriosa superba)	Nausea, violent vomiting, severe watery/bloody diarrhea, burning in mouth & throat, abdominal pain, alopecia, numbness, respiratory failure.	5 - 10 grams (tuberous root)	4 - 12 hours
Chitraka (Plumbago zeylanica)	Severe gastrointestinal irritation, vesication, burning pain in abdomen, diarrhea, collapse, renal toxicity in high doses.	10 - 20 grams (root bark)	12 - 24 hours
Datura (Datura metel / stramonium)	Dryness of mouth, intense thirst, dilated pupils (mydriasis), flushed dry skin, delirium ('muttering delirium'), hallucinations, tachycardia, coma.	1 - 2 grams (crushed seeds / ~100 seeds or 10-100mg atropine equivalent)	24 hours
Kupilu / Vishatinduka (Strychnos nux-vomica)	Restlessness, reflex hyperexcitability, painful tetanic convulsions (opisthotonos), risus sardonicus, intact consciousness during spasms, asphyxia.	1 - 3 grams (seeds / ~30-100mg strychnine)	1 - 2 hours
Vatsanabha / Mitha Zahar (Aconitum ferox)	Tingling & numbness of mouth/tongue/skin, intense burning in stomach, slow feeble pulse, cardiac arrhythmias, hypotension, respiratory paralysis.	1 - 2 grams (root powder / ~2-4mg aconitine)	1 - 6 hours
Gunja (Abrus precatorius)	Severe gastroenteritis, nausea, vomiting, bloody stools, dehydration, hemolysis, oliguria, uremia, central nervous system depression.	1 - 2 crushed seeds (abrin toxic protein; ~90-100mg)	2 - 5 days

Management of Sthavara Visha (Sthavaravisha Chikitsa)^[5]

The clinical management of Sthavara Visha combines classical Sodhana (purification/detoxification), Shamana (palliative antidotes), Lepa (topical applications), and Seka/Dhara (therapeutic pourings). Based on participant clinical surveys and traditional practice texts, specific management protocols for individual Sthavara Vishas and thorn-injury management are structured below.

Table showing Sthavara visha chikitsa as per Keraleeya visha chikitsa

Sthavara Visha / Condition	Traditional Management & Treatment Practices
Bhallathaka Visha (Semecarpus anacardium)	• Vibhitaki twak lepa (topical paste) & Vibhitaki twak paana (internal oral administration). • Vibhitaki patra & pushpa for snana (bath) and paana. • Sarshapa lepa for external application over the whole body. • For itching and swelling: Tanduleeyaka & Sarshapa ground with butter applied as lepa. • Tanduleeyaka kashaya with sugar for internal paana. • Avipathi choorna in hot water & Patoladi kashaya for internal paana. • Musta, Sarshapa, Devahva powdered with butter as lepa. • Trivrit for internal usage (Sodhana / Purgation). • Satavari jala for paana, snana, and Guda dhara (rectal wash) in case of excessive purgation.
Agnishika Visha (Gloriosa superba)	• Eritaila (Castor oil) for external application. • Neeli moola powder mixed with Kanjika (fermented gruel) for internal paana. • Hareethaki phala kashaya for internal administration. • Shodhana chikitsa (therapeutic elimination procedures).
Chitraka Visha (Plumbago zeylanica)	• Satavarimoola kalka (paste of Asparagus racemosus root) with butter for internal usage.
Datura Visha (Datura metel)	• Plenty of cow's milk with sugar for internal paana (antidotal soothing therapy). • Udumbarapatra Kashaya (decoction of Ficus racemosa leaves).
Kupilu Visha (Strychnos nux-vomica)	• Mustakashaya for internal administration. • Cow's milk for internal paana.
To expel poisonous thorn	• Application of Muyalcheviyan kalka lepa (paste of Emilia sonchifolia). • Application of Arka ksheera (latex of Calotropis procera).
After the expulsion of poisonous thorn	• Muyalcheviyan kalka mixed with Gogriha (cow's ghee) as lepa. • Rock salt potalisweda (fomentation with salt poultice). • Bala and Tila made into a paste with milk and butter applied as lepa. • Dhara (continuous pouring) with Sariba, Musta, Bala, Kupilumoola ksheerakashaya.
Saptha Visha Poisoning (General Management)	• Cow's milk with sugar in plenty of amounts is highly effective for Saptha Visha poisoning.
Mooshikavisha / Dooshivisha / Bhinna Visha Connection	• Mooshikavisha left untreated manifests Dooshivisha symptoms. • Bhinna Visha management: Mridukunjikamoola ksheerakashaya is highly effective for both Bhinna Visha and Dooshivisha.

DISCUSSION

Sthavara Visha represents a major therapeutic and toxicological domain in Agadatantra. The classical understanding of toxic plant parts, pharmacological properties, and toxicodynamics provides a sophisticated framework for identifying and managing acute and chronic plant toxicities. As demonstrated by observational survey data, Bhallataka remains the most frequently encountered inanimate poison, requiring specific counter-therapies such as Vibhitaki, Tanduleeyaka, Sarshapa, and cooling Demulcent regimens like Satavari jala and cow's milk. The systematic deployment of topical pastes (Lepa), oral decoctions (Paana), purgatives (Trivrit / Avipathi), and specialized post-injury protocols (e.g., for poisonous thorns or Dooshivisha/Bhinna Visha with Mridukunjikamoola ksheerakashaya) underscores the comprehensive, multi-targeted approach of Ayurvedic Agadatantra in neutralizing plant-based toxins.

CONCLUSION

Sthavara Visha originates from plants, minerals, and metals, divided into 10 locations (Mula, Patra, Phala, etc.) by Sushruta. Bhallataka poisoning is reported as the most common (~32%), followed by Agnishikha, Datura, and Kupilu. It ranges from rapid-acting cardiac/neurological poisons like Vatsanabha (1-6 hrs) and Kupilu (1-2 hrs) to organotoxic plants like Gunja (2-5 days). It employs targeted herbal antidotes (Vibhitaki, Tanduleeyaka, Neeli, Musta, Shatavari), demulcents (Cow's milk with sugar), and Sodhana (Trivrit, Avipathi). Specialized local remedies like Muyalcheviyan kalka and Arka ksheera effectively manage toxic thorn extraction and subsequent tissue healing.

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