

A Review On Sarvakarmika Agada

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ABSTRACT

Snake bite is a serious health problem in the tropics, including India, resulting in considerable mortality and disability. According to the World Health Organization, millions of cases of snake bite are reported every year, a considerable number of cases are not reported. Ayurveda is a compendium of fundamental principles and treatments that have all been tried and verified by our acharyas. In Ayurveda, the branch of Agada Tantra is responsible for the study of the diagnosis and treatment of poisons, including snake envenomation. There are a number of antitoxic formulations known as *Agada yogas* in the literature, however these are not explored to their full potential in the current practice. *Sarvakarmika Agada* mentioned in *Sarpavisha chikitsa* (Treatment of snake poison), is a polyherbal formulation used in the treatment of *Vyandhara Sarpa Visha* (Hybrid snake poisoning). Since it contains *upavishas* (minor potency poisons) it substantiates the use of *sthavara vishas* (plant poison) as *prativisha* for *jangama visha* (poison). This article gives a critical review on the formulation observing the drugs in the formulation and their karma.

Keywords: Sarvakarmika Agada, Sarpa visha, Vyandhara Visha, Visha chikitsa.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is a traditional system of medicine practiced in India, representing a healing tradition that endured for centuries. The science of Ayurveda comprises *Ashtangas*, which denotes the eight specialized branches and Agada tantra is one among them. Literally, the terms "gada" mean a disease and "agada" any agent that makes the body free from disease. It explains toxicity from an Ayurvedic perspective and mentions a number of Vishaghna yogas, or antitoxic compositions. For centuries *Visha Vaidyas* (ethnomedical healers) across different regions widely practised *Agadatantra*, resulting in evolution of numerous formulations reflecting local therapeutic knowledge and experience. These are useful for managing toxicity and may be suggested in a number of pathological situations, including infectious disorders. Visha chikitsa Even though many agada yogas are mentioned in the classics for the treatment of poison, most of them are unexplored. Sarvakarmika agada is one among them, that contain minimal, easily available ingredients that is yet unavailable for practice.

The World Health Organization has estimated that there are 5 million snake bites, which account for 2.7

million envenomings every year. According to existing statistics, between 81,000 and 138,000 deaths are recorded annually. Snake bites have been responsible for as many as 400,000 amputations and other disabilities. Many cases of snake bites do not get recorded, especially when the victims receive their medical attention from other non-medical sources. Therefore, it is assumed that many cases of snake bites do not get recorded. Snake bites, despite being responsible for mortality and disabilities, have been considered a neglected issue under the WHO¹.

Vyandhara sarpas are considered as hybrid snakes, where they are born by the copulation between *sarpa* or *sarpa* with other species of reptiles. They are said to possess *sammishra lakshana* (combined features) of their parental species which may also contribute to their *tridosha* nature. This in turn specifies the importance of urgency in its management².

Sarvakarmika Agada is mentioned in *Ashtanga Hridaya*, *Uttarasthana*, *Sarpavisha pratishedam adhyaya* under the context of *Vyandhara Visha Chikitsa*. It is a poly herbal formulation comprising of 6 drugs. It is named so because of its wide range utility

Relevant conflicts of interest/financial disclosures: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

for all *chikitsa karmas* including *pana*, *nasya*, *anjana*, *lepa*, etc³.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES:

To review *Sarvakarmika agada* with respect to *Vyandhara Sarpavisha* based on the action of its ingredients as described in various classical texts.

MATERIALS AND METHOD:

Several classical texts including the *Charaka Samhita*, *Susruta Samhita*, the *Ashtanga Hridaya*, the *Ashtanga Sangraha*, the *Bhavapraksha Samhita*, and other textbooks on *Dravyaguna Vigyana* and *Agadatantra* were referred.

Sarpavisha, *agada yogas*, *vyandhara sarpa*, *sarpavisha chikitsa* etc. were used as key words in the Medline and PubMed database search.

SL.NO	PLANT	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	PART USED
1	KARAVEERA ⁴	<i>Nerium indicum</i>	Apocynaceae	Flower, Root
2	ARKA ⁵	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Flower, Root
3	LANGALI ⁶	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Colchicaceae	Rhizome
4	KANA ⁷	<i>Piper longum</i>	Piperaceae	Fruit
5	PATHA ⁸	<i>Cissampelos pariera</i>	<i>Menispermaceae</i>	Rhizome
6	MARICA ⁹	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Fruit

