

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT VARIOUS NIGHANTUS

DR. RACHANA

IMPORTANCE OF NIGANTUS

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INTRODUCTION

- The literature of Dravyaguna is available in two forms:
- (I) Texts which describe only synonyms of drugs:
e.g. Ashtanga Nighantu , Paryaya Ratnamala, Hridaya Deepaka Nighantu etc.
- (II) Texts which explain synonyms along with properties & action etc: e.g. Dhanwantari Nighantu , Sodhala Nighantu etc.

BENEFITS & LACUNAS OF NIGANTUS

- These Nighantus have introduced some new herbs to Indian Materia Medica. During the process they also created confusion by using same synonym for different plants .
- However, it would be interesting to study the different medicinal plants from the vedic period to the period of Ayurvedic Nighantus.
- This might throw a good deal of light on the general chronology of different texts, and may also help in the study of the development of knowledge of medicinal plants in ancient India.

STYLE OF WRITING

- The writing of Nighantus in the classical fashion ends with Raja Nighantu in 17AD. Therefore 10-17AD is considered to be a golden era for Nighantu writers in India. The last recognized Nighantu is Saligrama-Nighantu (19AD).

IMPORTANT NIGHANTUS

- ~~It is also not possible to finalize the total number of lexicons on Indian Materia Medica some of the important~~ Nighantus are picked up and explained in this chapter. They are:

1. Ashtanga Nighantu
2. Paryaya Ratnamala
3. Dhanwantari Nighantu
4. Sodhala Nighantu
5. Siddha Mantra
6. Hridaya Deepaka Nighantu
7. Madhava Dravya Guna
8. Dravya guna Sangraha
9. Madana Pala Nighanlu
10. Raja Nighantu
11. Kaiyadeva Nighantu
12. Shiva Kosha
13. Dravya guna Sataka
14. Abhidhana Ratnamala
15. Rajavallabha Nighantu
16. Nighantu Ratnakara
17. Sali grama Nighantu
18. Madanadi Nighantu
19. Nighantu Adarsh.

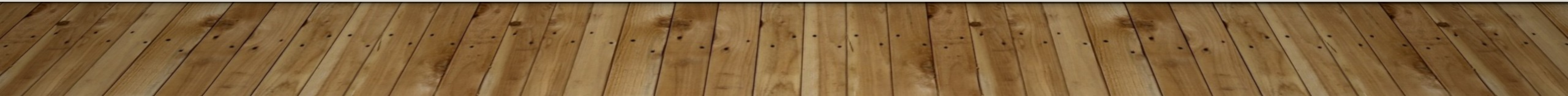
INTRODUCTION - DHANWANTARI NIGANTU

- Of all the Nigantus, this is believed to be the oldest.
- But really it is not so. Dhanwantari- the author is not the lord Dhanwantari But seems to be another person.
- It is clear by his prayer on lord Dhanwantari as he express I bow to God Dhanwantari.
- The original name of the book appears to be '**Dravyavali Samuchchaya**'. It is still a mystery how this name 'Dhanwantari Nigantu' emerged.

AUTHOR

- Various manuscripts available at Pune mention the "author's name as **Mahendra Bhogik**. The author of this text is inspired by treatises of Charaka , Sushrita etc, and compiled the quotation either partially or completely from the earlier texts. The author has made use of Sanskrit as well as foreign languages in this text.

- He further adds after knowing both local and Sanskrit names of the plants one should see them, ask their names to others, should touch the plants to ascertain the texture etc, and thus should try to know about many plants.
- **Totally there are 7 groups under which the plants are described. Total drugs or drug groups (excluding Misraka Varga) are claimed to be 373 but the overall number of individual drugs will be 527.**For example 'Triphala Gana' contains three individual herbs and 'Pancha Lavana' contains five types of salts
- Though being the first author of a lexicon, **he narrated the drugs on the basis of Rasa, Veerya, Vipaka etc** First the synonyms scattered here and there are compiled and then the properties of the drug are discussed. Many others have imitated his style and method at later periods.



