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UNUSUAL ANIMAL RESOURCES EXPLAINED IN RASA RATNA SAMUCCHAYA

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ABSTRACT

Rasa Ratna Samucchaya being an important treatise of Rasashastra from 12th Century A.D consists of various references regarding the usage of diverse animal resources. Resources like various products and body parts by different animals are derived and are used for various purposes in different context. They were used for the purpose of Shodhana (purification), Marana (incineration), Satwapatana (process of extraction of chief constituent of any mineral), Druti nirmana (liquid form of any metal/mineral) and in preparation of different Mushas (crucibles) like Vajra musha, Vajra dravanimusha, Garamusha etc., as well as in the preparation of Rasayogas (formulations). They are also used as Anupana/Sahapana (adjuvants), Pathya and Apathya (diet and regimens to be followed and avoided). Not only animal resources but utilization of resources of birds, insects, worm as well as aquatic resources like Pravala (coral), Mukta (pearl), Shankha (conch shell), Muktashukti (pearl oyster shell), Agnijara (ambergies) etc., were also explained. In addition, usage of Nara mutra (human urine), Narasthi (human bone) and Nari sthanya (breast milk) are also mentioned. This article is an effort to compile and enlist about the assorted animal resources that has been told in Ayurveda Rasashastric text Rasa ratna samucchaya written by Rasa Vagbhata.

Keywords: Rasa Ratna Samucchaya, Animal resources, Rasayogas

INTRODUCTION

In Ayurveda, there are numerous references regarding the utility of animal resources in various contexts. Similarly, in Rasa Ratna Samucchaya (RRS), wide varieties of animals, birds and insects etc., resources are used in the preparation of formulations for the treatment of various diseases. Many of the animal resources are included in the classification of Rasas and they are extensively used in various preparations. Kankusta which is considered as Varchas (faeces) of newborn horse/Nabinala (umbilical cord) of horse is classified under *Uparasas*¹. Similarly, *Kapar*da/Varatika (covries – outer shell of an aquatic animal Cypereamoneta Linn.) and Agnijara (placental part of a variety of fish/ambergies) are classified under Sadharana rasas². Pravala/ Abdhijantu (coral – a skeleton of sea animal Corallium rubrum Linn.), Mukta (pearl – a secretion produced by various mollusks) are classified under Ratnavarga³ (group of precious stones) and Shankha (conch – outer shell of molluscan TurbinellarapaLamarck), Sukti/Muktasukti (pearl oyster – outer shell of aquatic animal Ostrae edulis Linn.) are also used in different formulations. While classifying the Rasa dravyas, Acharya Vagbhata has given many similes which are named by correlating the body parts as well as sounds and smell of the different animals/birds for easy understanding e.g. Nagabhra, Mandukabhra⁴ (Similar to the sound produced by them on heating the metal) in the context of types of Abhraka, Mayurakanta sadrusha⁵ (similar to peacock's neck colour) while explaining about Grahyalakshana (good variety) of Vaikranta, Gomutragandhi shilajatu⁶ (similar to smell of cow's urine) as a type of Shilajatu etc. Different Putas (temperature pattern) like Gaja (elephant) puta, Kapota (pigeon) puta⁷ etc., are named after different animals/birds name based on the number of cow dung cakes used. Different Vargas (group of drugs) which includes animal resources is also mentioned in this text like Vasadivarga, Mutra varga, Dugdhavarga, Mahishapanchaka, Vit varga and Rakta varga⁸. The usage of such commonly used animal resources as well as rarely used and practiced animal resources in the pharmaceutical preparations are presented in Table No.1. Even though cow deriva-

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tives like milk, curd, butter, buttermilk, cow dung etc are quoted in several occasions quite interestingly several other animal products are also used. However, goat, buffalo, sheep, horse etc. are commonly found and their products or derivatives are used. In addition, few rare and uncommon animal resources are also in practice. They are compiled together and presented in Table No. 2. Likewise, few of the unique parts of animals, birds, insects as well as aquatic animals are used directly in the treatment like external application, potentiating, detoxification etc. Even though such uncommon, non-universally acceptable practices are beyond the scope of time, it needs to be documented as the historical evidences give life for few of the subjects and practices. Table No. 3 denotes unique body parts of animals, birds, insects as well as aquatic animals used directly or indirectly in the treatment. Few unique formulations which are prepared by using various animal products are explained below:

