YOGĀRATNĀKARA — AN IMPORTANT SOURCE BOOK IN MEDICINE*

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(Received 13 June; after revision 7 August 1991)

Yogāratnākara aims at determining the history of different drugs when they first appeared in Ayurvedic texts, like Yogaratna Samuccaya (10th century AD), Yogaratnavali (1574 AD), Yogasāra (1600 AD), Yogaśata (15th century AD) and Yogāratnākara (17th century AD). It has given details of nāḍī parikṣā, aṣṭāśāṁśa parikṣā, etc. and has also provided additional useful information regarding pharmaceutical preparations and their administration, modified prescriptions for composition and potency of drugs based on scripture, tradition and experience. It is an important source book for getting a better understanding of the history of Indian medicine and also lays special emphasis on specific diseases and their cures.

Yogāratnākara is one of the most renowned treatises on Indian medicine. It is an extract of Indian medicine discussed in several books ranging from ancient period to later part of the 17th century AD. It is a compiled work and masterpiece of Indian medical system, except anatomy and surgery.

It depicts the periodwise development of Indian medicine, which was an outcome of influx and immigration of different races of the world. Had there not been this indispensable book, we would have been deprived of the history of Indian medicine available in variegated books of which it is an epitome.

Yoga means collection of many drugs in a medicinal preparation. When the physicians of Indian medicine found themselves helpless to cure complicated disorders in human body, they were forced to innovate many new formulae of medicines. They compounded many drugs to increase the potentiality of the therapeutics. This increase of curing power in various formulae was very essential, because the commonly used medicines were unable to cure chronic diseases. In due course, these new formulae collections (Yoga Samgraha) were given the shape of a treatise. Many new books beginning with the name of Yoga were written during 10th century AD and onwards.

YOGARATNA SAMUCCAYA (10th century AD)

The aforesaid definition of formulae collection (Yoga Samgraha) was fulfilled when Candrata wrote his Yogaratna Samuccaya in the 10th century AD.

*Based on the Project Report submitted to INSA on 29 May 1991.
He is regarded as the first physician of Indian medicine who cleared the path of *Yoga Samgraha*. Candrata was followed by Sodhala.

Candrata is son of Tisata. Candrata is quoted by Cakrapâni (11th century AD) and he himself quotes lejjeta (9th century AD). Thus, Candrata may be placed between this period. *Yogaratna Samuccaya* was compiled in 10th century AD or 1000 AD.

**YOGARATNÂVALÌ (1574 AD)**

It was written in the reign of Emperor Akbar at Ahmedabad in 1574 AD. The whole treatise is divided into twelve chapters. The writer of *Yogaratnâvalî* was Dâstanaya Gangâdharkâta.

**YOGASÁRA** (1600 AD)

*Yogasâra* was compiled by Daksa, son of Vânara. In it, a medicinal preparation, *Madan Modak*, made from *Vijaya* (*Bhânga-Cannabis sativa* Linn.), a narcotic drug, is cited. This citation proves that this treatise was written after 14th century AD.

**YOGAŚATA** (15th century AD)


Aufrecht has mentioned *Nâgârjunîya Yoga Śatak*, Madan Singh & Lakshmidas type *Yoga Śatak*.

**YOGATARAÑGINI** (Middle of the 17th century)

*Yogatararângini* of Trîmalla 1751, the well known collection of recipes, must, however, be much older, as L, 203 — the MS written in 1498 of another work by Trîmalla — is recorded. Trîmalla flourished between 1383 and 1499 AD. according to Prof. H.D. Velankar (Catal, BBRAS., MSS, Vol. I, 1925, p. 59). He was a Tailanga Brâhman, son of Vallabha, grandson of Śiṅgaṇabhaṭṭa, father of Śankarabhaṭṭa, the author of *Rasaprâdîpa*.

Trîmalla Bhaṭṭa (17th century AD) has mentioned in his *Vrhatyogatararângini* (Part II, Târâṅga 27), the use of Śankhîya (Arsenic, metallic poison) in *Firaṅga roga* (syphilis) for the first time.