Table 1

PLANT	RASA	GUNA	VEERYA	VIPAKA	KARMA
KARAVEERA	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Kapha vata shamaka Vrana laghava, kushtagna, Vranapaham, Krimigna, Kandugna
ARKA	Katu, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Kapha vata shamaka Kushtagna, Krimigna, Vranaropaka, Vishagna, Deepana, Rakthapittagna, Sangrahi
LANGALI	Tikta, Katu, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Vata kapha shamaka, pittakara Kushtagna, Sophagna, Arshogna, Vranagna, Shoolagna, Krimigna, Bastisoolahara, Garbhapati
KANA	Katu	Laghu, Tikshna, Snigdha	Anushna	Madhura	Kapha vata shamaka Deepana, Krimigna, Kushtagna, Pramehahara, Rechani, Amagna

PATHA	Tikta	Laghu, Tikshana,	Ushna	Katu	Vata kapha shamaka Chardigna, Kushtagna, Jwaragna, Dahasamaka, Kandugna, Vishagna, Krimigna, Vrana hara
MARICA	Katu	Laghu, Tikshna, Sookshma	Ushna	Katu	Kapha vata shamaka, pittakara Deepana, Krimigna, Shoolagna, Swasagna, Hridrogahara

Table 2

Method of preparation: All the ingredients are taken in equal quantity, powdered separately in a *khalva yantra*, sieved through a cloth and mixed together into a homogenous mixture. It is then made into *kalka* by bhavana in *kanjika* and rolled into *gutika* form. As specific dose is not mentioned in the literature, the general pharmacological dosage can be applied accordingly¹⁰.

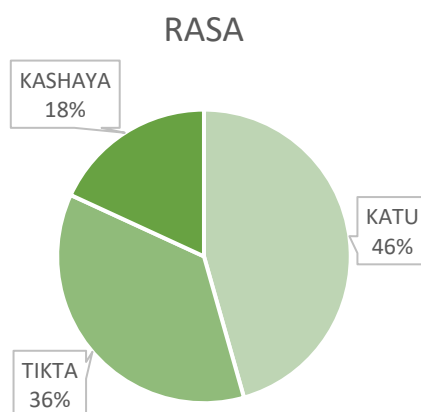
Mode of administration: It can be taken as *Pana* (oral medication), *Nasya* (nasal drops), *Anjana* (collyrium), *Lepa* (application), etc.

Indication: It is indicated specially in *vyandhara sarpa* (hybrid snakes) *dashta* where there is *sannipatika dosha dushti*.

Anupana: There is no specific *anupana* mentioned in classics. hence Suitable *anupana* may be selected considering the condition of the patient and mode of administration.

RESULTS:

Sarvakarmika Agada is a classical formula containing 6 drugs – *Karaveera*, *Arka*, *Langali*, *Kana*, *Patha*, *Maricha*, and *Kanjika* as *bhavana Dravya*. Its action on snake bite can be explained based on *rasa panchaka* (pharmacological properties) of the drugs.

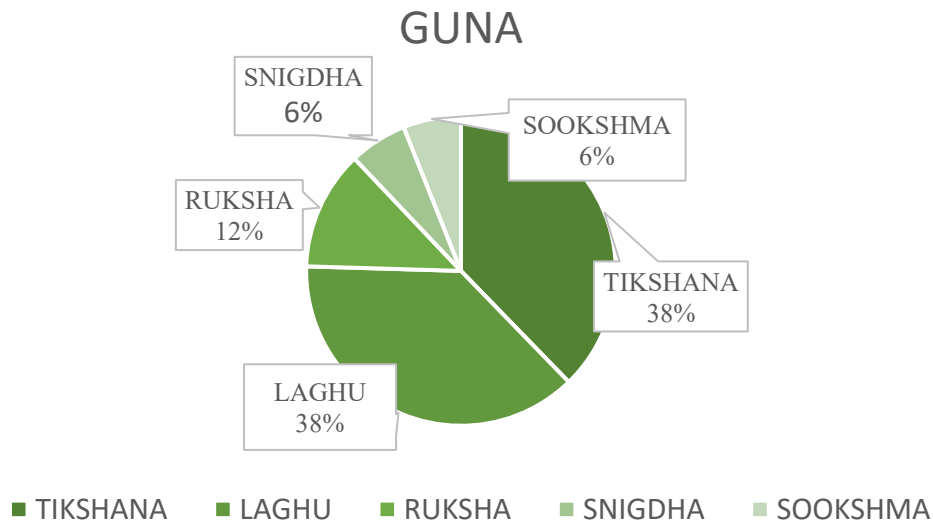


1.Rasa:

Most of the Drugs in the formulation has *katu* (pungent), *tikta* (bitter), *kashaya* (astringent) *rasa*.

hence possessing *kapha dosha shamaka* effect. (Ch.Su.1/66)¹¹.

According to Acharaya Susruta *katu rasa* is *agneya rasa*, whereas *tikta* and *Kashaya* are *Soumya rasas*. aiding in *pitta shamana* property. (Su.Su.42/7)¹².