- 1. Vajra/Heerakamarana (Incineration of diamond): Method I 9: Shodhita vajra (Purified diamond) is triturated with Matkuna rakta (Bed bug's blood) for 4 times. Later it is wrapped with the Chucchundara mamsa (Rat's flesh) and subjected to Varahaputa. Like this it should be given with 30 Varahaputas to get Heeraka bhasma. Method II¹0: In another method, Bhunaga (Earthworm) is triturated with Madanaphala kashaya (Decoction of Randia dumetorum Lam.) this paste is applied to Heeraka (Diamond). After complete drying it is subjected to 20 Gajaputa to obtain Vajra bhasma.
- 2. **Pittala druti**¹¹: Pittala churna (Brass powder) is mixed with any food preparations and fed to black colored goat. The faeces obtained from this goat are burnt into ashes and it is used as *Pittala druti*, which is having *Rasa rasayana* quality.
- 3. Maheshwara dhoopa¹²: Srivesta (Soot/Carbon black), Devadaru Cedrus deodara Roxb., Bahlika (Hingu) Ferulanorthax Bioss, Musta Cyperusrotundus Linn., Katukarohini Picrorhizakurroa Royle ex Benth., Sarsapa Brassica campestris Linn., Nimbapatra Azadirachta indi-

ca A. Juss, Madanaphala – Randia dumetorum Lam., Vacha – Acorus calamus Linn., Bhruhati – Solanum indicum Linn., Kantakari – Solanum xanthocarpum Brum., Sarpa nirmoka (Snake's skin - Ecdysis), Karpasa beeja – Gossypium herbaceum Linn., Yavasthusha (Barley husk), Goshrunga (Horn of cow), Khara roma (Rabbit's hair), Barhi piccha (Peacock's feather), Vidala vit (Cat's feaces), Chaga roma (Goat's hair), Cow's ghee are triturated with Sheep's urine. And this is used as Dhoopa (Fumigation) in Sarva graharoga.

- 4. Grahaghna dhoopa¹³: Karpasa beeja Gossypium herbaceum Linn., Mayura piccha (Peacock's feather), Bhruhati Solanum indicum Linn., Nirmalya, Pinditaka (Madanaphala) Randia dumetorum Lam., Twak Cinnamomum zeylenica Blume, Jatamansi Nardostachys jatamansi Dc., Vrusha (Vasa) Adathoda vasicaNees., Damsa vit (Cat's feaces), Tusha, Vacha Acorus calamus Linn., Keshahi nirmoka (Donkey's hair), Nagendra (Snake), Dwija shrunga (Elephant tusk), Hingu Ferula northax Bioss, Maricha-Piper nigrum Linn. are used as Dhoopa in Skandhonmada and Graharoga.
- 5. Narasthi taila¹⁴: Narasthi (Human bone) is made into powder and Kalka (Paste) is prepared by mixing in water. Later 4 parts of Tila taila (Sesame oil Sesamum indicum Linn.) and 16 parts of water is added to the above Kalka. This mixture is subjected to heat till it attains Taila siddhi lakshanas¹⁵ and the obtained Taila is used for external application in Bhagandara (Fisula-in-ano).
- 6. Chucchundari taila¹⁶: Chucchundara mamsa (Rat's flesh) is made into Kalka (Paste). Later 4 parts of Tila taila (Sesame oil Sesamum indicum Linn.) and 16 parts of water is added to the above Kalka. This mixture is subjected to heat till it attains Taila siddhi lakshanas and the obtained Taila is used for external application in Gandamala (Goiter).

DISCUSSION

This text emphasizes on the significant usage of animal resources along with herbal and mineral drug resources. Animal resources are used in almost all the varieties of Kalpana. Not only animal resources but utilization of resources of birds, insects and worm as well as aquatic resources is also told. Vargas (Group of drugs) like Mutra varga, Vit varga, Raktavarga etc are mentioned which extensively consists of distinct animal products. Many unique and rare preparations are explained by using various animal products which are used both internally as well as externally in different disease conditions. They are not only used in the preparation as an ingredient but also used for the purpose of Shodhana (Purification), Marana (Incineration) etc procedures during drug processing, as Anupana/Sahapana (Adjuvants), Pathya and Apathya (Diet and regimens to be followed and avoided). During Puta (Incineration carried out by maintaining specific temperature pattern) cow dung cakes are the main fuel used to regulate the temperature. This will help to procure the properly formed medicines. Among all animal resources predominant usage of various products of cow can be noticed throughout the textbook. This shows the abundance of animal resources during those days.

