

VISHAHARA DRAVYAS IN MADANAPALA NIGHANTU – A REVIEW ARTICLE

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**ABSTRACT**

Background: Ayurveda is the science of life that deals with the protection of the health of the healthy and pacifying the disease of the diseased. *Agada tantra* is one of the branches of Ayurveda that deals with the signs and symptoms with treatment of *visha* of all types. *Madanapala Nighantu* is one of the ancient *Nighantu* written by King *Madanapala*. A total of 13 chapters are explained in *Madanapala Nighantu* and there are many *vishahara dravyas* explained throughout these chapters. **Materials and Method:** Here an attempt is made to collect and review the *Vishahara dravya* mentioned in the various *vargas* of *Madanapala Nighantu* with its botanical name, family and indication and is presented in the table. **Observations and results:** Among 13 Chapters of *Madanapala Nighantu* 105 *dravyas* are *vishahara* in nature. **Conclusion:** Either a single drug preparation or their combinations can give great results in the management of various poisoning.

Keywords: *Agada tantra*, *Madanapala Nighantu*, *Visha*, *Vishahara*.

INTRODUCTION

Agada tantra is the science that deals with the signs and symptoms and the management of all kinds of poisoning, various other poisons formed by the im-

proper combination of substances or drugs and includes in detail explanation of mythology of origin of *visha*, *visha pareeksha*, various types of *visha*, *guna*

of *visha*, *visha vegas* and their management. The reference of *Agada tantra* is available from the *samhitha kala* itself and hence it is found in various *samhithas* and other *granthas*. *Visha* is derived from the root word ‘*Vish*’ *dhatu* and ‘*K*’ *pratyaya*.^[1] That substance that creates *vishada* in creatures is considered as *Visha*.^[2] There are numerous *Agada yogas* as well as single drug preparations explained in *Brihathrayis*, *laghutrayis* and various *agada tantra granthas*. *Nighantu* refers to a tradition of Ayurvedic literature. *Nighantu* may be defined as a glossary containing synonymous groups, the names of the drugs, plants, animals, minerals or anything that is administered either as food or medicines, to the human body. *Raja Nighantu* explains the importance of *Nighantu* as "A physician without the knowledge of *Nighantu*, a scholar without the knowledge of grammar and a soldier without weapons, all these three are laughed at in this world". From this statement, it is clear that the knowledge of *Nighantu* is indispensable for a physician.^[3]

Madanapala Nighantu was written by the King *Madanapala* of ‘*tika*’ dynasty during 1374 AD. *Madanapala Nighantu* is also famous as ‘*Madanavi-*

noda’. A total of 13 chapters are explained in *Madanapala Nighantu*, in which there are 510 plant drugs, 56 mineral drugs, 11 animal drugs, 74 *mamsa* are explained and there are separate chapters such as *paniyadi varga*, *Ikshuvadi varga*, *Dhanyakritannadi varga* and *Misraga varga*. It was considered as the reference text for some of the *nighantus* such as *Raja Nighantu* and *Bhavaprakasha Nighantu*. King *Narahari*, the author of *Raja Nighantu* has been mentioned *Madanapala Nighantu* in his work. The remarkable feature of *Madanapala Nighantu* is that each chapter starts with some prayer on lord *kirshna*. There are various opinions regarding the author of *Madanapala Nighantu*. The introduction to some drugs such as *Bhanga*, *Ahiphena*, *Jayapala*, *Kharjura*, *Amruthaphala* etc. can be seen in *Madanapala Nighantu*.^[4]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The whole article is a literary review based on the *Vishahara dravyas* explained in *Madanapala Nighantu*. In this review, an attempt is made to collect all the *vishahara dravyas* mentioned in *Madanapala Nighantu* with its botanical name, family and indication, and are presented in respective *vargas*.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

