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Madanadi nighantu: A review of first ten ganas (Groups)

Shailendra Pradhan and AK Singh

Abstract

Perhaps on prevalence of the Madanapala Nighantu, the Madanadi Nighantu went almost into forgetfulness. Gunanighantu mentioned by Cordier seems to be a misnomer. The number of ganas in the Ashtanga hridaya is clearly stated as thirty three whereas the Madanadi – Nighantu has described only 32 ganas. The editor, discussing the issue leaned towards the Paris Ms has arrived at a conclusion which cannot be accepted. He wants to make up the deficiency by dividing the Durvadi gana into two – Durvadi and Sthiradi but there is no any such indication in the Vagbhata's text, the fact is quite different. The three consecutive ganas Bhadradarvadi, Durvadi and Aragvadhadi etc. relate to three dosas – Vata, Pitta and Kapha respectively. The former two ganas contain single drug which needed description but in the third one i.e. kapha nasaka gana there are all groups of drugs and no single drug is mentioned. As these groups (ganas) are already described separately, the author has knowingly left this because it did not require any description which is intended only for single drugs. Hence the deficiency occurred in the number of ganas. There are six quotations from Chandranandana in Kshiraswami's commentary on the Amarakosha all of which are traced in the Madanadi nighantu. Thus it leaks no doubt that Kshiraswami has quoted this very work of Chandranandana.

Keywords: gana, madanadi, nighantu, chandranandana, commentary

Introduction

In *Ayurveda*, medicinal plants have been classified according to pharmacological action. *Charaka* has described drugs in group for alleviating diseases. Like arshoghana contains ten drugs having beneficial effect in hemorrhoids (See *Charaka Samhita* or Text book of *Dravyaguna* for details). Another method adopted by *Charaka*, is based on collection of three or more plants having identical properties in one group. *Gana* in *Ayurveda* signifies groups. Present Madanadi nighantu of Chandranandana has been published from Kottayam (1915) is based on four manuscripts duly edited by N.S. Mooss (B). Madanadi nighantu is based on the gana of Ashtanga Hridaya which are described in A.H.S. XV chapter Shodhanadiganasangraha. Out of these four manuscripts- three from different places in Kerala and one procured from Paris (B4). Apart from this Prof. P.V. Sharma has published an article regarding these manuscripts in B.I.I.H.M., Vol. IV, 1985.

The Manuscript (MS) deposited at the Asiatic Society, Calcutta (A) was not consulted. *(B.I.I.H.M- Bull Indian Inst Hist Med, Hyderabad)

- On examining the MS A, an interesting fact was revealed that the MS. A and B4 resemble very closely in their readings and also in the respect that only these two out of five, have the miscellaneous portion after the description of the drugs under various gaEas which covers nearly 50% of the body of the MS.
- This could not be taken up for editing and publishing in the present edition because the editor could not have access to another MS in addition to B4.

Peculiarities of MS. A

- The description of the MS A is as follows-
- Size – 24 x 16 cm.
- Lines per page- 16 upto p. 16a, then 15
- Letters per line- 43
- From the colophon at the end, it appears that the scribe's name is Hadhaikar Balakrishna and the owner of the manuscript was Shiddhera Vaidya Aagathye Belapurkar residing at Pune.
- The manuscript was completed on the tenth day of the bright fortnight of Aashwina month

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in Shaka 1738 (1816 A.D.).

- Regional names of the drugs are given on the right side where description ends.
- In this article Prof. P.V. Sharma mentioned the variations between published edition and this manuscript A.
- Here he discussed the salient features of A and as to how far it could remove the deficiency of B.
- As pointed out earlier, A and B4 resemble closely in their readings. For instance, on page 2 of B (F.N. 5, 6, 7) the readings are similar in both though the reading selected for the text is different.
- Such instances can be found almost on every page.
- There are two groups of variations observed.
- In first group 23 variations and in second group 95 variations were found by comparing A with B and B4, it would be interesting and profitable to compare A with B which may help to reconstruct the text of the letter in a better way.
- The specific contribution of Chandranandana in this nighantu is that first time he has described synonyms of each dravya alongwith their guna-karma, prayoga etc.
- The original contribution of Chandranandan in Madanadi nighantu is description and enumeration of dravyas with synonyms and their properties which are absent in ganas of Ashtanga Hridaya.
- Here, Chandranadana also kept the Drava dravyas of Ashtanga Hridaya chapter 5 i.e. about Dugdha of Cow and of different animals, Dadhi, takra, dadhi sara, mastu, navnita and ghrita, Udasvit and Kinva and lastly Gomutra and 7 other types of Mutra of animals in second gana of nighantu. Likewise, in third gana he kept madhu and Sharkara.