Conclusion regarding period

- Yasada is described in it therefore this work can not be earlier to 13AD.
- Moreover, he mentions about **Ahiphena, Jayapala, Agnijara, Vijaya** etc. which were brought to India from foreign countries during **Muslim rule**.
- It also mentions the **purification methods of mercury** which may be borrowed from Rasa Sastra texts written in 13AD.
- The author quoted **regard for Hemadri (12 AD)**. So he cannot be earlier to 13AD.
- **KsheeraSwamy (11AD)** and **Hemachandra (commentator)** of **Abhidhana chudamani (12AD)** mentioned this work in their writings.
- **Thence, it can be placed between 11-13AD**
- **P.V.Sharmaji put this work between 10-13AD**

SPECIALTY OF THIS TEXT ARE

- Both ~~Charka & Susruta~~ have mentioned one drug under many Ganas /Vargas. But, this text described one drug under one Gana only.
- The drugs are named on the basis of the first drug under that varga. Then each Varga is divided into different Ganas basing upon pharmacological properties.

- Synonyms and properties are described in an order for each and every drug.
- The author described some extra drugs also in the end of each Varga. They are actually not mentioned in the original Vargas.
- Though the author is inspired by Charaka and Susruta he maintained his speciality .For example Dadima is mentioned under Phala varga in the treatises. But in this text, Dadima is mentioned in the Satapushpadivarga. Likewise Banana is described in Karaveeradi varga.

SEVEN VARGAS OF DHANWANTARI NIGANTU

| S I NO | VARGA NAMA | NO OF VARGAS | NO OF DRAVYAS | DRUGS TOLD AFTER THE END OF CHAPTER | TOTAL DRUGS |
|--------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 01 | GUDUCHYADI | 11 | 89 | 01 | 90 |
| 02 | SHATAPUSPAD I | 02 | 42 | 01 | 43 |
| 03 | CHANDANADI | 03 | 64 | 06 | 70 |
| 04 | KARAVEERADI | 04 | 56 | 04 | 60 |
| 05 | AMRADI | 03 | 61 | 04 | 65 |
| 06 | SUVARNADI | 10 | 94 | 36 | 130 |
| 07 | MISRAKADI | 02 | 69 | - | 69 |
| | TOTAL | 35 | 475 | 52 | 527 |

| VARGA | CONTENT |
|--------------------|---|
| GUDUCHYADI | PLANTS LIKE GUDUCHI, SHATI, SHALAPARNI, JEEVAKA IN MANAGEMENT OF DIFF DISEASES |
| SATAPUSHPADI VARGA | HERBS USED AS STOMACHIC ,DIGESTIVE ETC. EX. SATAPUSHPA,MISRCYA,ELA,NAGAKESARAETC. |
| CHANDANADI VARGA | PLANTS WITH VOLATILE OILS FLAVONOIDS AND MINERALS. EX . CHANDANA, MANAHSILA ,TUTHA ETC. |
| KARAVEERADI VARGA | HERBS USED IN SKIN, KRIMI,VISHA & HAEMORRHAGE EX. KARAVEERA , RASONA , SINDUVARA ,AKSHU |
| AMRADI VARGA | PLANTS USED FOR THEIR FRUITS, FLOWER, AND BARKS. SOME AROMATIC DRUGS ARE ALSO PRESENT) EX.AMRA, BHAVYA, KADAMBA, ARJUNA, JATI ETC. |
| SWARNADI VARGA | HERBAL, MINERAL AND ANIMAL SOURCES WHICH ARE USED FOR DIFFERENT DISEASES ARE DESCRIBED UNDER THIS EX. GOLD,TIN, MERCURY, MASURA, GODHUMA ETC. |
| MISRAKADI VARGA | DRUGS WITH MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTIES EX. OUSHADHI GANA |

INTRODUCTION - SODHALA NIGHANTU

- ~~This work is a valuable contribution of Gujarat state to Ayurvedic materia medica.~~ Author Sodhala is a physician, scholar, grammarian and astrologer too. He took lot of pain in compiling this text by referring several contemporary works
- This Nighantu is otherwise known as '**Guna Sangraha**' or '**Nama Sangraha**'.
- In the introductory verses Sodhala express his view that students of Ayurveda in his time are facing great difficulty as the list of drug, proper classification, nomenclature etc. are not available.
- Therefore he composed this work after consulting earlier works of Agnivesa etc. **He claims that this text will solve controversies among various texts.**

- In text he describe the **properties of drugs with their Rasa, Veerya, vipaka etc. & explanation is not too detailed or too concise** style so that the same may be easily understood.
- Between Astanga Sangraha and **Ashtanga Hridaya**, he preferred the later treatise because of its concised style.