Table 1: *Vishahara dravyas* in *Abhayadi Varga* with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Botanical Name	Family	Indication	Reference
1.	<i>Ankola</i>	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (Linn.f.) Wang.	Alangiaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	*M.P.N.1/133
2.	<i>Snuhi</i>	<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i> Linn.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Dushivisha</i>	M.P.N.1/136
3.	<i>Nimba (Patra)</i>	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. juss.	Meliaceae	<i>Vishapranut</i>	M.P.N.1/139
4.	<i>Svarnakshiri</i>	<i>Euphorbia thomsoniana</i> Boiss.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Vishavinasini</i>	M.P.N.1/154
5.	<i>Dhataki</i>	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> Kurz.	Rubiaceae	<i>Vishajith</i>	M.P.N.1/214
6.	<i>Patha</i>	<i>Cissampelos pariera</i> Linn.	Menispermaceae	<i>Visha, Gara</i>	M.P.N.1/223
7.	<i>Manjishta</i>	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i> Linn.	Rubiaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.1/226
8.	<i>Cakramarda (Phala)</i>	<i>Cassia tora</i> Linn.	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.1/233
9.	<i>Hamsapadi</i>	<i>Adiantum lunulatum</i> Burm.	Polypodiaceae	<i>Visha, Lootha</i>	M.P.N.1/260
10.	<i>Nakuli</i>	<i>Aristolochia indica</i> Linn.	Aristolocaceae	<i>Visha, Lootha, Vrischika, Akhu, Sarpa</i>	M.P.N.1/264
11.	<i>Vandhya karkotaki</i>	<i>Momordica cochinchinensis</i> Spr.	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Sarpadamsahara, Vishanasini</i>	M.P.N.1/274
12.	<i>Mandukaparni</i>	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (Linn.) Urban.	Apiaceae	<i>Vishahara</i>	M.P.N.1/287
13.	<i>Nagadamani</i>	<i>Crinum asiaticum</i> Linn.	Amaryllidaceae	<i>Lootha sarpa vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.1/293
14.	<i>Vandaka</i>	<i>Loranthus longiflorus</i> Desri.	Loranthaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.1/297
15.	<i>Sahachara</i>	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> Linn.	Acanthaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.1/306

16.	Katabhi	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> Linn.	Fabaceae	Vishapaha	M.P.N.1/308
17.	Sarapunkha	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> Linn.	Fabaceae	Vishapaha	M.P.N.1/314
18.	Balamota	<i>Sesbania aegyptiaca</i> Pers.	Fabaceae	Visha	M.P.N.1/315
19.	Arka dvaya	<i>Calotropis Procera</i> (Ait) R.Br. (Rakta arka)	Periplocaceae	Visha	M.P.N.1/323
20.		<i>Calotropis gigantean</i> (Linn.) R.Br.ex. Ait (Sweta arka)	Periplocaceae	Visha	M.P.N.1/323
21.	Dattura	<i>Datura stramonium</i> Linn.	Solanaceae	Vishapaha	M.P.N.1/327

***M.P. N- Madanapala Nighantu**

Table 2: Vishahara dravyas in Sunthyadi varga with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Botanical Name	Family	Indication	Reference
1.	Cavya/ Gajapippli (pushpa)	<i>Piper chaba</i> Hunter. / <i>Piper retrofractum</i> Vahl.	Piperaceae	Gara vinashana	M.P.N.2/19

