



Review Article

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REVIEW ON SIDDHAMANTRA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PITTAGHNA VARGA

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Received on: 12/08/13 Revised on: 20/09/13 Accepted on: 03/10/13

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DOI: 10.7897/2277-4343.04504

Published by Moksha Publishing House. Website www.mokshaph.com

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ABSTRACT

Siddhamantra, the Nighantu of early 13th century AD, written by Vaidyacharya Kesava is now a forgotten work among the lexicons of Indian Materia Medica. Kesava has adopted a reverse method of describing the drugs in this Nighantu. In Siddhamantra the drugs have been arranged according to effect on Dosas. Rasa, Veerya, Vipaka have to be inferred on this basis. Literary research on Siddhamantra was carried out using all available literatures in Dravyagunashastra and clarified with Vopadeva's Prakasha commentary. Objectives of the study were to establish known botanical source of the medicinal plants mentioned in Siddhamantra through profound literary research, analysing the mode of classification of the drugs in Siddhamantra and a literary review of Rasapanchaka of each drug in Pittaghna Varga of Siddhamantra.

Keywords: Siddhamantra, Udasina varga, Dravyasakthi, Prakasha commentary

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge regarding Nighantu is a crucial thing in the practice of an Ayurvedic Vaidya. Siddhamantra is a work of early 13th century AD written by Vaidyacharya Kesava. Kesava was a great scholar and physician of King Simharaja of Yadava dynasty. His supremacy in the profession is indicated by the epithets "Vaidyanatha", "Vaidyacharya" etc. As he was a busy physician, he had no other work to his credit than the Siddhamantra which follows quite a new pattern of applied science. Siddhamantra enables one to know the properties of drugs easily and in no time miraculous results are achieved quickly with a Siddhamantra. This is now a forgotten work in Indian Materia Medica. Except the commentary Prakasha by Kesava's son Vopadeva, no much work is done on this Nighantu which follows quite a new pattern of applied science. This lexicon classifies the drugs based on Dravya Shakthi. This unique classification helps a physician to select a drug of his choice easily. The drugs have been classified in eight groups as Vataghna varga, Pittaghna varga, Kaphaghna varga, Vatapittaghna varga, Kaphavataghna varga, Kaphapittaghna varga, Dosaghna varga and Dosala varga.

The author has gone deep into the subject and has sub classified the groups into fifty seven types according to the variations in effect on Dosas like Shudha vataghna, Vataghna pittala, Vataghna sleshmala, Vataghna pittakaphakruth, Vataghna pittala alpakapha, Vataghna pittakruth kapha udasina, Vataghna sleshmala alpapitta, Vataghna pittakapha udasina, Vataghna sleshmala pitta udasina etc. Author has followed the authorities of Acharya Charaka, Susruta and Vagbhata along with commentaries of Kharana etc. At places where controversies arise regarding the Karma of a drug, he has made these drugs into Udaseena Gana. Drugs of Udaseena Gana, may either work as Doshahara or

Doshakrut when the factors like Mathra, Desha, Kriya, Kala, Avastha etc. become favourable, as indicated in the commentary¹. Author clarifies the need for such a classification of drugs by saying that, by searching other lexicons or Samhithas one could not readily get the action of a drug. Rather it has to be assessed on the basis of Rasa, Veerya and Vipaka. In this respect Siddhamantra is a boon to Ayurvedic practitioners, where one could get the drug of interest easily and within no time.

Materials for the Text

Siddhamantra was first published in 1898 in Jnanasagar Press, duly edited by Vaidya Sankaradaji Sastri Pade with the assistance of Sri Balacandra. This publication is entitled as Siddhamantra Prakasa. In fact, the text is 'Siddhamantra' and the commentary is known as 'Prakasa'. Vopadeva's Hridayadeepaka nighantu and Siddhamantra of Vaidyacharya Kesava with the Prakasha commentary of Vopadeva was edited by Prof. Priyavrat Sharma. This text was taken as the main literary source for the present study. Prof P V Sharma has used the following manuscripts for his edition Ms NO 1101/1886 – 92 (SI NO 312) Descriptive catalogues of MSS, B.O.R.I Poona, Ms NO D 13379 (SI NO 23565) Des Cat Pt 11 of Govt Oriental Mss library Madras, The text published from Jnanasagar Press 1898 Ed Vaidya Shankar Daji Shastri Pade., Ms no B 3697 of B.H.U Libraries.