- He quoted much from As.Hridaya, although he **borrowed sufficiently from Charaka and Susruta as well.**
- Similarly while writing **Gada Nigraha** he followed *Rigvinischaya of Madhava* for patophysiology and followed **Siddha Yoga of Vrinda** for management.

- This text has intimate relation with Dhanwantari Nighantu. There are 27 groups or drugs totally. The first 7 are common with Dhanwantari Nighantu. The difference is that 7th group is *Misraka Varga* in Dhanwantari Nighantu while it is named as *Lakshmanadi Varga* in this text.
- As the style adopted by Dhanwantari Nighantu became obsolete after sometime, Sodhala made an attempt to revive the same.
- At the same time he left some unnecessary details given in Dhanwantari Nighantu. He described the properties of the drugs in a concise manner so as to enable the students to grasp the subject easily

• Conclusion regarding Period

- It appears that he utilized Dalhana's commentary on Susruta Samhita his description of Madhu(Honey).
- Therefore Sodhala must be placed later to Dhanwantari Nighantu (10AD) and earlier to Dalhana(12AD).
- To fix the lower limit Bhavamishra's descriptions are also essential.
- Bhavamishra(16AD)had taken enough material from SodhalaNighantu such as description of Haritaki,Chavika,GajaPippali,Karpura, ParasikaYavani, LataKasturi, BalaChatushtaya etc.
- The magical action of *Chetaki* (a variety of Haritaki) is first described in this book and latter borrowed by Bhavamishra.

- Sarangdhara (13AD) and Madanapala (14AD) have imitated Sodhala in their writings.
- Narahari (15AD) also accepted many things from Sodhala Nighantu.
- Kesava (13AD) and Bopadeva (14 AD) have utilized Sodhala's work .
- Several passages are commonly found in Sodhala Nighantu and
- Madhava Dravya Guna (12-13AD).
- The description of Ahiphena is found in Madhava Dravyaguna while it is missing in Sodhala's work prove that Madhava's work is posterior to Sodhala's

THE FOLLOWING FACTS ARE WORTH REMEMBERING:

1. Yasada is not mentioned among Dhatus. (Yasada is not found in the texts before 14AD).
2. Jayapala is not mentioned in this text while, Sarangdhara (13AD) used it.
3. Bhanga, Ahiphena, Akara karabha, Rumi mastagi etc., described in Gada Nigraha are missing in this text.
4. Mercury and its purification is mentioned. It indicates that this text is developed after 10 AD.
5. Kankushta and Swarna Ksheeri are the terms used synonymously in Ashtanga Nighantu (10AD). Dalhana (12AD) consider it as the Nirryasa of Swarnaksheeri while later texts mentioned both the drugs separately. Sodhala too, mentioned Kankushta and Swarnaksheeri separately

THE ENTIRE TEXT IS CLASSIFIED INTO 27 VARGAS:

| VARGA | CONTENT |
|--------------------|---|
| GUDUCHYADI VARGA- | KATU, TIKTA, KASHAYA DRAVYAS, JIVANIYAS, SODHANA, DRUGS. |
| SATAPUSHPADI VARGA | SPICES ETC, HAVING VOLATILE OILS AND CARMIRNATIVE ACTION. |
| CHANDANADI VARGA- | AROMATIC DRUGS, GUM-RESINE, MIN RALS, GEMS ETC. |
| KARAVEERADI VARGA- | UPA VISHAS, SAKAS (LEAFY VEGETABLE), ACQUATIC PLANTS. |
| A MRADI VARGA- | FRUITS, BIG TREES, FLOWERS AND STEMS. |
| SWARN AD I VARGA | METALS AND MERCURY |
| LAKSHMANADIVAR GA- | CONTAINS MANY PECULIOR PLANTS AND DRUGS NOT DESCRIBED IN OTHER NIGHANTUS. |

REMAINING VARGAS

| PANIYADI VARGA | TAILA VARGA | TRINADHANYA VARGA |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| PANIYA VARGA | MADHU VARGA | SIMBIDHANYA VARGa |
| KSHEERA VARGA | IKSHU VARGA | KRITANNA VARGA |
| DADHI VARGA | MADYA VARGA | ANUPANA VARGA |
| TAKRA VARGA | MUTRA VARGA | MAMSA VARGA |
| NAVANEETA VARGA | SUKADHANYA VARGA | MISRAKA VARGA-DEFINITIONS OF TECHNICAL TERMS, PERSONAL HYGENE |
| GHRITA VARGA | JURNA VARGA | |

