

Neelitulasyadi Agada: An Agada Tantra -Based Critical Review of a Classical Formulation Indicated in Luta visha

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ABSTRACT

Keraleeya Viṣa Cikitsā is a distinct and well-developed toxicological tradition within Ayurveda, preserved through regional classical texts¹. *Neelitulasyadi Agada* is a classical polyherbal formulation described in *Prayogasamucchaya*, *Kriyakoumudi*, and *Viśajyotsnikā* for the management of *Lūṭā Viṣa* (spider poisoning).^{1,2,3} The formulation is available in multiple dosage forms such as *Ghṛta*, *Kera Taila*, and *Kaṣāya*, offering flexibility in both internal and external administration. The present article aims to critically analyze *Neelitulasyadi Agada* from an Agada Tantra perspective, emphasizing its classical references, pharmacodynamic attributes, Yukti-based rationale, and probable mechanism of action. A comprehensive literary review was conducted using classical Ayurvedic toxicology texts and *Nighaṇṭus*. Analysis of *Rasa*, *Guṇa*, *Vīrya*, *Vipāka*, *Doṣaghna*, and *Viśaghna* properties reveals that the formulation effectively pacifies *Kapha-Vāta*⁴, neutralizes *Viṣa*, alleviates inflammation⁵, and promotes wound healing⁶. The formulation also shows potential for broader therapeutic application in skin disorders, chronic wounds, and other envenomation conditions. Further experimental and clinical validation is warranted.

Keywords: *Neelitulasyadi Agada*, Agada Tantra, *Lūṭā Viṣa*, Keraleeya Viṣa Cikitsā, Ayurvedic toxicology.

INTRODUCTION

Agada Tantra is one of the eight classical branches of Ayurveda, dealing with the prevention, diagnosis, and management of poisons (*Viṣa*)¹. Regional toxicological practices have significantly contributed to this branch, among which *Keraleeya Viṣa Cikitsā* holds a prominent place due to its unique formulations and pragmatic therapeutic approaches

Classical Kerala texts such as *Prayogasamucchaya*, *Kriyakoumudi*, and *Viśajyotsnikā* extensively describe the management of *Kīṭa*, *Lūṭā*, *Sarpa*, and other types of *Viṣa*^{1 3}. *Lūṭā Viṣa* (spider poisoning) is characterized by pain, swelling, discoloration, burning sensation, ulceration, and sometimes systemic manifestations due to *Kapha-Vāta pradhāna doṣa duṣṭi* associated with *Rakta*^{2,3,4}.

Neelitulasyadi Agada is one such formulation repeatedly indicated for *Lūṭā Viṣa* in these texts. Despite its traditional significance and continued clinical usage, the formulation lacks systematic academic documentation⁵. Hence, the present study

attempts a comprehensive Agada Tantra based critical review of *Neelitulasyadi Agada*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design

A conceptual, literary, and analytical review.

Source Materials

Primary sources included:

- *Prayogasamucchaya* – *Lūṭā Viṣa Sāmānya Cikitsā*
- *Kriyakoumudi* – *Kīṭādi Viṣa Prakaraṇa*
- *Viśajyotsnikā* – *Lūṭā Viṣa Vijñāna*

Secondary sources included classical *Nighaṇṭus* such as *Bhāvaparakāśa*, *Dhanvantari Nighaṇṭu*, *Kaiyadeva Nighaṇṭu*, and *Rāja Nighaṇṭu*.