CONCLUSION

Therapeutic efficacy of the many preparations should be explored scientifically e.g. *Shunoasthi nasya, Narasthi taila* etc., for their better practical applicability. As many of the animal resources are not available nowadays, suitable substitutes can be evolved for the fulfillment of therapeutic and pharmaceutical needs. In spite of enormous classical references regarding the utility of the animal resource, their practical employment is questionable because of the ethical issues.

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Tables

Table 1: Usage of cow's ghee/milk/butter/buttermilk/curd/urine/dung/fat/bile in various contexts

For preparation as ingre-	For Shodhana/Marana/Satwapatana	As Anupana/Sahapana	As Pathya and Apathya
dient			
Deepika rasa	Abhraka shodhana, satwapatana, satwashodhana	Parpati rasa	Lokanatha rasa
Chandrakala rasa	Vaikranta shodhana and satwapatana	Kanasundara rasa	Ananda bhairava rasa
Swasarivataka	Swarnamakshika satwapatana	Lokeshwara rasa	Rasottama rasa
Kanaka sundara rasa	Shilajatu shodhana	Agnikumara rasa	Lokeshwara rasa
Panchamrutaparpati	Sasyaka shodhana	Laghusiddhabhra rasa	Agnikumara rasa
Arsakutara rasa	Karpara satwa	Grahanikapata rasa	Kanakasundara rasa (In
			grahani)
Mulakutara rasa	Gandhaka shodhana	Vaishwanarapottali rasa	Grahanihara rasa
Laghulokanatheshwara	Gairika shodhana	Kravyada rasa	Grahanikapata rasa
rasa			
Vasantakusumakara rasa	Spatika satwapatana	Rakshasa rasa	Vidhwamsa rasa

Darvi churna	Parada bandhana in Anjana	Pramehari rasa	In vaishwanarapottali rasa – Ghrita, takra
Gomutradhya taila	Rajavarta shodhana	Mehashatru rasa	Vangeshwara rasa
Gandhakadipottali rasa (1) and (2)	Dhatu samanya shodhana	Kaseesabaddha rasa	Pramehari rasa
Agni kumara rasa (1)	Lohavishesha shodhana	Sanjeevana rasa	Uma shambu rasa
Takrasava	Hingu shodhana	Mehakutara rasa	Panchanana rasa
Shambukadi loha	Loha marana	Mehabaddha rasa	Vijaya rasa/gutika
Purnachandra rasa	Rasa marana	Vangeshwara rasa	Khageswara rasa
Kushmanda khanda		Vidyadhara rasa	Dhanwantari rasa
Trailokyasundara rasa	Miscellaneous	Vaishwanara rasa	Ankoladi lepa
Hamsamandura	Garamusha	Vyoshadi churna	Gandhashma garbharasa (1) and (2)
Devadalichurna	Mutravarga	Soubhagya yoga	Arka murti rasa
Visarpanashanataila	Panchamruta	Agni kumara rasa	Dhattura panchanga ghrita
Kustanashana rasa	Dugdavarga	Trinetra rasa	Triphala rasayana (4)
Nagarjuna vati	Vid varga	Amrutarnava rasa	Sutendra rasa
Talakeswara rasa	In Mrughanka pottali rasa for making Musha	Pitta rogantaka rasa	Kamadeepana rasa
Medinisara rasa		Vinodavidyadhara rasa	Rasa sevanapathya – Dadhi
Swarnaksheeri rasa		Mahavahni rasa	Masanumasika garbhin- ipathya
			Dhattura panchanga ghrita
Chandraprabha vatika		Vajra kshara	As Apathya
Udayadithya rasa		Hamsa mandura	In Vaishwanarapottali rasa – Dadhi
Nirgundyadilepa		Kalavidhwamsana rasa	Talakeswara rasa – Tak- ra
Krimishoolasamhara rasa		Trailokyasundara rasa	Parada jarananishiddha – Gomutra
Gandhashmagarbha rasa (2)		Kameshwara rasa	
Yogaraja guggulu (2)		Sindurabhusana rasa	
Shatavaryadi guggulu		Taleswara rasa	
Shadanga guggulu		Vajra shekara rasa (Kush- ta)	
Triphala yamaka		Medinisara rasa	
Eleya sarpi		Switrari rasa	
Eleyaka taila		Kilasanashana rasa	
Ashwatha ksheerapaka		Krimishoolasamhara rasa	
Madhukadi kalka		Sheetari rasa	
Yastyadi ghrita		Martandeshwara rasa	
Aswagandha ghrita		Sarvavatari rasa	
Nimbadi ghrita/ksheera		Chandravaleha	