Table 3: Vishahara dravyas in Karpuradi Varga with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Botanical Name	Family	Indication	Reference
1.	Karpura	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> (Linn.) Nees Eberm	Lauraceae	Vishapaha	M.P.N.3/3
2.	Kasturi	<i>Moschus moschiferus</i> Linn.	Cervidae	Visha	M.P.N.3/5
3.	Candana	<i>Santalum album</i> Linn.	Santalaceae	Vishajith	M.P.N.3/9
4.	Rakta candana	<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> Linn.f.	Fabaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/11
5.	Jatipatri	<i>Myristica fragrans</i> Houtt.	Myristicaceae	Vishapaha	M.P.N.3/20
6.	Sthula ela	<i>Ammomum subulatum</i> Roxb.	Scitaminaceae	Visha	M.P.N.3/26
7.	Twak	<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> Blume.	Lauraceae	Vishahara	M.P.N.3/28
8.	Nagakesara	<i>Mesua ferrea</i> Linn.	Guttiferae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/30
9.	Usira	<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i> (Linn.) Nash.	Poaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/39
10.	Rala	<i>Shorea robusta</i> Gaertn. F.	Dipterocarpaceae	Visha	M.P.N.3/51
11.	Tagara	<i>Valeriana wallichii</i> D.C.	Valerianaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/63
12.	Nakhadvaya	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i> Linn. (Himsra)	Capparidaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/67
13.		<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> Linn. (Grdhranakhi)	Capparidaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/67
14.	Padmini	<i>Nelumbium speciosum</i> Willd.	Nymphaeaceae	Vishajith	M.P.N.3/73
15.	Kamala	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Linn.	Nymphaeaceae	Vishanashana	M.P.N.3/79
16.	Vasuka	<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i> Lour.	Oleaceae	Visha	M.P.N.3/98
17.	Kunda	<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i> (Burn.f.) Andr.	Oleaceae	Vishajith	M.P.N.3/99
18.	Bhumandali	<i>Cassia angustifolia</i> Vahl.	Caesalpinaceae	Vishapaha	M.P.N.3/101
19.	Maruvaka	<i>Origanum majorana</i> Linn.	Lamiaceae	Vrischikadi visha	M.P.N.3/108
20.	Barbari traya	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> Linn. (Vana tulasi)	Lamiaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/111
21.		<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> Linn. (Sveta Vana tulasi)	Lamiaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/111
22.		<i>Ocimum kilmandscharicum</i> Guerke. (Karpura tulasi)	Lamiaceae	Vishapaham	M.P.N.3/111

Table 4: Vishahara dravyas in Suvarnadi varga with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Scientific Name	English name	Indication	Reference
1.	<i>Suvarna</i>	Aurum	Gold	<i>Vishajith</i>	M.P.N.4/4
2.	<i>Loha</i>	Ferrum	Iron	<i>Gara visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/15
3.	<i>Mandura</i>	Ferrous oxide	Iron rust	<i>Gara visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/16
4.	<i>Makshika</i>	Copper and iron pyrite	Double pyrite	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/24
5.	<i>Manashila</i>	Arsenic dioxide	Realgar	<i>Vishajith</i>	M.P.N. 4/26
6.	<i>Haritala</i>	Arsenic trioxide	Orpiment	<i>Visham jayeth</i>	M.P.N. 4/27
7.	<i>Gairika dvaya</i>	Ferrous oxide (<i>Gairika</i>)	Ochre	<i>Vishapaham</i>	M.P.N. 4/29
8.		(<i>Swarna gairika</i>)	Ochre	<i>Vishapaham</i>	M.P.N. 4/29
9.	<i>Tuttha dvaya</i>	Copper sulphate (<i>Tuttha</i>)	Blue vitriol	<i>Vishapaham</i>	M.P.N. 4/31
10.		(<i>Sikhi kanda</i>)	Blue vitriol	<i>Vishapaham</i>	M.P.N. 4/31
11.	<i>Kasisa dvaya</i>	Ferrous sulphate (<i>Dhatu kasisa</i>)	Iron sulphate	<i>visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/33
12.		(<i>Pushpa kasisa</i>)	Iron sulphate	<i>visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/33
13.	<i>Hingula</i>	Mercuric sulphate	Cinnabar	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/34
14.	<i>Sindura</i>	Lead oxide	Red lead	<i>Vishapaham</i>	M.P.N. 4/36
15.	<i>Sphatika dvaya</i>	Potash alum (<i>Spatika</i>)	Alum	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/47
16.		(<i>Tuvari</i>)	Alum	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N. 4/47
17.	<i>Mukta</i>	Pinctada vulgaris	Pearl	<i>Vishanashana</i>	M.P.N. 4/50
18.	<i>Chumbaka</i>	Magnetite ore	Magnet	<i>Vishapaha, garaapaha</i>	M.P.N. 4/67