There are two editions of Trîmalla Bhaṭṭa’s treatise. The first is *Yogatararângini* and the other is *Vrhat Yogatararângini*. *Yogatararângini* is
comparatively short. This whole treatise is completed in 81 taraṅgas. *Materia Medica* is mainly described in it. Trimalla Bhaṭṭa flourished after Bhāva Miśra and Lolimbarāja, because the references of these two are quoted in *Yogataraṅgini*. On the other side, *Yogāratnākara* has quoted Trimalla Bhaṭṭa. So, the period of *Yogataraṅgini* is between Lolimbarāja (beginning of seventeenth century) and *Yogāratnākara* (last phase of seventeenth century). Thus, the justification of *Yogataraṅgini*'s period could be done as middle of the seventeenth century AD.

**YOGĀRATNĀKARA (1676 AD)**

Though *Yogāratnākara* is very popular among Ayurvedic physicians as a handbook of therapeutics, no serious attempt has been made as yet to study the work critically and historically. That is why the name of its author and his date is not common in the circle of scholars. *Yogāratnākara* is a text containing collection of material used in medicine. Such therapeutic texts date back to 9th century AD, when Vṛṇḍa wrote his book entitled ‘Sidhayoga’, popularly known as Vṛṇḍamādhava. It was followed successively by Chakradatta (11th century AD), Gadanigraha (12th century AD), Sārangdhara (13th century AD), Bhāvaprakāśa (16th century AD), and *Yogataraṅgini* (17th century AD). *Yogaratnākara* comes last in this chain but before Bhaiṣajyaratnāvali (18th century AD).

Because it is out and out a collection work, it reflects the image of that age and as such is valuable in supplying information for fixing the date of the work and also for having a correct picture of that period. Some of the important points to be noted are as follows:

1. Most of the drugs which were introduced by foreign contact in this country are seen in abundant use in this text.

   *Ahiphena, Akarakarabha, Salama* (Salab)\(^{11}\) are seen in various preparations. These drugs were introduced by Muslims near about 12th century AD. Perhaps the first work incorporating these drugs is Śodhala’s *Gadanigraha* followed by Sāraṅgadhara and others.

2. *Vijaya*, though known from very early period, was used for its fibre previously. Its narcotic and other properties came to light in mediaeval period, when it began to be used in various preparations as hypnotic, analgesic, stomachic, astringent and aphrodisiac. Bhāvamiśra popularised this drug to a great extent. *Yogaratnākara* has also made its use in all these indications.

3. *Rasakarpura*, though introduced earlier, was popularised by Bhāvamiśra in the treatment of *Phiraṅgaroga* (syphilis). This is also seen in *Yogāratnākara* being used in *Upadamsa* though the word ‘Phiraṅga’ is not mentioned. But there are the words ‘Candraka Vraṇa’ (hard chancre) and ‘Ptitprameha’ (gonorrhoea). Similarly, *Copacini* has been described by Bhāvamiśra as
Dvipāntaravāca, which has been used in Yogāratnākara in the form of powder and paka.

4. One very conspicuous thing found in Yogāratnākara is the description of tobacco (Tāmākhu). It is to be noted that tobacco was introduced in India by Portuguese in 15th century AD.

5. Snayuka, Śitala and Somaroga have been described according to Bhāvaprakāśa.

6. The symptoms of śitavāta, sparsavāta are taken from Rasaratnasamuccya. Postmortem symptoms of drowning are also described. A new term ‘Kuraṇḍaka’ (infantile hernia) is seen for a disease.

7. Similarly, Bhimaseṇī Karpura in eye diseases is a new contribution of Yogāratnākara.

8. It is surprising that Yasada is not seen in this work. This name was introduced in this country from Persia in 13th century AD. Perhaps Madanpāla Nighaṇṭu (14th century AD) is the first work mentioning Yasad.

9. Many food preparations, such as Sara, Aṅgavika, Paṇaka, Ragakhanḍavas, are introduced by Yogāratnākara.

**Authorship and Date**

No indication whatsoever is found in the text about authorship. Scholars say that it was composed by a Jain priest named Nārāyana Śekhara. Some take him as Nayana Śekhara. The confusion arises due to the fact that there is another work by this name in Hindi written by Nāyaṇa Śekhara in 1680 AD.

As regards the date of the work, the authors and the works quoted are listed in Table I.