Formulations Studied

- *Neelitulasyadi Ghṛta*

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- Neelitulasyadi Kera Taila
- Neelitulasyadi Kaṣāya

Analytical Parameters

- Ingredient-wise pharmacological properties
- Rasa, Guṇa, Vīrya, Vipāka analysis
- Doṣaghna and Viṣaghna attributes
- Yukti-based therapeutic indications

The classical reference for this formulation is found in the *Ashtama Paricheda*, “Lootha Visha Sāmānya Chikitsā”¹ chapter of *Prayogasamucchaya* authored by Kochunni Tamburan, where it is described as Neelitulasyadi Ghrita (ghee) and Neelitulasyadi Kera Taila (oil). In the “*Keetādhiviṣa Prakaraṇam*” chapter of *Kriyakoumudhi* written by V. M. Kuttikrishnamenon, the formulation is mentioned as Neelidaladi Ghritam. Furthermore, in *Viśhajyotsnika* by Karattu Nambootiri, the same formulation is elaborated under the name Neelidaladi Ghritam.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

DRUG	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY
Neeli	Indigofera tinctoria Linn	Fabaceae
Tulasi	Ocimum sanctum Linn	Lamiaceae
Nirgundi	Vitex negundo Linn	Lamiaceae
Lashuna	Allium sativum Linn	Liliaceae
Maricha	Piper nigrum Linn	Piperaceae
Shunti	Zingiber officinale Rosc	Zingiberaceae
Pippali	Piper longum Linn	Piperaceae
Ashwaganda	Withania somnifera Linn	Solanaceae
Chandana	Santalum album Linn	Santalaceae
Madhuka	Glycyrrhiza glabra Linn	Fabaceae
Tagara	Valeriana wallichii DC	Valerianaceae
Kushta	Saussurea lappa C.B.	Asteraceae
Sariba	Hemidesmus indicus R.Br	Asclepiadaceae
Ishwari	Aristolochia indica Linn	Aristolochiaceae

Table 1: Ingredients Of Neelitulasyadi Yoga and botanical name ⁶

DRUGS	RASA	GUNA	VEERYA	VIPAKA	DOSHAGNATHA
Neeli	Tikta	Laghu, Rooksha	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Tulasi	Katu	Laghu	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara

	Tikta	Rooksha Teekshna			
Nirgundi	Katu Tikta	Laghu Rooksha	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Lashuna	Amla Varjitha Pancha Rasa	Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Maricha	Katu	Laghu Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Pippali	Katu	Laghu Tikshna Snigdha	Anushna	Madura	Kaphavatahara
Shunti	Katu	Laghu Snigdha	Ushna	Madhura	Kaphavatahara
Ashwaganda	Tikta Katu Madhura	Laghu Snigdha	Ushna	Madhura	Kaphavatahara
Chandana	Tikta Madhura	Laghu Rooksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Madhuka	Madhura	Guru Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittahara
Tagara	Tikta Katu Kashaya	Laghu Snigdha	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Kushta	Tikta Katu Madhura	Laghu Rooksha	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Sariba	Madhura Tikta	Guru Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Tridoshagna
Ishwari	Tikta	Laghu	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara

	Katu	Rooksha			
	Kashaya				

Table 2: Ingredients And Their Properties**Preparation of Neelitulasyadi Ghrita⁷**

Neelitulasyadi Ghrita can be prepared by two classical methods:

Method 1 (Using Swarasa – Fresh Juice)

- **Sneha Dravya** (base fat): 1 Kudava (192 g) of *Ghrita* (ghee)
- **Kalka Dravya** (paste): 1 Pala (48 g) paste of *Lashuna, Shunthi, Maricha, Pippali, Ashwagandha, Chandana, Madhuka, Tagara, Kushta, Sariba, and Ishwari*
- **Drava Dravya** (liquid): 4 Pala (192 ml) fresh juice (*Swarasa*) of *Neeli, Surasa, and Nirgundi*

Procedure:

1. The *Ghrita* is heated in a clean vessel over a mild fire until it melts.
2. The fresh juices and the herbal paste are added to the melted ghee.
3. The mixture is boiled gently with continuous stirring to prevent charring.
4. Heating continues until the classical *Sneha Siddhi Lakshanas* (signs of proper preparation, such as the paste forming a wick-like shape and the disappearance of froth) are observed.
5. The final product is filtered through a clean cloth while hot and stored in a sterile container