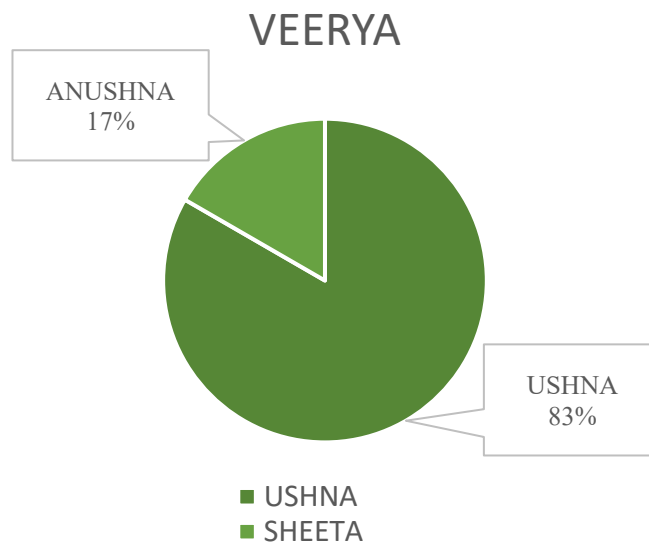
2. Guna:

Sarvakarmika Agada majorly has *laghu*, *tikshna*, *ruksha* gunas accompanied by *sookshma* and *Snigda* gunas which plays a great role in *kapha vata shamana*.

Laghu guna having *agni*, *vayu*, *akasha mahabhutas* aids in *kaphashamana*.

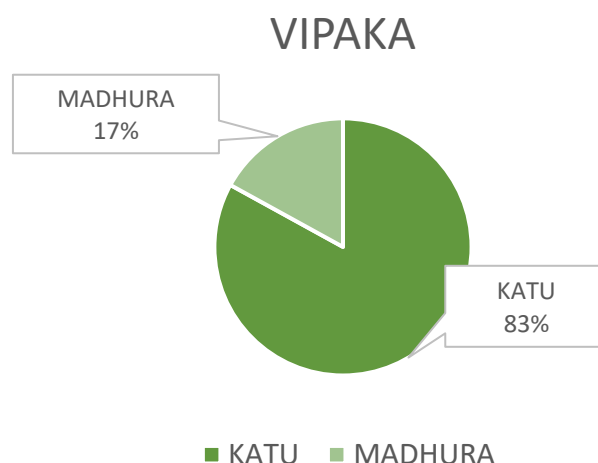
Tikshna guna mainly comprising of *agni* and *vayu mahabhuta* exhibits *sroto shodana* action. It is *kapha vata hara* in action. (Ah.su.1/18- Hemadri)¹³.

Ruksha guna with predominance of *vayu* and *agni mahabhutas* exhibits *kaphahara* property thereby reducing *kleda*.



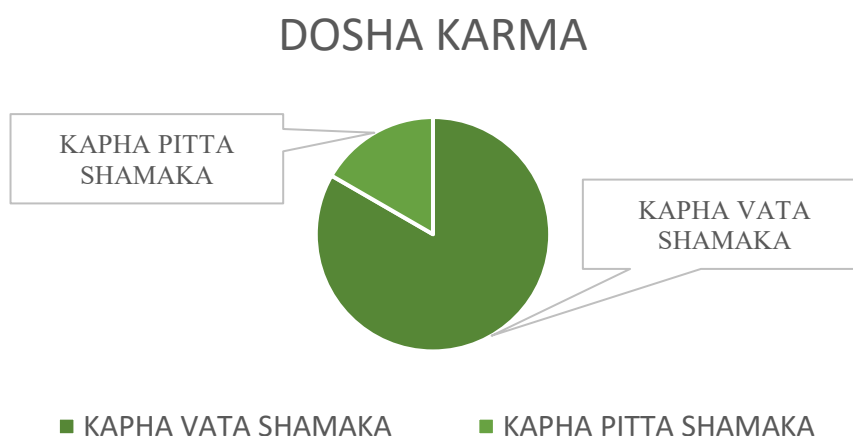
3. Veerya:

Among the 6 drugs 5 are *ushna veerya pradhana*. *Ushna veerya* is mainly *kapha vatahara* (Ah.Su.9/18)¹⁴. It can induce *swedana* and does *kapha vilayana*, thereby clearing the *dosha* from the *srotas* (As.Su.17/16)¹⁵



4. Vipaka:

Majority of the drugs in *Sarvakarmika agada* are of *katu vipaka*. having predominance of *Agni*, *Vayu* and *Akasha mahabhuta*. it imparts *laghuta* and is *kaphashamana* action. (Su.su.40/10-20) ¹⁶



5. Dosha – Karma:

Most predominant dosha karma among the drugs is *kaphavata shamana*, followed by *kapha pitta shamana*. It helps in *srotomukha vishodana* (open the blocked channel), by removing *kapha* from the *srotas*.