As would appear from the list (Table I), the author has utilised all the available material right from Caraka to Yogataraṅginī. Lolimbarāja has been quoted abundantly, but the last work quoted is Trimalla Bhāṭṭa’s Yogataraṅginī. In fact, it follows the Yogataraṅginī in style and content. Trimalla Bhāṭṭa is placed in middle 17th century AD. As regards the lower limit, Bhaisajya Ratnāvali of Govindadāsa (18th century AD) has followed this work. Moreover, there is an MS at Anandasrama, Poona dated 1746 AD and as such it cannot be placed later than this. Hence, the work may be placed in the end of the 17th century AD.

Among the existing works related to Ayurvedic medicine, Yogāratnākara occupies an important position. The work can broadly be divided into two major parts: Purvārdha and Uttar khaṇḍa. The work deals with four necessary elements (pādacatusṭaya), as physician, drugs, nursing staffs and the patient, different
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<td>Rasārṇava</td>
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<td>Videha</td>
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<td>Virasinhāvaloka</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Vṛddha Vāgbhaṭṭa</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>550 AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Vṛṇḍa</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>9th century AD</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>10th century AD</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Yogaratna Samuccaya</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10th century AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Yogaratnāvali</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>5th century AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Yogasāra</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1600 AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Yoga sāta</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>15th century AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Yogatarāṅgīni</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>Middle of the 17th century AD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
regimens to be followed up in the day, night and seasons. Besides, there is description of drug preparations like liquors, paste, medicated ghees, etc. And also there is enumeration of different metals and the processes for their calcination. There is description about dietetics. Other means of diagnosis, such as stool, urine, eye, etc. are also indicated.

In so far as description of pulse examination as a means of diagnosis is concerned, it has been described in the first chapter of the book under the heading ‘Rogiparikṣa’ examination of the patient.

‘Aṣṭasthāna-Parīkṣā’

The physician should examine a patient’s appearance, eye, tongue, skin, pulse, voice, urine and faeces.

When disease grows from bad to worse condition, a physician should study the patient’s pulse before and after the disease. Pulses reveal the symptoms of diseases as a string instrument produces all musical notes. The main cause of all diseases is only Vataādik faeces which in its worse state gives rise to maladjustment of various metabolic activities of the body. At times, one disease becomes the cause of another one. Whatever the disease may be, a physician should first of all examine pulse, tongue, eye, urine, etc. and then cure the disease. The physician who does not follow the symptoms of pulse, urine and tongue, etc. kills his patient soon and thus forfeits fame, name and power.

Nādirīparīkṣā

Description of pulse in Yogāratnākara is condensed within 48 verses. Thirty-three varieties of pulse are of clinical importance, among which 14 types are completely devoted to the description of bad prognosis and death. One type indicates good prognosis. Eighteen varieties deal with the characteristics of pulse in some physiological and other general pathological conditions. The whole pulse lore can be considered under the following heads:

(A) Indication of sites and the method of pulse examination.
(B) Pulse in physiological conditions and mental states.
(C) Pulse in pathological conditions.
(D) Pulse indicating bad prognosis.

(A) Indication of sites and methods of pulse examination

A physician, after attaining the state of mental stability and peace of soul and mind, should examine by his right hand the pulse below the left thumb in the case of female and that below the right thumb in the case of male. Particularly in the case of female, the physician is advised to examine also the pulse of left leg by applying the knowledge gained from the classical literature, tradition and
self-experience. The pulse below the thumb detects the case and diseased condition of the patient.

As regards methodology and allied aspects of pulse examination, first the elbow (Kurpar) of the patient should be slightly flexed to the left and the wrist slightly bent to the left with the fingers distended and dispersed. In this position, the physician should examine the pulse in the first three hours (ek prahar) of the morning. The physician, after attaining concentration of mind, should examine the pulse repeatedly three times by giving and releasing the pressure alternately over it. By this procedure, he should decide the condition of Doṣas in their respective places and the condition of the pulse, whether the pulse is slow, medium or fast, and also whether they are involved singly, or in combination of two or all the three are at fault together. This way the physician may be able to know the good and the bad prognosis of the patient. The pulse should not be examined just after the bath, in hungry or thirsty states or during sleep and just after awakening or when the patient has anointed himself with oil. Repeated practice of pulse examination makes the physician perfect in the art and science of it.