Dhatturapanchanga ghri-	Amrutaprasha
ta	
Gavakshyadi nasya	Jayasundara rasa
Nagadi varti	Parpati rasa (Sutikaroga and Unmada)
Netrajalasravahar-anjana	Dhatturapanchanga ghri-
Ratrandahar-anjana	Gandhaka druti
Tamra druti (1)	Udayaditya rasa
Kunkumadi nasya	Hemadri rasayana
Matulungadi lepa	Pippalyadi rasayana
Kushtadi vati	Sahasra varshayushka rasayana
Pathyadi vatika	Shadanga rasayana
Paradadi lepa	Kanta rasayana (3)
Haridradi lepa	Swayamgupta churna
Jatipushpadi lepa	Sindura rasa
Snuhyadi taila	Kamalakya rasa
Jatyadi ghrita	Madanamunmada rasa
Gunjapatradi lepa	Madanakamadeva rasa
Arbudahara rasa	Kamadenu rasa
Sutasomaraji yoga	Umapathi rasa
Paakshika rasayana, Masika rasayana	Madanasanjeevana rasa
Triphala rasayana (1) and (3)	Rasendrachudamani rasa
Kushtadihara rasayana	Kameshwara rasa
Jyotismati taila rasayana	Lohakalpa (6), (9), (22) and (28)
Patadi ghrita	
Narikelapaka	
Kamadeva rasa	
Poornachandra rasa (2)	
Mahakanakasundara rasa	
Amrutarnava rasa	
Madana modaka	
Different Lohakalpa	
Vishavidravana ghrita	
Jaya gutika (1)	
Mahaneela taila	

Table 2: Usage of urine/faeces/milk/ghee/butter/buttermilk of other animals (Other than Cow)

-		`	
Animal resources used	For preparation as ingre-	For Shodhana/Marana/	As Anupana/Sahapana
	dient	Satwapatana	
Aja (Goat) urine/milk/ghee/faeces	Deepika rasa	Abhraka satwapatana	Kustakutara rasa
	Arshoghna vatakam	Sasyaka shodhana	Gudapaka chikitsa
	Ananda bhairava rasa	Manahshila shodhana	Aparsmara nashana rasa

	I	Jalouka bandha	
	Laghulokeshwara rasa		
	Visarpanashana taila	Haratala satwapatana	
	Kaphakustahara rasa		
	Kanaka sundara rasa		
	Tripurantaka rasa		
	Grahanashini gutika		
	Maheshwara dhoopa		
	Navanetradatri varti		
	Haridradi lepa		
	Vajrikantapashana lepa		
	Lakshadi prayoga		
	Mahabhra satwabhasma		
	Sindura rasa		
	Chandanadi taila		
	Timiravisha kalpa		
	Navajwaravisha kalpa		
Avi/Bastaksheera (Sheep's milk)	Maheshwara dhoopa		Gokshuradi churna
,	Vicharchikadi visha-		
	kalpa		
	Karnaamayaghna taila		
Mahisha (Buffalo)	Vishnukranta prayoga	Abhraka satwapatana	Mahataleshwara rasa –
urine/milk/buttermilk	1 7 8	1	Ghee
	Tamradruti (1)	Sasyaka shodhana	Lohakalpa (5) – Buttermilk
	Mandura lepa	Haratala shodhana and sat- wapatana	
	Others	1	
	Vajra dravani musha		
	Mahisha panchaka		
Haya (Horse)	Vajra musha	Vaikranta shodhana	
urine/milk/buttermilk/saliva	Swarna druti – Saliva of	Vartaloha shodhana	
0.1.1.0/	horse	, artarona smoanana	
	Arshoghna vatakam	Karpara shodhana	
Nara mutra (Human urine)	Kanaka sundara rasa	Karpara shodhana	
Trana mara (Taman ame)	Aparajadi nasya	Kurpuru snoununu	
	Shunoasthi nasya		
	Sarpavisha chitiksa		
Nari sthanya (Breast milk)	Chinnadi taila	Loha marana	
wari sinanya (Dicast IIIIK)		Lona marana	
	Nrukapalanjana		
N d. (II 1	Tamra druti (1)		
Nara asthi (Human bone)	Apasmara chikitsa		
	Nara asthi taila		