Review of first ten Ganas (Groups) of Madanadi nighantu

Those dravyas which have previously described in ganas they are not described again if repeated in next ganas in Madanadi nighantu.

1. Prathamam gana: In first group of Madanadi nighantu Madanphala (Catunaragum spinosa) is the first dravya described with synonym and properties. Likewise other dravyas described are-

Madhuka, Lamba, Nimba (*alongwith Nimba Chandranadana also put here *Mahanimba* in continuation during dravya description), *Bimbi, Vishala, Trapusha, Kutaja, Murva, Devdali, Krimighna (Vidanga), Vidula* (alongwith *Anya Vidula*), *Dahana (Chitraka), Danti* and *Chitra* together seems as synonym but here described separately, *Koshvati (Koshataki)* and *Dhamargava (raj koshataki)*- both together called *Koshvatyo*. *Karanja* alongwith *Chirivilva (Putikaranja)*, *kana (Pippali)* alongwith *Pippalimula* is described with synonyms and guna karma (properties and functions).

Lavana (Salt) is described here alongwith 6 types of *lavana* which are given in Ashtanga Hridaya Sutras than chapter 6, namely *Saindhava, Sauvachala & Krishna, Vida, Saamudra & Audbhida*.

Also two types of *Kshara- Yavakshara and Svarchikakshara* are described here. Then *vacha, Ela* along with *Brihadaela* are described.

Here a specific dravya- *Harenu* is given with its synonyms and properties. *Sarshapa* alongwith *Rakta Sarshapa* is described here in first gana of the *Madanadi nighantu*. So in first gana, mostly dravyas are *vamankaaraka* dravyas. This is

called *Madanadi gana*.

2. Dvitiyo gana: In second group the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties are-*Nikumbh* -'Danti gata' means *Nikumbh* has previously described in Prathama gana. Other dravyas- *Kumbha (Trivrita)* alongwith *Shyama* (a type of *Trivrita*), *Triphala* alongwith its three contents *Haritaki, Vibitaka* and *Aamalaka* are described.

'*Gavakshi gata*' (Vishala) means described previously, *Snuk (Snuhi), Shankhini, Nilini (Indigofera tinctoria), Tilyaka* alongwith *Lodhra* has been described here. *Samyaka (Aragvadha), Kampilyaka (Kampillaka- Mallotus philippinensis), Hemadugdha (Svarnakshiri- Euphorbia thomsoniana). Dugdha varga* (milk) alongwith *Dadhi, takra, Dadhi & Sara, Mastu, Navnita & Ghrita, Udashvita* and *Kinva* are also described here as given in Ashtanga Hridaya Sutra chapter- 5.

Mutra varga (urine) alongwith *Karisa* (Gomaya- cow dung) - this group have dravyas which are mainly purgative in nature called *Nikumbhadi gana*.

3. Tritiya gana- In third group the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties are- *Kustha (Saussurea lappa), Dashamoola-* alongwith Dravyas of *Brihat panchmoola- Vilva, Kashmarya, Takkari (Agnimantha) with Aranika (Laghu Agnimantha), Paatala* with *Krishna Paatala, Dunduka (Shyonaka)* and *Laghu panchmoola- Brihati, Kantakari, Shalaparni, Prishnaparni and Gokshura, Daru (Devadaru- Cedrus deodara), Rasna, Yava, Mishi, Kulattha* (Horse gram), *Madhu* (Honey), and *Sharkara* is also described here. *[*Madana, Kutaja (Holarrhena antidysenterica), Devadali, Madhuka, Vacha, Kritavedhana, Lavana (salt) and Trivrit* had described in previous ganas]. These are Drugs for the purpose of *Niruhana* (decoction enema) called *Madana-kutjadi gana*.