(B) Pulse in physiological conditions and mental states

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fast and light</th>
<th>Vegawati and Laghwi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appetite</td>
<td>Tremulous</td>
<td>Capala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction after appetite</td>
<td>Steady</td>
<td>Sthira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lust (Kāma)</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger (Krodha)</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety (Cintā)</td>
<td>Feeble</td>
<td>Kṣina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear (Bhaya)</td>
<td>Feeble</td>
<td>Kṣiṇa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(C) Pulse in general pathological states

Various characteristics of pulse in these conditions are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Types of pulse</th>
<th>Characteristics of pulse</th>
<th>Simile to movement of animals</th>
<th>Relation to fingers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vātika</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Snake and leech</td>
<td>Index finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Paittika</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Crow, lark and frog</td>
<td>Middle finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kaphaja</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Swan, pigeon cock</td>
<td>Ring finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vātapatitika</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Snake and frog</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vāta Kaphaja</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Snake and swan</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 Pitta Kaphaja  -  Monkey and swan  -
7 Sannipātika  -  Moves very fast with intermittent pause, like the acts of wood pecker (Kāṭhakūṭṭa) when cutting the wood  -
8 Fever  Very hot and fast  -  -
9 When carrying flesh (Mansvaha)  Heavy  -  -
10 Poor appetite and cachexia  Slow  -  -
11 Full of blood (Raktapurṇa)  Heavy and hot  -  -
12 Auto-intoxication  Heavy  -  -
13 Vātika fever  Curvilinear, tremulous and cold  -  -
14 Kapha fever  Slow, steady, cold and slimy (Pichila)  -  -
15 Kapha Pitta fever  Fast, long and simple  -  -
16 Vāta Paittika fever  Curvilinear, a bit tremulous and hard  -  -
17 Vāta Kapha fever  Slow and slight  -  -
18 Pitta Kapha fever  Weak, steady and cold  -  -

(D) Pulse indicating bad prognosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Periods indicating death</th>
<th>Characteristics of the pulse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Death within three hours</td>
<td>Pulse moves like fringe of shawl, coinciding with perspiration and cold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Death within a day</td>
<td>Pulse appears and disappears alternatively and moves like a drum which is shaped like an hour glass (Ḍamaru).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Death within two days 

Pulse carrying excessive amount of metabolites and cold to touch indicates death within two days.

4 Death within three days 

Pulse not felt at the proximal end, cold in the middle and appears tired at the terminal part.

5 Death within seven days 

Pulse becomes speedy at the proximal end, sometimes cold and sweaty and slimy skin, indicates death within seven days.

6 Death within 15 days 

Pulse is hot, fast and the body is cold and patient takes mouth breath.

7 Patient nearly dead 

Pulse extremely weak, runs very fast and cold.

8 Sudden death 

Pulse adopts curvilinear motion like that of lightning and alternately appears and disappears. Pulse with intermittent pause indicates bad prognosis. Slow, tremulous with intermittent pause, weak, visible sometimes in the finger, indicates death; it is a sannipātika pulse. Pulse first Vātika, then Pāttiika and then Kaphaja, and assumes circular movement and horrible, weak, and disappears from its place, indicates bad prognosis. Pulse excessively tremulous, too much jumping, appearing beneath the fingers indicates bad prognosis. The pulse which is amalgam of the three Doṣas indicates bad prognosis. Pulse moves zigzag (Tiryaka) and also like snake, hot and fast and the throat of the patient is full of cough indicates death.

9 Pulse indicating good prognosis 

The pulse moves like swan and elephant and the patient is happy. If the pulse beats 30 times in its place in one “man”, the patient shall survive, otherwise not.

Thus, in describing pulse examination, Yogāratnākara enumerates certain more points of importance than the previous works, such as Śāraṅgdhara Saṃhitā and Bhāvaprakāśa. First, there is indication that besides examining left hand in
the case of female, stress has also been laid on examination of the pulse of the left leg in this case. Secondly, he has clearly mentioned the importance of mental peace to reach at the diagnosis accurately by examining the pulse. Thirdly, there is mention of detailed anatomical position of the forearm, including wrist, during pulse examination. Fourth, there is indication of the fixed time when pulse should be examined. Fifth, there is description of quantitative form of the pulse as 30 times. Sixth, there is indication to examine the pulse repeatedly three times in the same period. Seventh, the work advocates the practice of pulse examination as much as it can be to get mastery over the science. Eighth, there is clear indication that the knowledge of pulse examination can be achieved only by constant practice and applying one’s own thinking. Ninth, there is enumeration of greater number of pulse inciations of bad prognosis and death. Of course, the work does not make a mention about the pulse of a healthy person. In the end, there is instruction to the physician to wash his hand after examining the patient.