Pittaghna Varga

For analysing the mode of classification of medicinal plants in Siddhamantra, Pittaghna Varga is taken and studied elaborately. Pittaghna varga contains 52 drugs under seven sub groups. The known botanical sources of medicinal plants in this Varga are identified. Rasapanchaka of the medicinal plants are reviewed in Nighantus.

Besides the medicinal plants, Pittaghna sub group includes germ stones (Ratna), Candrkanthambu, cold water (Sheethambha), mud (Panga), Mantha prepared out of Draksha, Ikshu and Sita and meat prepared with ghee. Pittaghna Vatakara sub group includes lake water (Tadakodakam). River water of Anoopadesha

(Nadanoopodakam) and boiled cool milk (Dugdham Shrutham Himam) in Pittaghna Kaphakara sub group. Karaka thoyam or the rain water is included under Pittaghna and Vatasleshmakara sub group¹. Possible botanical sources of the medicinal plants of the pittaghna varga are given in the tables.

Table 1: Identification of medicinal plants in shudha pittaghna varga

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
1	Candana	<i>Santalum album</i> Linn.	Santalaceae
2	Arista	<i>Sapindus trifolius</i> Linn.	Sapindaceae
3	Kadali	<i>Musa sapientum</i> Linn.	Musaceae
4	Kasa	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> Linn.	Poaceae
5	Kacchura	<i>Fagonia cretica</i> Linn.	Poaceae
6	Sukanasa	<i>Oroxylum indicum</i> Vent.	Bignoniaceae
7	Mamsaroha	<i>Soymida febrifuga</i> A.Juss.	Meliaceae
8	Nalika	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> Forsk.	Convolvulaceae
9	Madhukarkati	<i>Citrus decumana</i> Watt.	Rutaceae
10	Guntha	<i>Fimbristylis annua</i> (All) Roem and Schult	Cyperaceae
11	Dhataki	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> Kurz.	Lythraceae
12	Ambuparni	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i> Linn.	Araceae
13	Nandimasa	<i>Salix tetrasperma</i> Roxb.	Salicaceae
14	Tarutaka	<i>Dioscorea belophylla</i> Voift.	Dioscoreaceae
15	Krauncadana	<i>Scirpus articulatus</i> Linn.	Cyperaceae
16	Kusmanda (majja)	<i>Benincasa hispida</i> Thunb.cogn.	Cucurbitaceae
17	Vamsarocana	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Willd.	Bambusaceae
18	Matulungi (pushpa)	<i>Citrus medica</i> Linn.	Rutaceae
19	Varuna (pushpa)	<i>Crataeva nurvala</i> Buch- Ham.	Capparidaceae
20	Mucukunda (pushpa)	<i>Pterospermum suberifolium</i> (L.)Lam.	Sterculiaceae
21	Saivala	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> L.	Ceratophyllaceae ²⁻⁶

Table 2: Identification of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakara varga

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
1	Sipi (Gundra)	<i>Typha elephantina</i> Roxb.	Typhaceae
2	Avasira (fruit)	<i>Gynandropis pentaphylla</i> DC.	Capparidaceae
3	Panasa (unripe fruit)	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Linn.	Moraceae

Table 3: Identification of medicinal plants in pittaghna sleshmala varga

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
1	Salmali	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> Linn.	Bombacaceae
2	Kusmanda (mature fruit)	<i>Benincasa hispida</i> (Thunb) Cogn.	Cucurbitaceae
3	Trapusa	<i>Cucumis melo</i> Linn.	Cucurbitaceae

Table 4: Identification of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakapha udasina varga

Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
Phalgu	<i>Ficus hispida</i> Linn.	Moraceae

Table 5: Identification of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakaphakruth varga