Method 2 (Using Kashaya – Decoction)

- **Sneha Dravya**: 1 Kudava (192 g) of *Ghrita*
- **Kalka Dravya**: 1 Pala (48 g) paste of *Lashuna, Shunthi, Maricha, Pippali, Ashwagandha, Chandana, Madhuka, Tagara, Kushta, Sariba, and Ishwari*

- **Drava Dravya**: 1.5 Pala (72 ml) decoction (*Kashaya*) prepared from the roots of *Neeli, Surasa, and Nirgundi*

Procedure:

1. The *Ghrita* is heated over a mild fire.
2. The prepared decoction and herbal paste are incorporated into the ghee.
3. The mixture is processed under constant stirring until it achieves the *Sneha Siddhi Lakshanas*.
4. The medicated ghee is filtered while hot and stored appropriately for clinical use.

Preparation of Neelitulasyadi Kera Taila

For preparing *Neelitulasyadi Kera Taila*:

- **Sneha Dravya**: 1 Kudava (192 ml) *Naalikera Taila* (coconut oil)
- **Kalka Dravya**: 1 Pala (48 g) paste of *Lashuna, Shunthi, Maricha, Pippali, Ashwagandha, Chandana, Madhuka, Tagara, Kushta, Sariba, and Ishwari*
- **Drava Dravya**: 4 Pala (192 ml) fresh juice (*Swarasa*) of *Neeli, Surasa, and Nirgundi*

The coconut oil is taken in a clean, wide-mouthed vessel and heated over mild fire. To it, the herbal juice and paste are added. The mixture is boiled with frequent stirring until proper *Sneha Siddhi Lakshanas* are achieved. The prepared oil is filtered and stored.

Preparation of Neelitulasyadi Kashaya

The decoction (*Kashaya*) of *Neelitulasyadi Yoga* can be prepared following the standard *Kashaya Kalpana* procedure as described in classical Ayurvedic pharmaceuticals.

Dosage

- Neelitulasyadi Ghrita: The standard internal dose is 1 Karsha (approximately 14 g).
- Neelitulasyadi Kera Taila: Used externally in appropriate quantity for local application.

Composition and Formulation Rationale

Neelitulasyadi Agada contains 14 ingredients, including *Nīlī*, *Tulasī*, *Nirgundī*, *Laśuna*, *Marica*, *Pippalī*, *Śunthī*, *Aśvagandhā*, *Candana*, *Madhūka*, *Tagara*, *Kuṣṭha*, *Sārivā*, and *Īśvarī*.

The formulation integrates:

- Viśaghna dravyas (*Nīlī*, *Īśvarī*, *Tulasī*)
- Śothahara and Vedanāsthāpana dravyas (*Nirgundī*, *Laśuna*, *Kuṣṭha*)
- Dīpana–Pācana dravyas (*Trikatu*)
- Raktaprasādana and Vraṇa-ropaka dravyas (*Sārivā*, *Madhūka*, *Candana*)

PROBABALE MODE OF ACTION ON BASIS OF RASA-GUṆA-VĪRYA-VIPĀKA ANALYSIS:

1. Rasa(taste)

The distribution of Rasa (taste) shows that *Tikta* (bitter) is present in the highest proportion at 41%, followed closely by *Katu* (pungent) at 40%. *Madhura* (sweet) accounts for 16%, while *Lavana* (salt) is present in a minimal proportion of 3%. *Amla* (sour) and *Kashaya* (astringent) rasas are absent (0%) in this composition.

2. Guna (properties):

The distribution of Guna (properties) shows that *Laghu* (lightness) is predominant at 38%. *Snigdha* (unctuous) and *Rooksha* (roughness) are present equally, each constituting 21%. *Tikshna* (sharpness) and *Guru* (heaviness) are observed in smaller proportions, each accounting for 10% of the total properties.