Yogaratnākara delineates upon how to diagnose and cure the following diseases for which a few important formulae are given blow.

**Fever born of Vata** — Guduchyādi group, Kiratādi group, Kāsmaryādi group, Merichādi group.

**Pitta born fever** — Katphalādi group, Drāksādi decoction.

**Kapha born fever** — Tiktādi group, Triphalādi group.

**Fever born of Veta and Pitta** — Kirāta tiktādi group.

**Mature and intermittent fevers** (quoted from Bheda, 7th century AD) — Sudarsana Ćūrna (quoted from Sāraṅgdhara, 1325 AD), Laghu Lāksādi Taila, Vṛhat lakhādi Taila, Angāraka Taila.

**Acute fevers** (quoted from Rasarājalakāmi, 14th century AD) — Navajwarankuśa Rasa, Jwarāgni Guṭikā, Tralokyataphara Rasa, Mṛtyunjaya Rasa, Candraśekhara Rasa.

**Immature or acute diarrhoea** (quoted from Cikitsā kalikā, 10th century AD) — Kalingādi, Kutajāvaleha (quoted from Aswanikumāras, Ancient period), Kutajāṣṭaka, Dadimavaleha (Vijaya [Bhāṅg] Cannabis indica is used), Mṛtsanjīvano Rasa (Vijaya [Bhāṅg] Cannabis indica is used), Dādimapsūpaka (Opium is used), Sankhodara Rasa (Opium is used). Atisāra Pathyāni (Opium is used).

**Piles** — Agasti Modaka.

**Loss of appetite and indigestion** — Hingwaśṭaka Ćūrna, Svalpa Agnimukha Ćūrna, Lavana Bhāskara Ćūrna, Sankha Baţi (quoted from
Rasārnava, 1200 AD), Śāṅkha Baṭi (another variety), Amrita Haritaki, Agnikumāra Rasa (quoted from Rasendra Cintāmaṇi, 1600 AD), second Agnikumāra Rasa.


Phthisis — Lavangādi Cūrṇa, Kapurādyaka Cūrṇa, Elādi Cūrṇa, Aśvagandhādyaka Cūrṇa, Chavanaprāṣa (quoted from Cikitsakalika, 10th century AD), Drāksāsava (quoted from Virsinnedvaloka, 1383 AD), Ratnagarbhapatutali Rasa, Rāja Mrgānka Rasa, Mrgānka Rasa (quoted from Rasaratnapradīpa, 1500 AD).

Bronchitis — Maricādi Guṭikā (quoted from Vṛṇḍa, 9th century AD).

Hiccups and asthma — Śringyuḍi Cūrṇa (quoted from Yoga śata, 15th century AD), Haridrā Cūrṇa, Bhārigaryādi Leha.

Hoarseness of Voice— Vyāghrī Gṛṛta (quoted from Cikitsāsāra, 10th century AD).

Disgust for food — Yavanikhaṇḍa Cūrṇa, Ārdraka Matulungāvalehu (quoted from Sāraṅgdhara, 1325 AD).

Burning of skin — Candanādi Cūrṇa.

Insanity — Kalyānakā Gṛṛta (quoted from Yogataraṅgini, middle of the 17th century AD), Caitasa Gṛṛta (quoted from Yogataraṅgini, 17th century AD).

Epilepsy — Kuṃḍāna Gṛṛta (quoted from Vṛṇḍa, 9th century AD). Kalyāna Cūrṇa

Diseases of the Nervous System — Rāṣṇādi Pācana, Trayodāṣaṅgā Guggula.

Bronchitis — Sacchanda Bhairava Rasa (quoted from Sāraṅgdhara, 1325 AD).

Gout — Piṇḍa taila.

Leprosy and other skin diseases — Amṛtādi Gṛṛta.

Severe diarrhoea — Ajamodādi Cūrṇa.

Haemorrhoids — Paṅcasama Cūrṇa.

Pain (colic) — Śāṅkha Cūrṇa (quoted from Hārita, 10th century AD to 12th century AD).