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
1	Marsa saka	<i>Amaranthus blitum</i> Linn.	Amaranthaceae
2	Manakanda (stem)	<i>Alocacia indica</i> (Roxb) Schott.	Araceae
3	Alabu (stem)	<i>Lagenaria vulgaris</i> Ser.	Cucurbitaceae
4	Yuthi	<i>Jasminum auriculatum</i> Linn.	Oleaceae
5	Kastheksu	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> Linn.	Poaceae
6	Sthalakanda (surana)	<i>Amorphophallus companulatus</i> Blume. ex. Decne.	Araceae
7	Aluka – raktaluka	<i>Colocasia antiquorum</i> Schott.	Araceae
8	Keluta	<i>Ficus glomerata</i> Roxb.(variety)	Moraceae
9	Srngataka	<i>Trapa natans</i> Linn.	Trapaceae
10	Kaseruka	<i>Scirpus kysoor</i> Roxb.	Cyperaceae
11	Dhandhana (surana)	<i>Amorphophallus companulatus</i> Blume. ex. Decne.	Araceae
12	Padmakandadi	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Willd.	Nymphaeaceae
13	Bhallataka kusuma	<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i> Linn.	Anacardiaceae
14	Trapusa (young fruit)	<i>Cucumis melo</i> Linn.	Cucurbitaceae
15	Kalinga (young fruit)	<i>Citrullus vulgaris</i> Schrad.	Cucurbitaceae
16	Karkaru (young fruit)	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> Linn.	Cucurbitaceae
17	Ervaru (young fruit)	<i>Cucumis melo</i> Linn.	Cucurbitaceae
18	Nivara	<i>Hygroryza aristata</i> Nees.	Poaceae
19	Ekaisika (taila)	<i>Operculina turpethum</i> Silva. Mans.	Convolvulaceae

Table 6: Identification of medicinal plants in pittaghna kaphodasina varga

Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
Bimbi	<i>Coccinia indica</i> W. and A.	Cucurbitaceae

Table 7: Identification of medicinal plants in pittaghna sleshmala vatakruth varga

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family
1	Palankya	<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> Linn.	Chenopodiaceae
2	Kuntali	<i>Physalis peruviana</i> Linn.	Solanaceae

RESULT

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna Varga

Pittaghna varga of Siddhamantra includes a total of 51 medicinal plants under 7 sub groups viz. Shudhapittaghna, Pittaghna Vatakrut, Pittaghna Sleshmala, Pittaghna Vatakapha Udasina, Pittaghna Vatakaphakrut, Pittaghna Kapha Udasina and Pittaghna Kapha Udasina Vatala. Observed number of Rasa, Guna, Veerya and Vipaka are given in Table 8. Majority of the Pittaghna Varga drugs are predominant with Sheeta Veerya. They also possess Madhura, Kashaya or Tikta Rasa where it is observed that most predominant Rasa was Madhura followed by Kashaya.²⁻⁶

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Shuddha Pittaghna Varga

It is observed that in case of Shudha pittaghna varga, we have variety of gunas where Guru Guna is more predominant, followed by Snigdha and Laghu. It also contains drugs which are having Rooksha and Vishada property, where these drugs may help in Pitta Vilayana (Vipareetharthakari Chikitsa). Hence they are included in this varga.

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna Vatakara Varga

Under Pittaghna Vatakara Varga, only 3 drugs are mentioned where all have Madhura Rasa along with Sheeta Veerya. Probably these drugs produce obstruction to vata dosha, if used injudiciously, thus results in vata vrudhi.

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna Sleshmala Varga

Under the Varga of Pittaghna Sleshmala, the drugs possess Madhura Rasa in predominance along with Guru,

Snigdha, and Pichila Guna which are totally Kaphavrudhikara in nature. Even though Kooshmanda fruit, which is told as Ushna Veerya in Madanapalanighantu, is considered under this varga as it may result in Kapha Vilayana.

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna VataKaphaudasinaVarga

Under Pittaghna Vatakapha Udasina only one drug is mentioned. It probably acts as Vatakapha Udasina by virtue of its contradictory properties like Madhura and kashaya rasa, where both are Pittahara but one is Kaphakara and other is Vatakara. Thus one controls the other resulting in Udasinatha of Vata and Kaphadosha.