HRIDAYA DEEPAKA NIGHANTU

- It s author Bopadeva (Vopadeva) is a grammarian and author of certain religious books. Hence he is a land mark in the middle era .
- He had a rich heritage of medical tradition from his father Kesava (13 AD) who was the royal physician. Dhaneswara is said to be the teacher of Bopadeva.
- He resided at a place called **Vedapura** which is situated on the bank of **river Varada in Maharashtra**. This was the capital of king **Simharaja**

Conclusion regarding period

- He is believed to be at least two and half centuries earlier to Bhavamishra i.e ., 12- 13 AD.
- Hemadri (1260- 1271) is contemporary to Bopadeva. Hemadri was the Prime/chief minister of king Mahadeva of Yadava dynasty.
- Bopadeva is said to be the physician/Pandit of king Mahadeva . Hence he is fixed in 13 AD.
- Some reference quote that Hemadri had written commentaries on Bopadeva's works-Harileela and Muktapphala

CONTRIBUTION

Altogether Bopadeva wrote 26 books.

They are:

- 10 books on Sanskrit grammar,
- 9 books on Ayurveda,
- 1 book on Jyotisha,
- 3 books on literature and
- 3 books on Bhagavadgita.

- Out of these works, a book on medicine entitled as 'ShataSloki' with Chandrakala commentary was edited by Vayaskar N.S of Kottayam (Kerala) and published in 1962.
- However his work on materia medica.and Prakasa commentary on his father's work (Siddhamantra) are less popular.
- This work was actually intended to explain the drugs mentioned in Ashtanga Hridaya. Hence the name Hridaya deepaka nighantu.

CONTENT

- The subject matter of this text is divided into eight Vargas viz.,
-

- (1) Chatushpada Varga-Yashtimadhu to Swarnam.
- (2) Tripada Varga Aragwadha to Kamalam.
- (3) Dwipada Varga Madana phala to Vetasa
- (4) Eka pada Varga Swarna Ksheeri to Rishabhaka
- (5) Dwi Nama Varga Tinisa to Surana
- (6) Eka Nama VargaSankhini to Hilamochika
- (7) Nanartha Varga Koshataki to Haritaki
- (8) Mishraka Varga-Food materials etc.

- The author followed the material style of Paryaya ratnamala rather than alphabetical order/style .
- There is much similarity in the descriptions of **Amara Kosha and Hridaya dipaka Nighantu**

MADHAVA DRAVYA GUNA

- Its author **Madhava** must be different from the author of **Rigvinischaya and Paryaya ratnamala**.
- Apart from this text, a work known as **Dravyaguna Sangraha of Madhava** was quoted by some commentators leading to an inference about existence of another work on Indian Materia Medica.

- A manuscript of **Madhava's Dravyaguna** (SJ. No. 5g95; Accu . No. B 3773) is located in the Collection of the Bharata Kala Bhavan of B.H.U. Varanasi. This book is often quoted as '**Bhava Swabhava Vada**' in the manuscripts.
- Basing up on Sushrita Samhita the subject matter is arranged under two broad heads-
 - (1) Drava dravya (liquids) and
 - (2) Anna pana vidhi (diet.).

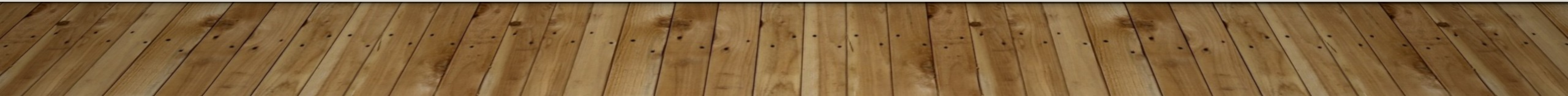
THERE ARE TOTALLY 29 VARGAS IN THIS TEXT. THEY ARE:

