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

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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 Ksirasthana’s commentary on the Amarakosha all of which are traced in the Madanadi nighantu. Thus it leaks no doubt that Ksiraswami 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 the ganas 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 ganas 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 Ashwin month
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 B 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 along with their guna-karma, prayoga etc.
- The original contribution of Chandranandana 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 Dravya dravyas of Ashtanga Hridaya chapter 5 i.e. about Dudhga 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 Shankara.

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. Pratham dana: In first group of Madanadi nighantu Madanphala (Catunaragam 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), Bimb, Vishala, Trupathika, Kurata, Murva, Devdali, Krimigna (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 (Putakaranja), 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 Sutrasathan chapter 6, namely Saindhava, Sauvarchala & Krishna, Vida, Saamudra & Audhbiha. Also two types of Kshara- Yavakshara and Svarchikakshara are described here. Then vacha, Ela along with Brihadaela are described.

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

3. Tribhiti gana: In third group the dravyas described with their synonyms and properties are- Kastha (Saussurea lappa), Dashamoolaa alongwith Dravyas of Brihat panchmoolaa-Vilva, Kashmurya, Takkari (Agnimantha) with Arunika (laghu Agnimantha), Paatala with Krishna Paatala, Danduka (Shyonaka) and Laghu panchmoolaa- Brihati, Kantakari, Shalaparni, Prishnaparni and Gokshura, Daru (Devadar- Cedrus deodara), Rasna, Vaya, Mishl, Kulathra (Horse gram), Madhu (Honey), and Shankara is also described here. *[Madana, Kataja (Holarrhena antidysenterica), Devadali, Madhuca, Vacha, Kritisvedhana, Lavana (salt) and Trivriva described in previous ganas]. These are Drugs for the purpose of Niruhana (decoction enema) called Madana-kutjadi gana.

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

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.

*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, Atmamgupta (Kapikachhu), Gandra (Typha elephantina), Abhiru (Shatavari), Shitapaki (a specific dravya like Durva), Priyangu, Padma (Kamal)- alongwith different types-Raktapadma, Nilotpala, Saungnadhika, 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 Jivinya Gana (group of restoratives). The dravyas are- Jeevanti, the two Kakoli (Kakoli and Ksheerakakoli), the two Meda (Meda and Mahameda), Mudaprarni, 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-Vrshabhu, Devadvaya- Vishwadeva (Nagabala) and Devadandotpala (Vishalyakarni). The two Supyaparnaya (Surpaparni)- Shalaparn and Prishnaparni, Drugs of Jivana Pancamula and Hrasva Pancamula (Laghu pancamula) are also included in this group, Gopasuta (Shariva- Gopavalli) Tripadi (Hansapadi). This Vidaryadi groups of Drugs are-
   a. Hridya – good to the heart
   b. Brihana – stoutening,
   c. Vatapittaha – Mitugate Vata and Pitta,

Useful in the treatment of -
1. Shosha – emaciation
2. Gulma – abdominal tumor
3. Angamarda – bodyache,
4. Urdhwashwasa – wheezing
5. Kasa – cough

9. Navam gana: In ninth group Sharivadi gana, a combined medicinal effect of this gana has been described and then the davyas were described with their synonyms and properties are- Ushira alongwith Lamanjaka. 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-
   a. Dahapitta-cure burning sensation,
   b. Asra roga- bleeding disease,
   c. Trishna- thirst and
   d. Jvara- fevers.

10. Dashmo ganah: In tenth group Padmakadi gana, a combined medicinal effect of this gana has been described and then the davyas were described with their synonyms and properties are- Padmaka, Pandrao (Pandariika and Prapundariika), vridhhi, Tuka (Tavakshira), Riddhi, Shringi (karkatashringly) 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-
   a. Stanyakara – cause production of breast milk,
   b. Balance Vata and Pitta,
   c. Preenana (nourishing),
   d. Jeevana (enlivening),
   e. Brihana (stoutening) and
   f. Vrshya (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
- Danti with Chitra (Dravanti)
- Chirivilva after Karanja
- Kana (Pippali) alongwith Pippalimala
- In duration to Ela, he had mentioned Brihadeila and a new separate drug Harenu.
- This is his contribution and considered that Harenu is different dravya from Ela and Brihadeila.
- 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 phlomoidis Linn. F.) in tritiya gana. Also Patala alongwith Krishna Patala is described. Kulaatha is given as Kulashtta and clearly mentioned as it belong to Shimbhi 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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