4. Chaturth gana: In fourth group the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties are-

'*Vella gatam*'- means *Vella* is described earlier. *Apamarga (Achyranthes aspera), Vyosha (Trikatu - Pippali)* described earlier but *Maricha* and *Shunthi* are described here), Here a specific property has been described related to bio enhancing function of *Pippali (...kanaya guna iritah)* as said in modern medicine. Alongwith *Vyosha, Trijataka* and *Chaturjataka* has been described in this gana but not in verse.

Beside of *Darvi (Daruharidra), Haridra* is also described here, *Surala* (Sala niryasa, Devdhoopa), *Shirisha, Shigru-* 3 types *Shigruka, Shigru* and *Madhu Shigru* are described, *Madhooka* (Sara of *Madhuca indica*) alongwith *Madhula, Tarksyashaila (Rasanajana), Prithvika* are described. **Saindhava* (Black salt), **Trutyo-* the two *Truti* (*Ela* and *Brihad Ela*) described earlier. This gana have property of *Shirovirechana* used as nasal medication (*Nasya karma*). This is *Velladi gana*.

5. Panchama gana: In fifth group the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties are- *Nata (Tagar- Valeriana wallichii)* the two *Bala* (*Bala* and *atibala*) are described in this gana.

**Bhadradaru (Cedrus deodara), Kustha (Saussurea lappa), Dashamula* are already described earlier.

*In this gana, mentioned the name of gana - *Virataradi gana* and of *Vidaryadi Gana* that balance vata.

6. Shashtha gana: In sixth group the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties which are *Pitta shamaka*. The drugs described in this gana are- *Durva* and 2 types- *Shveta durva* and *gandha durva*, *Ananta* (Yavasa) alongwith *Dhanva Yaasa*, *Vasa*, *Atmagupta* (*Kapikachhu*), *Gundra* (*Typha elephantina*), *Abhiru* (Shatavari), *Shitapaki* (a specific dravya like *Durva*), *Priyangu*, *Padma* (Kamal)- alongwith different types-*Raktapadma*, *Nilotpala*, *Saugnadhika*, *Kumuda*, *Padmini*, *Keshara* and parts like *karnika*, *padmmabija*, *Mrinala*, *Shaluka*, *Dirghika*, *Panka* and *Raja* are described well.

7. Saptama gana: In seventh group *Jivantyadi gana*, the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties are known as *Jivaniya Gana* (group of restoratives). The dravyas are- *Jeevanti*, the two *Kakoli* (*Kakoli* and *Ksheerakakoli*), the two *Meda* (*Meda* and *Mahameda*), *Mudagaparni*, *Masaparni*, *Jeevaka* and *Rishabhaka*.

8. Ashtama gana: In eighth group *Vidaryadi gana*, a combined medicinal effect of this gana has been described and then the dravyas were described with their synonyms and properties are- *Vidari* alongwith *Kshiravidari*, *Panchangula* (*Eranda*) alongwith a variety *Rakta-Panchangula*, *Vrischikali* (*Tragia involucrata*), *Vrischiva* (*Punarnava*) alongwith a variety *Kshudra-Varshabhu*, *Devadvaya- Vishwadeva* (*Nagabala*) and *Devadandotpala* (*Vishalyakarni*). The two *Supyaparnya* (*Surpaparni*)- *Shalaparni* and *Prishnaparni*, Drugs of *Jivana Pancamula* and *Hrasva Pancamula* (*Laghu panchamula*) are also included in this group, *Gopasuta* (*Shariva- Gopavalli*) *Tripadi* (*Hansapadi*). This *Vidaryadi* groups of Drugs are-

- Hridya – good to the heart
- Brihana – stoutening,
- Vatapittaha – Mitigate Vata and Pitta,

Useful in the treatment of -

- Shosha – emaciation
- Gulma – abdominal tumor
- Angamarda – bodyache,
- Urdhwashwasa – wheezing
- Kasa – cough

9. Navam gana: In ninth group *Sharivadi gana*, a combined medicinal effect of this gana has been described and then the dravyas were described with their synonyms and properties are- *Ushira* alongwith *Lamajjaka*, The two *Shishira* (*Chandan* and *Rakta Chandan*) also *Kaaleyaka* has been described here. *Parushaka* - its properties and actions are described. The drugs of this gana are used in-

- Dahapitta-cure burning sensation,
- Asra roga- bleeding disease,
- Trishna- thirst and
- Jvara- fevers.