Table 3: Usage of different animals, birds, insects as well as aquatic animal resources

Resources used	For preparation as ingre-	For Sho-	As Pathya and Ap-
	dient	dhana/Marana/Satwapatana	athya
Shasharakta (Rabbit's blood)	Shasharudhira prayoga in	Vishesha shodhana of loha	

	vyanga		
	Bhutala prayoga		
Matkunarakta (Bed bug's blood)		Vajra marana (1)	
Bhunaga (Earth worm)	Ratnakaranda rasa	Vajra marana (5)	
	Bhutalaprayoga in Bha-		
	gandaravrana chikitsa		
Mushika/Chucchundara mamsa (Rat's flesh)	Chucchundari taila	Vajra marana	
Indragopa (Rain bug)	Vaikranta druti		
	Swarna druti		
Sarasa (Sarus crane) rakta and Sarasa mamsa	Yavaksharadilepa		Amrutarnava rasa
Shambuka mamsa (Snail and it's	Karshyahara yoga traya		Kamadeepana rasa
shell)	Lohakalpa (8)		
	Pushpaharanjana		
	Shambukadi varti		
Manduka asthi and Vasa (Bone and fat of frog)	Swarna druti		
Kukkuta Mamsa (Chicken)/Anda twak/rasa (Eggshell/egg white)	Raktapittankusha rasa		Panchamruta parpati – Kukkutanda mamsa is Apathya
	Antravruddhihara		
	taila/ghrita		
Charmachetarakta	Charmacheta prayoga (Karnapalichikitsa)		
Varaha vasa (Pig's fat) and	Varaha vasa taila (In		
Varahakarnarakta (Pig's blood	karnapali chikitsa as le-		
from ear)	pa)		
	Brahmyadighrita nasya		
Mayura mamsa and piccha (Pea-	Antravruddhi chikitsa		
cock's feather and flesh)	Grahaghna dhoopa –		
	Mayurapiccha		
Tittira (Partridge) and Vartaka (Quail) mamsa rasa	Antravruddhi chikitsa		
Marjara (Cat)	Kanaka sundara rasa –		
	Cat's faeces is used		
	Grahaghna dhoopa		
	Marjarasthi pralepa in		
	Bhagandara vra- nachikitsa		
Harini shrunga (Hart's horn)	Lohakalpa (5)		
Shwana/Kukkura asthi (Dog's	Tilaja deepananjana		
bone)	Shunoasthi nasya		
	Kukkurasthi prayoga in		
	Bhagandara vra-		
	nachikitsa		
Krukalasa	Krukalasa prayoga		

Aja (Goat) bone/liver/bile/meat	Ratryandahar-anjana		
	Vyoshanjana		
	Mahabhra satwabhasma		
	Sindura rasa		
Godanti/Gorochana/Gopitta (Be-	Mrutasanjeevani vati	Sphatika satwapatana	
zoar)	Swacchandabhairava		
	rasa (1)		
	Naktandhya vishakalpa		
	(2)		
Shankha (Conch)	Vaidyanatha rasa		
	Kshara vati		
	Vishanjana		
	Panchanga gutika		
Mukta (Pearl)	Ekatrishanga varti		
Varatika/Kaparda (Cowries)	Patalahar-anjana		
	Patalaharendra rasa		
	Pushpahar-anjana		

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