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1.Vividoushda | 10. Taila | 19.Mamsa | 28.Anupana |
| 2.Lavana | 11. Sneha | 20.Matsya | 29.Prakeerna |
| 3.Ikshu | 12. Madya | 21.Phala | |
| 4.Madhu | 13. Kanjika | 22.Shaka | |
| 5.Ksheera | 14.Mutra | 23.Sresta | |
| 6.Dadhi | 15.Toya | 24.Rasa | |
| 7.Takra | 16.Shali | 25. Manda | |
| 8.Navaneeta | 17.Kudhanya | 26.Anna | |
| 9.Ghrita | 18.Simbidhanya | 27. Pana-Bakshya | |

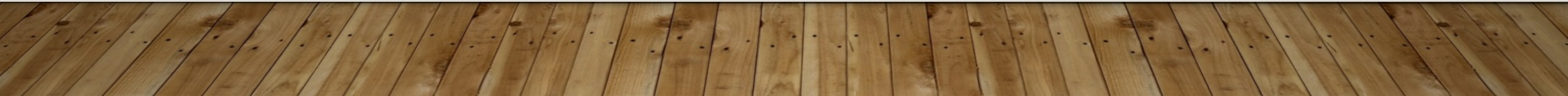
CONTENT

- First chapter starts with **Haritaki** which is Sara (purgative) in nature.
- He also described other purgatives like **Trivrit, Katuki, Trayamana** in continuation.
- Later **Grahi (Astringent)** drugs like Pata, Kutaja, Indrayava, Musta, Bilva etc., are described .
- Aromatic substances are divided into **Pittaghna, Vataghna & Kaphaghna** such as Chandana, Kumkuma and Karpura respectively.
- Drugs effective in **upper respiratory tract and fevers** were described in the end.
- After **vegetable drugs minerals** products have been described
- Apart from **Susruta Samhita** the author has closely followed **As. San. and As. Hri.**

- Among his sources author mentions Charaka, Susruta, Parasara, Vagbhata, Bhattara-Harichandra, Bhela, Vaideha, Hareeta etc.
- A part from the ancient sources, certain latest works like Sodhala Nighantu etc., were also consulted by author. Like Charakapani he had given importance to dietetic substances in a concise manner.
- Some scholars observe that this work is transcribed in 1452 AD and the original work is anterior to this.
- Swami Laxmi Ram (20 AD) in his note on an Siddha Bheshaja Manimala & Siva datta Mishra (17 AD) quoted this work.
- Adhamalla (15-16 AD), Siviadassen (15 AD) and Bopadeva (13 -14 AD) have mentioned about this text in their works.
- Neither Dalhana (12 AD) nor Chakarpani quoted this text in their commentaries.



- There are several passages common in **Dravyaguna Sangraha of Chakrapani and Madhava's Dravyaguna** (vide: verses 12 to 20 in Dhanya varga of former text and 1-7 in the later text) .
- Sivadas Sen is of the opinion that the author of Dravyaguna and Rigvinischaya are same. Some verses tally with Sodhala Nighantu also.
- The following subject matter is of some special importance in this text:
- Mentioning of Jayapala indicates it as a medieval period text in India.
- **Vijaya** is described
- **Ahiphena** is also mentioned which is found in Dhanwantari Nighantu (10- 13 AD) and onwards.
- **Yasada** is not mentioned. That means it is earlier to 14 AD.
- **Considering the available evidences Madhava will be placed in the later part of 13 AD.**



DRAVYA GUNA SANGRAHA

- It is a Dravyaguna text written by Chakrapani datta in 11 AD. He is the author of 'Ayurveda Dipika' commentary on Charak Samnhita and 'Chakradatta'. This book mainly deals with the herbs used in diet. Fundamentals like Rasa, Guna, Veerya, Vipaka are described in the begining of the first chapter.

THE CONTENTS ARE DIVIDED INTO 15 VARGAS. THEY ARE:

- 1.Dhanya Varga 9.Ikshvadi Varga
- 2.Mamsa Varga 10. Madyadi Varga
- 3.Saka Varga 11. Kritanna Varga
- 4.Lavanadi Varga 12. Bhakshya Varga
- 5.phala Varga 13. Ahara Vidhi
- 6.Paniya Varga 14. Anupana Vidhi
- 7.Kshoudra Varga 15. Misraka Varga.
- 8. Taila Varga
- The author claims that this text is the essence of many books he referred.