6. Karma:

Drugs have different *karmas* like *Kushtagnam*, *Krimignam*, *Kandugna*, *Dahagna*, *Vishagna*, *Shoolaghna*, and *Vrana hara* properties which altogether helps to decrease the effects of *visha* / complications of *visha*.

DISCUSSION:

Ayurveda is one of the oldest traditional sciences which has a vast collection of formulations compiled and time tested by Acharyas. Over the time, many of these formulations were lost, only a smaller fraction remained and fewer were brought into practice. *Agadas yogas* are the category which underwent a major decline. *Sarpavisha chikitsa* is a context where maximum numbers of *agada yogas* are mentioned. *Vyandhara sarpas* are considered hybrid snakes, inheriting *sammishra lakshana* from more than one parent lineage, the resulting envenomation is understood to be of *tridoshaja*, more specifically, *sannipatika* in presentation. Among the whole ayurveda classics, we can only find a few references

where treatment for such *sarpa* is mentioned. *Sarvakarmika* is one among them.

Sarvakarmika agada is a poly herbal formulation containing minimal drugs which are easily available. Among the 6 ingredients mentioned in the *yoga* there are three *upavisha* except *kana*, *patha* and *maricha*. Here the action is not to neutralize the poison but to counteract the poison. *Visha* stays in the *dashtasthana* (site of bite) for *shatamatra kala* (time taken to blink the eyes 100 times) and later enters the *raktavaha srotas*(blood) and thereafter to the whole body. Hence, we require medicines with *gunas* similar to that of *visha*, but are capable of overshadowing the effect of it. Acharya Charaka has mentioned this concept by using plant poison to counteract animal poison and vice-versa¹⁷. In this formulation *upavisha* might be acting in this same principle. Hence the properties of the *upavisha*-containing drugs in this formulation appear to serve exactly that function.

Vyandhara bites are *sannipathika* in nature. The formulation with its *kapha vata shamaka* and *kapha pitta shamaka* property could be a drug of choice here. The predominance of *katu*, *tikta*, and *kashaya* rasa of *Karaveera*, *Arka*, *Langali*, *Patha*, and *Maricha*, along with the *madhura*-vipaka of *Kana*, converges on a strong *kapha-shamaka* effect. The predominant *laghu*, *tikshna*, and *ruksha* guna along with *sookshma* qualities, extends this action toward *srotoshodhana*. Five among the six drugs are *ushna* in *virya*, alluring to its *kapha-vata hara* action. This can also facilitate *swedana* and *kapha vilayana* thereby assisting in mobilising and expelling toxins from the channels. Considering *doshagnatha*, 83% of the ingredients are *kapha vata shamaka* and 17% are *kapha pitta shamaka*. Considering *karmukata* – *Kushtaghna karma* helps in reducing skin manifestations due to poison, *Krimighna* reduces microbial growth over the wound sites, *Vranaropaka* aids in healing the ulcers at the bite sites. *Shoolagna* and *shopghna karmas* helps in reduction of pain and swelling associated with the bite. *Vishagna* property aids in reducing the toxin load in blood. Thus, the concept of *prativisha prayoga* in classics can be substantiated based on *rasa panchaka* of the formulation.

Amla kanji that has underwent fermentation has a higher acidic pH and have higher penetration

capacity. It acts as a vehicle for faster action of the drug.

All together this formulation exhibits an overpowering action on the *visha*.

CONCLUSION

Sarvakarmika agada is a polyherbal formulation, with its constituents exhibiting *kapha vata shamana* along with *pitta shamana* actions which could subside *tridosha dushti* caused by the *visha*. *Ushna veerya* and *katu vipaka* enhances *srotoshodana*, making easy path for the pharmacodynamics of the drug. *Dravya karmukatha* helps to deal with the localised effects and further complications from poisoning. All the 6 drugs and *kanjika* together are having high penetrating action. As *vyanthara sarpa damsha* shows *Tridosha dushti lakshana*, this agada pacifies the symptoms effectively.

The name indicates ‘*Sarvakarmika*’, it can be used for all karmas like *pana*, *nasya*, *anjana*, *lepa* etc. there are formulations where ‘*sarvakarmika*’ is mentioned in its *phalashruthi*. But in this agada it might be named so because of *swatantra yukti*. This exclusivity highlights the importance of this *yoga* and also opens door for future researches. Additional in-depth experimental and clinical studies are required for better use in the field of snakebite care.

Declaration by Authors

Ethical Approval: Not Applicable

Acknowledgement: None

Source of Funding: None

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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HOW TO CITE: Anjana R. Nath*, Arya Subhash, Aishwarya Mallasure, A Review On Sarvakarmika Agada, *Int. J. Sci. R. Tech.*, 2026, 3 (8), 231-237. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21833554>