Pain (tūrināma Śūla) — Ksira Mandura.
Pain — Satavari Mandura.

Pain, abdominal tumors, and stony tumors — Samudrādyā Cūrṇa.

Gonorrhoea — Candraprabhā Guṭi (quoted from Yogaratnāvali, 17th century AD).

Diabetes — Tārakeśvara Rasa.

Elephantiasis — Pippalyādi Cūrṇa.

Elephantiasis of the legs — Krṣṇādi Modaka, Vidangādi Oil.

Elephantiasis of the legs, bronohocele, goitre, hernia — Saureovara Ghṛṭa.

Fistula-in-ano — Khadirādi Kvātha.


Fistula-in-ano, piles, asthma, cough, dropsical swellings, abdominal dropsy, hernia, elephantiasis of the legs, malignant boils, sinus, leucoderma, strangury, calculi, gonorrhoea — Saptavingṣatika Guggulu.

Fistula-in-ano, boils and sores improves the complexion — Viṣyandana Oil.

Leprosy and leucoderma — Mahā Bhallātaka Avaleha.

Skin diseases, leprosy, fistula-in-ano, malignant boils, intestinal worms — Paṅcatikta Ghṛṭa.

Leprosy, blood bile, piles characterised by copious discharge of blood, erysipelas, sour bile, tubercular leprosy, chlorosis, eczema born of malignant boils — Mahātiktaka Ghṛṭa.

All varieties of leprosy — Mahākhandira Ghṛṭa.

Severe varieties of leprosy, chest disease, chlorosis (leucoderma), external tumors, abdominal tumors — Khadirāriṣṭa.

Leprous sores, eczema, psoriasis, ring worm, itching, malignant boils, the effect of age, and black and brown spots on the face — Vṛhat Maricāḍya Oil.

Small-pox — Nimbādi, Kāncanādi — Kvātha, Paṭolādi-Kvātha.
Internally cures measles — Khadirāṣṭaka Kvātha.

Diseases of women — Phala Ghṛta.

Puerperal diseases, diarrhoea, and disease of the ‘Grahani’ — Saubhāgya Sunthi.

Liquidity of the semen and loss of virile power — Kāmāgnisandipana Modaka.

Increases strength, energy, and sexual power. Cures blood bile, consumption, fever — Candanādi Oil.

Important Ingredient: Some preparations are named after the important ingredient, for example.

Pippalādi Cūrṇa.

Authorship: The name of the sage or rṣi who first discovered or patronized the formula is used in naming the drug, for example, Agastya haritaki.

Therapeutic property: The disease for which the formula was indicated is at times used in naming preparation, for example, Atisāra Pathyāni, Kṛnimudgara Rasa.

First ingredient of the formula: The drug that heads the list in the formula is sometimes used in naming the preparation, for example, Khadirā riṣṭa.

Quality of components: At times, the preparation is named after the quality of components used, for example, Pancasama Cūrṇa.

Part of the plant: The drug is at times named after the part of the plant used, for example, Daśā mūladi Kvātha (Yogaratnakara, Vol. I, p. 431).

There are medicines having the same name but a number of different formulae, so much so that each differs from the other in composition, ratio of ingredients, method of preparation, mode of administration, mode of action, dosage and anupana. A typical example is Agnikumāra Rasa.

ŚODHANA OR PURIFICATION

Pure aconite ‘Vatsanābha’, for example, cannot be administered as freely as śodhita aconite. Aconite, which is a cardiac depressant, becomes a cardiac stimulant after śodhana with cow’s urine.
Some gum resins, such as guggulu and some drugs containing volatile oils, such as kuṣṭha are also described to undergo śodhana when boiled with milk, go-māra, etc. Boiling of these drugs, however, definitely reduces the volatile oil content, which is supposed to be therapeutically very active, for example, Nava Kāṛṣika Guggulu, Saptaviṅśatika Guggulu.