MADANA PALA NIGHANTU

- This text was written by king Madana pala of 'Tika' dynasty . His capital city was 'Kashta Nagara'. This book is also known as 'Madana Vinoda'. According to the mentioning's at the end of the text, it is assessed that this book is written during 1374 AD.
- The total number of substances or dravyas described by Madanapala are about 494 (450 vegetable and 44 metallic & other drugs).

INTENSION OF PREPARATION

- ~~The author explained about the necessity in writing this work~~ that "some nighantus are very less descriptive while some are too elaborate, some are very difficult to understand and voluminous.
- Hence this text is being written to expand the concised aspects and to edit the elaborated descriptions, by mentioning the well known nomenclature and by clear description of their properties for the sake of wise people".

CONTENT

- He mentioned about **Bhanga, Ahiphena, Jayapala , Parasika Yavani, Chouhara, Sulemani Kharjura, Amrita phala, Grinjana, Madhu karkati etc.**
- Yasada is found in the 1954 edition edited by Vaidya Ram Prasad Sharma, published from Mumbai. But Acharya P.V. Sharmaji is of the opinion that Yasada is not mentioned in Madana pala Nighantu.

There are about 13 vargas totally in this text:

- Abhayadi Varga-with 165 drugs e.g.: Haritaki , Bakuchi ,Ahiphena etc
- Sunthyadi Varga- · with 39 drugs e.g.: Sunthi, Yavani, Tankan etc.

- Karpuradi Varga- with 84 drugs e.g.: Karpu a, Chandana , Guggulu etc.
- Suvarna Varga- with 44 mineral & metallic drugs etc.
- Vatadi Varga-with 50.drugs e.g.: Vata, Aswatha, Salmali, Agustya etc.
- Phala Varga(Drakshadi Varga)- with 56 drugs e.g.: Draksha , Jambu , Naranga, Pugiphala
- Saka Varga-with 56 drugs e.g.: Kushmanda, Vastuka, Lasuna etc.
- Panadi Varga -(Drava Var ga) Jala, Ksheera, Tail . Mutra etc.
- Ikshukadi Varga-(Madhura Varga) Ikshu, Madhuka, Madu etc
- Dhanyaguna Varga- (Dhanya Varga)Cearls, pulses etc
- Dhanya KritannadiVarga (Kritanna Varga)- Yavagu, Peya, Vilepi etc..
- Mamsa Varga-different types of non-vegetarian foods.
- Mishraka Varga-Anupana, Dinacharya, Rutu charya etc.

RAJA NIGHANTU

- This book is known with the names- '**Abhidana Chudamani**' and '**Nighantu Raja**'.

- The author claims that this book is compiled after consulting works like **Dhanwantari Nighantu, Madanapala Nighantu, Halayudha Nighantu, Viswaprakasa Nighantu, Amarakosa, Bhojaraja Kosa.**
- Another important aspect is this work deals with names of the plants in various languages. Thus some named it as '**Dravyabhidana Gana Sangraha**'. But the author himself preferred the name 'Raja Nighantu' meaning that this is the king among various Nighantus.

Confusion regarding Author

There are two persons known as the authors of this work

1. ~~Narasimha Pandita-~~

- Cat.No. 231 BOIH.92611.887-91
- Cat .No. 13254 GOMM
- Cat.No. 11289 SMT
- Cat.No . 935 OMU 3398

2. Narahari-Cat.No. 205 MOIB 1587

- Cat.No . 1641 SMU
- Cat.No. CCS.
- Many consider that both the author are one and same.
- **Cat.No. 23 1 BORI also quotes Narasimha as NarahariPandita (Saka 1719).**
- **Therefore Narahari son of IswaraSuri is considered as the author of this work.** He was the chief administrator/king of the Kashmir dynasties.

DRAVYAGUNA IMPORTANCE AS PER RAJA NIGHANTU

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AÉrÉÑkÉç cÉ ÌuÉlÉÉ rÉÉåkSÉ xšÉrÉÉå
WûÉxÉxrÉ pÉÉeÉlÉqÉç II (R.N)