10. Dashmo ganah: In tenth group *Padmakadi gana*, a combined medicinal effect of this gana has been described and then the dravyas were described with their synonyms and properties are- *Padmaka*, *Pundrao* (*Pundarika* and *Prapundarika*), *vridhhi*, *Tuka* (*Tavakshira*), *Riddhi*, *Shringi* (*karkatashringi*) and *Amrita* (*Guduchi*) are described with their synonyms and properties actions separately as well. Alongwith these dravyas group is also included with ten 'Jeevaniya gana dravyas' and termed as 'Jeevan Sangya'.

These dravyas effect are-

- Stanyakara – cause production of breast milk,
- Balance Vata and Pitta,
- Preenana (nourishing),
- Jeevana (enlivening),
- Brihana (stoutening) and
- Vrishya (aphrodisiac).

Observations and Summary

- The specific contribution of Chandranandana in this nighantu is that first time he has described synonyms of each dravya alongwith their guna-karma, prayoga etc.
- The original contribution of Chandranandan in Madanadi nighantu is description and enumeration of dravyas with synonyms and their properties which are absent in ganas of Ashtanga Hridaya.
- Also he has not described those dravyas again in next ganas which are described in previous ganas
- Though he mentioned for such conditions as- “*Dravya gata*” e.g. ‘*Danti gata*’
- In written work it was observed that some other dravyas are included in continuation along with mentioned dravyas of ganas such as *Mahanimba*.
- Here Chandranandana described *Mahanimba* alongwith *Nimba* which is absent in *Madanadi* gana.
- He termed this conjugation as ‘*Nimbadvaya*’ and described synonyms and gunas-karma of both.

Others such as

- Vishaala* and *Anya Vishaala*
- Vidula* and *Anya Vidula*
- Dantī* with *Chitra* (*Dravanti*)
- Chirivilva* after *Karanja*
- Kana* (*Pippali*) alongwith *Pippalimula*
- In duration to *Ela*, he had mentioned *Brihadela* and a new separate drug *Harenu*.
- This is his contribution and considered that *Harenu* is different dravya from *Ela* and *Brihadela*.
- After *Sarshapa*, he has described *RaktaSarshapa*.
- The old name *Sarshapa* and *Rajika* with their seed colour varieties cannot be definitely matched with a multitude of species and varieties of Brassica available at present.
- Asita Sarshapa* appears to be the reddish (*Rakta*) seed variety and all other name refer to the yellow seed variety of *Sarshapa*.
- In second gana i.e. *Virechana* group *Tilvaka* is mentioned.
- During the description Chandranandana described *Lodhra* with *Tilvaka* and properties of both are described as they alleviate *Asrigadara* and *Atisara*.
- On this point attempt has been made to clarify that *Tilvaka* and *Lodhra* both are different plants because *Tilvaka* is considered under *Virechana* group and *Lodhra* is well known dravya for *Stambhana* action.
- Takkari* (*Premna latifolia* Roxb.) is described alongwith *Aranika*- (*Clerodendron phlomidis* Linn. F.) in tritiya gana. Also *Patala* alongwith *Krishna Patala* is described. *Kulattha* is given as *Kulastha* and clearly mentioned as it belong to *Shimbi kula* (*Fabaceae* family) which properties are *Amlapittakara*, *kaphanashana* and *Ashmaghna*.
- Matsyandika* term is given for *madhu* and called it *madhusharkara* as another variety of *sharkara*.
- On addition of *Pippali* increases the guna of *Ardrak* and

shunthi. This property is same as role of bio enhancer which is described in modern science and now a days, piperine of *Pippali* is used as bio enhancer.

- Here, In continuation of *Vyosha*, *Trijata* and *chaturjata* are given.
- Types of *Durva- Shweta* and *gandha durva* are given here first time.
- *Ashtavarga* dravyas are described here in seventh gana.
- A special impression of Ashtanga nighantu is also observed in eighth gana.
- Such type of examples are found in all over the nighantu.
- An attempt is being made to clarify such type of points and confusions.

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