- *Pravala, mukta, manikya, suryakantamani, candrakantamani, gomeda, vajra, vaidurya, nila, garutmata – vishapaha* - M.P.N. 4/60,61

Table 5: Vishahara dravyas in Vatadi varga with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Botanical Name	Family	Indication	Reference
1.	<i>Nadivriksha</i>	<i>Ficus retusa</i> Linn.	Moraceae	<i>Garanuth</i>	M.P.N.5/12
2.	<i>Kakuba</i>	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb.) W. & A.	Combretaceae	<i>Vishajith</i>	M.P.N.5/14
3.	<i>Sisira</i>	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (Linn.) Benth.	Mimosaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/15
4.	<i>Hijjala</i>	<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i> (Linn.) gartn.	Barringtoniaceae	<i>Vishanashana</i>	M.P.N.5/21
5.	<i>Shleshmataka</i>	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> Forst.f.	Boraginaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/23
6.	<i>Sala</i>	<i>Shorea robusta</i> Gaertn.F.	Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/27
7.	<i>Arimeda</i>	<i>Acacia farneciana</i> (L.) Willd.	Mimosaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/32
8.	<i>Babbula</i>	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.)	Mimosaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/33
9.	<i>Inguda</i>	<i>Balanites roxburghii</i> Planch.	Simaroubaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/48
10.	<i>Katambhara</i>	<i>Albizia procera</i> Benth.	Mimosaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/49
11.	<i>Muska</i>	<i>Schrebera swietenoides</i> Roxb.	Oleaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.5/51
12.	<i>Tinthini</i>	<i>Trichodesma zeylanicum</i> R.Br.	Boraginaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.5/66

Table 6: Vishahara dravyas in Phaladi varga with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Botanical Name	Family	Indication	Reference
1.	<i>Sevya</i>	<i>Pyrus malus</i> Linn.	Rosaceae	<i>Vishapaham</i>	M.P.N.6/58
2.	<i>Vikantaka</i>	<i>Flacourtia ramontchi</i> L. Herit.	Flacourtiaceae	<i>Lootha vinashana</i>	M.P.N.6/2
3.	<i>Kapittha patri</i>	<i>Feroniella oblate</i> Swingle.	Rutaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.6/92

Table 7: Vishahara dravyas in Saka varga with respective reference

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Botanical Name	Family	Indication	Reference
1.	<i>Katutumbi</i>	<i>Lagenaria vulgaris</i> Ser. subsp. <i>siceraria</i> .	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.7/11
2.	<i>Vandhya karkotaki</i>	<i>Momordica cochichinensis</i> Spr.	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Vishajith</i>	M.P.N.7/30
3.	<i>Vishamusti</i>	<i>Cucumis melo</i> Linn.	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.7/31
4.	<i>Loni</i>	<i>Portulaca quadrifolia</i> Linn. (<i>loni</i>)	Portulacaceae	<i>Vishapaha</i>	M.P.N.7/53
5.	<i>Kasamarda</i>	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> Linn.	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Vishajith</i>	M.P.N.7/64
6.	<i>Karira</i>	<i>Capparis decidua</i> (Forssk.) Edgew.	Capparidaceae	<i>Visha</i>	M.P.N.7/70

Paniyadi Varga^[5]

Jala, Ganga jala (Akasa jala), Chandrakantha jala in *Jala varga*; *Gritha* in *Dugda varga*; *Taila, Simsapa taila, Agar taila, Gandira taila, Rasala taila, Devadaru taila* in *Taila varga*; *Madhvasava* in *Madhya varga*; *Mutra* (general), *Hasthi mutra, Aja mutra, Nara mutra* in *mutra varga* are *vishahara*. Among this *Taila* has specific indication in *Vyala visha* and *Naramutra* in *Gara visha*.

Dhanyaguna varga^[6]

Shali dhanya (raktasali), Maha shali, Vana kulattha, Adhaki, Kusumbha, Kodrava are *vishahara*.