NOMENCLATURE OF DRAVYA & SYNONYMS

नामानि क्वचिदिह रुडितः प्रभावाद देश्योक्त्या क्वचन च
लाच्छनोपमाभ्याम् **I**

विर्येण क्वचिदिराह्वयादि देशाद् द्रव्याणां ध्ववमिति सप्तधोदितानि **II**
रा.नि

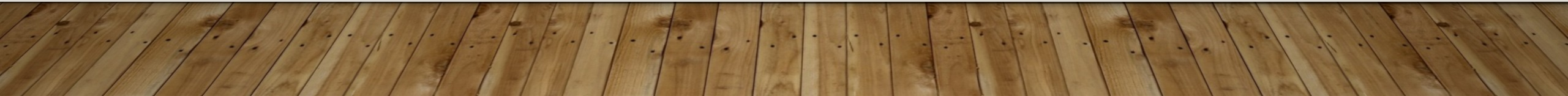
- **Roodi:-** (popularity in particular Area) – These names have no specific meaning but are used in certain areas.
-

EX:-Pacham pacha (Daruharidra), Kinihi (Apamarga)

- **Prabhava:-** Krimigna, Hayamara, Vishagana
- **Deshokta :-** (from particular place)Magadi,lanka, malayaja,vaidehi.
- **Lanchana (Special Feature)**Ajasringi,Danti ,Astisrankala
- **Upama:-** (Simili)Meshalochana, vanari, Shukanasa , Panchangula
- **Veerya:-** Ushana, ooshana, sheeta

- **Narahari** mentioned **Madana pala Nighantu(1374 AD)**. So his date may be assigned as 14 AD or beginning of 15 AD. He is after Amara Simha and Prof. H.H.Wilson puts him in '12-13 AD. It is also opined that he belongs to south as many names indicate the terms used in Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- For the first time Narahari gave first place to Dravyaguna among Ashtangas of Ayurveda.
- This is the first lexicon which recognized the importance of nomenclature of plants.

- He introduced many new plants. Being a learned physician and grammarian the 'material is well discussed and arranged. Therefore we can certify that "of all the Nighantus available at present, this is the best one."
- This text contains 23 Vargas. But only 10 Vargas (3 to 12 Vargas) are allotted for vegetable drugs i.e.; 780 herbs, excluding 74 drugs of uvarnadi varga\ . The remaining 13 Vargas deal with other general aspects and diet etc. The total Vargas are:
- (1)Anupadi (2) Bhumyapi (Dharanyadi) (3) Guduchyadi
- (4)Satahvadi (5) Parpatadi (6) Pippalyadi (7) Mulakadi (8) Salmalyadi
- (9)Praqhadradi (10) Karaveeradi (11) Amradi (12) Chandanadi
- (13)Suvarnadi (14) Paniyadi (15) Ksheeradi (16) Shalyadi (17) Mamsa
- (18) Manushyadi (19) Simhadi (20) Rogadi (21) Satlwadi (22) Misrakadi
- (23) Ekarthadi.



SOME WRITERS PLACE THIS TEXT EVEN LATER TO BHAVAPRAKASHA BASING UPON THE FOLLOWING POINTS

- Peeta Karaveera is described in this text but missing in Bhavaprakasa.
- Karpura tail, Taila Pipilika, Krishna beeja, Surakshara etc., described in Raja Nighantu are not found in Bhavaprakasa.
- Kulanjan is described in Raja Nighantu but it was called as Mahabhari Vacha in Bhavaprakasa.
- Raja Nighantu mentioned about Jhandu which is not there in Bhavaprakasa.
- Therefore Ra .Ni. is placed in and around 17 AD.

- The vargas possessing vegetable drugs are as following:
- 1. Guduchyadi or Valli Varga -creepers or climbers are present. It deals with Guduchi to Palasi - 52
- 2.Satahvadi varga -small shrubs are present. e.g. Satahva, Chakramarda Apamarga
- 3.Parpatadi varga -herbs are present e.g.: Parpati, Jeevaka, R shabhaka, "Brahmi, Kulutha etc -60 drugs
- 4.Pippalyadi varga - products of economic value are de scribed in it as Panyaoushaddhas e.g.: Hingu, Sunthi, Ela, Maricha etc. -95 drugs.

- 5. **Mulakadi or Sakavarga**- vegetables are present e.g.: roots, tubers leaves and fruits- 104 drugs.

- 6. **Shalmalyadi varga**- trees and grasses growing in forest areas are present. It deals with Shalmali to Hijjala -72 drugs.
- 7. **Prabhadradi or Vriksha varga** - mostly wild trees are present. e.g.: Agnimantha, Kutaja, Karanja, Bhurja etc. -65 drugs.
- 8. **Karaveeradi** - flowering plants are present. e.g.: Jasmine, lotus, Artemisia etc -86 drugs.
- 9. **Amradi Varga** - mostly fruits are described -109 drugs.
- 10. **Chandanadi Varga**- This is a class of aromatic plants -57 drugs.