Yogāratnākara exhibits the medieval impact in its recipes. Dādimavaleha (Vihaya [Bhang] Cannabis indica is used), Mṛtsanjīvano Rasa (Vijaya [Bhang] Cannabis indica is used), Dādimapupaka (opium is used), Śankhodara Rasa (opium is used), Atisāra Pathyāṇi (opium is used), Agnikumāra Rasa (mercury, sulphur, and fried borax is used), second Agnikumāra Rasa (mercury, sulphur, and fried borax is used), Kṛnimudgara Rasa (mercury, sulphur is used), Ratnagarbha pottali Rasa (Rasa-sindura, diamond, pearl, Svarṇamākṣika, coral is used), Mṛgāṅka Rasa (mercury, ashes of gold, pearls, sulphur and fried borax is used), Sacchanda Bhairava Rasa (mercury, sulphur is used), Candraprabhā Guti (Agathotes Cerayta is used). Tārakeśvara Rasa (Rasa sindura is used), Kāmāgni-sandipana Modak (mercury, sulphur, mica is used). Candanāḍī Oil (musk is used).

Yogāratnākara deals with the influence of modern medical system. It mentions syphilis (Phiraṅga) introduced by the Portuguese and its remedy cobacini, which must have been imported about 1535. Nicotiana tabacum Linn. (Fam. Salanaceae) is cited for the first time in Yogāratnākara. Most of the tobacco addicts think that their bowels are cleaned and urination becomes smooth, but it is only their way of thinking. It is due to the intoxicating effect of nicotine present in tobacco. Postmortem symptoms of drowning are also described for the first time in Yogāratnākara.

Thus, in “Yogāratnākara”, an attempt has been made to present a systematic and periodwise development of Indian medicine by analysing the other books on the subject. Each book depicts the influence of contemporary society. So, the formulae quoted in Yogāratnākara can be correlated to the period of referred works. Having the same name, quantity and number of drugs used in a recipe vary in every treatise. Each formula bears the name of physician or the fact that the text was prepared during his time. So the determined period of each referred work can be justified as a period when the particular recipe was compounded and quoted by the author of Yogāratnākara. An attempt has also been made to classify various recipes with the date of composition of referred books. Many new drugs were used during mediaeval and modern periods of Indian history of medicine by our physicians. These drugs helped the Indian physicians to innovate some new formulae and they also modified many old formulae of Indian medicine to suit the needs and to cure the complicated disorders, which by then had crept in as a sequel to immigration from Europe and Central Asia.
REFERENCES

2. Yogaratnakāra, p.182.
4. Author of Yogaratināvali is Gangādhara, son of Das.
8. Ibid., p.182.
11. Salama (Salab) is used in the formula Salama Pak, Yogāratnakāra, Vol II, page 89, published by Chaukhambha Sanskrit Santhan, Varanasi, 3rd Ed.
12. Aufrecht does not mention this author. He mentions only Yogāratnakāra, a work on Yoga by Vireswaranand quoted in Lauhapradipa.
13. The figure indicates page numbers of the Nirnaya Sagar edition of Yogāratnakāra.
Yogaratnakara, the book of the mid-seventeenth century, written by an unknown author, but extremely well known in the Ayurvedic world, is like the sun, throwing light on all aspects of Ayurveda not seen in any other available book on Ayurveda; however, since the book is compiled in the period when surgery was almost not being done by Ayurvedists, the references of subject matter related to Salyavijnana (surgery) are scanty; knowledge of Sarira (anatomy) being more important to surgeons also finds itself concised in few verse only. It is probably a single available book which describes in detail. An important source from the second half of the 8th century is Jabir ibn Hayyans "Book of Poisons". He only cites earlier works in Arabic translations, as were available to him, including Hippocrates, Plato, Galen, Pythagoras, and Aristotle, and also mentions the Persian names of some drugs and medical plants. Within medieval Islamic medicine, Hunayn ibn Ishâq and his younger contemporary Tabit ben-Quarra played an important role as translators and commentators of Galen's work. They also tried to compile and summarize a consistent medical system from these works, and add this to the medical science of their period. Medicines are chemicals or compounds used to cure, halt, or prevent disease; ease symptoms; or help in the diagnosis of illnesses. Advances in medications have enabled doctors to cure many diseases and save lives. Medicines are chemicals or compounds used to cure, halt, prevention disease, ease symptoms and help in diagnosis. Many times help save life hence the importance.

Source of support: Nil. Conflict of interest: None Declared. Disclaimer: IJRAP is solely owned by Moksha Publishing House - A non-profit publishing house, dedicated to publish quality research, while every effort has been taken to verify the accuracy of the content published in our Journal. IJRAP cannot accept any responsibility or liability for the site content and articles published.