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna Vatakaphakrut Varga

Under Pittaghna Vatakaphakrut total of 19 drugs are mentioned where majority are having Madhura rasa and Sheeta veerya. It is also seen that the drugs possess Laghu and Rooksha Guna; hence leading to Vata Kaphavrudhi at different site of action.

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna Kapha udasina Varga

In Pittaghna Kapha Udasina Varga only one drug is mentioned where it contains Madhura tikta rasa, Guru Guna along with Sheeta veerya and Madhura Vipaka where the Tikta Rasa probably acts as a controller for the Vrudhi of Kapha Dosha.

Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in Pittaghna Vatakara Kapha udasina Varga

Under Pittaghna Vatakara Kaphaudasina Varga two drugs are mentioned. Probably among the two drugs Palankya will result in Vatavrudhi by obstruction while Kuntali results in Vatavrudhi by virtue of Rooksha Guna.

Table 8: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	37	Guru	22	Sheeta	43	Madhura	17
Kashaya	20	Snigdha	6	Ushna	6	Katu	6
Tikta	16	Rooksha	9				
Katu	5	Lakhu	8				
		Vishada	2				

Table 9: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in shuddha pittaghna varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	12	Guru	6	Sheeta	18	Madhura	5
Kashaya	10	Snigdha	3	Ushna	2	Katu	4
Tikta	9	Rooksha	2				
Katu	5	Lakhu	3				
		Vishada	2				

Table 10: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakara varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	3	Guru	2	Sheeta	2	Madhura	2
Kashaya	1	Rooksha	1	Ushna	1		
Tikta	1						

Table 11: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna sleshmala varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	4	Guru	4	Sheeta	3	Madhura	4
Kashaya	3	Snigdha	2	Ushna	1		
		Pichila	1				

Table 12: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakaphaudasinavarga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	1	Guru	1	Sheeta	1	Madhura	1
Kashaya	1	Snigdha	1				
Tikta	1						

Table 13: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakaphakrut varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	13	Guru	6	Sheeta	16	Madhura	2
Kashaya	4	Lakhu	5	Ushna	1	Katu	2
Tikta	3	Rooksha	5				

Table 14: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna kapha udasina varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	1	Guru	1	Sheeta	1	Madhura	1
Tikta	1						

Table 15: Evaluation of mode of action of medicinal plants in pittaghna vatakara kapha udasina varga

Rasa	Observation	Guna	Observation	Virya	Observation	Vipaka	Observation
Madhura	3	Guru	2	Sheeta	2	Madhura	2
Kashaya	1	Rooksha	1	Ushna	1		
Tikta	1						

DISCUSSION

Siddhamantra classifies the drugs into 8 Vargas solely based on the Doshakarma. These Vargas are again sub divided into 57 sub-groups based on the Amshamsha Kalpana of Doshas. But it is observed that the present available text contains only 51 groups which may be due to incomplete manuscripts available to the editor. Among this, 44 Vargas contain about 740 medicinal plants. Most of the medicinal plants mentioned in the pittaghna varga come under Shaka Varga and Oushadhi Varga of texts of Brihat thrayi. Even the properties mentioned in other texts matches with the requirements for being included in the respective Varga. Kesava has adopted a reverse method of describing the drugs in this Nighantu. The common practice was to describe the drug by its Rasa, Veerya, Vipaka and Prabhava and decide its action on Dosas and organs by inference, with the help of this information. In the present text the drugs have been arranged according to their effect on Dosas and the properties of the drugs have to be inferred on this basis.

CONCLUSION

The text Siddhamantra is studied with a view to assess the speciality of the classification followed by the author. It

was found that the text classifies the drugs based on Dravya Sakti. This type of classification is not seen in any of the other lexicons of Ayurveda. Thus Siddhamantra can serve as a valuable hand book in the field of medicine for the modern day Ayurvedic physicians helping them to achieve miraculous results just as a siddha mantra.

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Cite this article as:

Rehna Sidharthan, Mahesh T S, Sridevi Joshi. Review on siddhamantra with special reference to pittaghna varga. Int. J. Res. Ayurveda Pharm. 2013;4(5):652-655 <http://dx.doi.org/10.7897/2277-4343.04504>