3. Veerya(potency)

The distribution of Veerya (potency) indicates that *Ushna* (hot potency) is predominant, constituting

72%, while *Sheeta* (cold potency) accounts for the remaining 28%. This shows a clear dominance of *Ushna Veerya* in the composition.

4. Vipaka

The distribution of Vipaka (post-digestive taste) shows that *Katu* (pungent) is predominant, accounting for 64%, while *Madhura* (sweet) constitutes 36% of the total. This indicates a dominance of *Katu Vipaka* in the formulation.

5. Karma

The distribution of Karma (therapeutic actions) shows that *Kushtaghna* (alleviating skin diseases) is predominant, accounting for 35%, followed by *Vedanasthapana* (pain-relieving action) at 31%. *Vishaghna* (anti-toxic property) constitutes 17%, while *Rakta Prasadana* (blood-purifying action) accounts for 9%, and *Vranashodhaka* (wound-cleansing/healing property) represents 8% of the total actions.

DISCUSSION

Neelitulasyadi Yoga is described in classical Ayurvedic texts in two dosage forms—*ghrita* (medicated ghee) and *taila* (medicated oil). Among these, the *taila* preparation is predominantly used in clinical practice for external application in *Lootha Visha* (spider envenomation).

From the perspective of Rasa (taste), 36% of the ingredients possess *tikta* (bitter) and *katu* (pungent) rasa, while 11% exhibit *kashaya* (astringent) rasa—tastes that are especially effective in pacifying *Kapha* predominance. Additionally, 14% of the drugs have *madhura* (sweet) rasa and 3% contain *lavana* (salty) rasa, which help in alleviating *Vata dosha*.

With regard to Guna (qualities), 38% of the drugs are characterized by *laghu* (light) guna and 21% by *ruksha* (dry/rough) guna, facilitating better absorption and spread of the medicine. About 21% exhibit *snigdha* (unctuous) guna and 10% possess *guru* (heavy) guna, which contribute to pacifying *Vata*. Another 10% of the ingredients demonstrate *tikshna* (sharp/penetrating) guna, enhancing the formulation's potency.

In terms of Veerya (potency), 72% of the ingredients possess *sheeta veerya* (cold potency), which helps counteract the aggravating and spreading nature of *Visha* (poison). The remaining 28% have *ushna veerya* (hot potency), acting primarily as *Kapha–Vata shamaka*.

Considering Vipaka (post-digestive effect), 64% of the drugs yield *madhura vipaka*, which alleviates *Vata*, while 36% have *katu vipaka*, aiding in the reduction of *Kapha*.

From the standpoint of Karma (therapeutic action), 29% of the drugs are *kushtaghna* (beneficial in skin disorders), 26% are *vedanasthapana* (analgesic), 14% are *vishaghna* (anti-toxic), 7% possess *raktaprasadana* (blood-purifying), and some exhibit *vranshodhana* (wound-cleansing) properties.

Kera Taila (coconut oil) is characterized by *madhura rasa*, *snigdha guna*, and *madhura vipaka*, and it is known for its *Vata–Pitta hara*, *vranshodhana* (wound-healing), and *kushtaghna* properties.

Ghrita (ghee) possesses *madhura rasa*, *guru* and *snigdha guna*, *sheeta veerya*, and *madhura vipaka*. It is recognized for its *Vata–Pitta hara*, *vishaghna*, and *kushtaghna* actions.

Clinically, *Neelitalasyadi Kera Taila* is widely employed for external application in the management of *Lootha Visha* (spider poisoning), owing to its anti-toxic, wound-healing, and dosha-pacifying properties.

CONCLUSION

Neelitalasyadi Agada is a classical, rationally designed formulation deeply rooted in *Agada Tantra*

principles. Its comprehensive pharmacodynamic profile justifies its classical indication in *Lūṭā Viṣa* and supports its broader therapeutic potential. Systematic experimental validation and clinical trials are needed to establish its efficacy in contemporary toxicology and dermatological practice.

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