Mamsa varga^[7]

Sarpa mamsa has a specific indication in *Dushivisha*

DISCUSSION

After a thorough review of *Madanapala Nighantu*, 105 *dravyas* are *vishahara* in nature. 21 *dravyas* in *Abhayadai varga* (Table no.1), 1 *dravya* in *Sunthyadi varga* (Table no.2), 22 *dravyas* in *Karpuradi varga* (Table no.3), 18 *dravyas* in *Suvarnadi varga* (Table no.4), 12 *dravyas* in *Vatadi varga* (Table no.5), 3 *dravyas* in *Phaladi varga* (Table no.6), 6 *dravyas* in *Sakadi varga* (Table no.7), 15 *dravyas* in *Paniyadi varga*, 6 *dravyas* in *Dhanya varga*, 1 *dravya* in *Mamsa varga* are having *vishahara* property. The last chapter of *Madanapala Nighantu* is *Misraga varga* which deals with certain miscellaneous topics such as *Anupana, Dinacharya, Ritucharya, Sodhana, Shatrasa* etc., in which he explains *Uttara basti* is good for *visharogi*, *Katu rasa* is *vishahara*, likewise, if *Vamana* procedure is carried out *visharoga* will not reoccur.^[8] Among these 105 *dravyas* majority of the *dravyas* have *Tikta, Katu, Kashaya* and *madhura rasa* (not predominant as the other 3 *rasas*). Most of them are having *Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna guna*, the

majority with *Katu vipaka* and in the case of *Virya, Ushna* and *Seeta virya* goes hand in hand.

According to *Ashtanga hridaya*, when *Visha* enters the body, it first vitiates *rakta*, then *kapha, pitta* and *anila* along with their *ashaya* and when enters *hridaya* it leads to *marana*.^[9] While considering *rasa*; *Katu, Tikta, Kashaya rasa* pacifies *kapha dosa*. *Kashaya, Tikta, Madhura rasa* pacifies *pitta dosa* and *Madhura rasa* pacifies *vata dosa*.^[10] Meanwhile *Tikta rasa* and *Katu rasa* are *vishahara* in nature according to *Charaka samhitha* and *Madanapala Nighantu* respectively.^{[11][12]} While considering the *guna*; *Laghu, Ruksha* and *Tikshna gunas* helps in the easy and fast penetration of *dravyas* to provide faster action on *visha*. The *Katu vipaka* will pacify *Kapha dosa*.^[13] *Seeta virya* pacifies *pitta dosa*, it also pacifies *rakta* as *pitta dosa* have *ashraya sthana* on *rakta*.^{[14][15]} *Ushna virya* pacifies *kapha* and *vata dosas*.^[14] After all, these *dravyas* are *vishahara* in *karma*, so that they have the ability to protect the *sarira* from *visha* by all means.

This article is a thorough compilation of all the *vishahara dravyas* explained in the *Madanapala Nighantu* with their botanical name and family, so as to provide easy identification of the *dravyas*. Also included are the indications of these *dravyas* and some of the *dravyas* are having specific indications to certain *visha* which are not known. The *dravyas* mentioned here can be either used as a single drug formulation or can be used in combinations for various poisoning. While going through this article it is clear that not only mere drugs but also other substances such as *jala, dugda, dhanya* and even some *sodhana* procedures are explained in *Madanapala Nighantu* as *vishahara*. It says the importance of *vishahara dravyas* as *pathya* and *charya*, thus providing a base for the researcher to do further research on the *dravyas*

mentioned in the *Madanapala Nighantu* by keeping this article as a reference.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that 105 *dravyas* in *Madanapala Nighantu* are having *vishahara* property. Among that some of the *dravyas* are having specific indications. So, it is clear that either the single drug preparation or their combinations can give great results in the management of various poisoning. So, more studies on these *dravyas* are required to establish the *vishahara* property and thus help to open up new scopes in the management of *visha*.

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