-
- He divided the plants basically into four groups:

(i) Vanaspathi (ii) Vanaspathya (iii) Kshupa or Valli and (iv) Oushadhi.

- Some of the important drugs are:

Lingini, Somavalli, Amrita Srava, Dhumra Patra, Rudanti , Hasthi Sundi, Dugdha pheni, Jhandu, Kulanjar., Kaaraskara etc.

KAIYADEVA NIGHANTU

- This book is otherwise known as 'Pathya pathya Vibodhini'.
- Its author Kaiyadeva is the son .of 'Saranga' and grandson of Pandita Padmanabha.
- He is the author of another text-'Nama Ratnakara' which deals with synonyms of various herbs.
- It is assumed therefore that Kaiyadeva might have written this lexicon to mention the properties (Guna-Karmas) of the herbs described in his earlier text.

Conclusion regarding period of Author

- Though Ahiphena, Bhanga and Yasada were mentioned in the Chikitsa Grantha during 12 AD, Nighantus incorporated them during 13 AD.
- Kaiyadeva Nighantu do not possess Ahiphena. Bhanga is also reported in Dhanyn Varga. Seetalika, Soma roga are only described during 12 AD text These two are described under Vihara Varga in Kaiyadeva Nighantu
- Hence this book is definitely placed after 12 AD. It resembles Madanapala Nighantu in description style.
- Peeta Karaveera which is missing with Madanapala's book is present in Kaiyadeva nighantu.
- However Madanapala did mention about Sweta & Rakta varieties of Karaveera.
- P.K. Gode consider his period as earlier to 1450 AD.
- From these references it is desirable to place this text around 15 AD. Therefore many consider it as belonging to 1425-1450 AD.

- This text is divided into 9 Vargas. They are:

1. Oushadhi Varga 6. Mamsa Varga

2. Dhatu Varga 7. Vihara Varga

3. Dhanya Varga 8. Mishraka Varga

4. Drava Varga 9. Nanrtha Varga

5. Pakwanna Varga

- Under Oushadhi varga Madhu Karkati, Pinda kharjura, Kanta karanja, Babbula, Sinduri, Markandi etc. are described.
- Grinjana term is used as synonym for both carrot and onion.
- Mahanimba is considered to be Bakayana.
- Amla vetas is mentioned as Sakhamla.
- Revandachini's branch like material was used as Vrikshamla

PUBLICATION

- Acharya Surendra Mohan edited and published the first volume (Oshadhi Varga) through Meharchand Lakshmandas from Lahore in 1928.
- The editor quotes that the manuscript found in Mumbai is the best and complete.
- However Acharya P.V. Sharma opines that no manuscript is possessing 9th varga i.e.Nanartha Varga.

SHIVA KOSHA

- Its author **Shivadatta Mishra** belongs to a traditional Ayurvedic family and his father is famous Vaidya Chaturb huja Mishra.
- This text is composed of 540 verses. The Oushadha dravyas and their synonyms are described alphabetically in Sanskrit.
- The author claimed his work as '**Nanartha Oushadha Kosha**'. It is compiled on the basis *of* many lexicons of earlier times.
- He also wrote another book called '**Sanjna Samuchchaya**' (1719 AD) which deals with Nidana, Chikitsa and Dravyaguna .
- He also wrote a commentary on his own text Sivadatta Kosha with the name Siva Prakasa.
- This text was edited and published by Harshe R.G., of Deccan college, Pune in 1952.
- This book is written in 1677 AD.
- P.K. Gode concluded Sivadatta's period as **1625-1700•AD.**

DRAVYA GUNA SATAKA

- Its author is **Trimalla bhatta** . This book is also known as '**Dravya Guna Sata Sloki**'.

- His style resembles that of **Madana pala**.
- It mainly deals with diet substances.
- Initially the effect of tastes (Rasa) on doshas is discussed and there after subject matter is discussed in 15 vargas (Starting with Jala varga and ending with Suvarnadi varga).
- After including the concluding verse there are 102 verses in this text.
- Lead and Zinc are missing under the Suvarnadi varga.
- Carrot is given a new name 'Garjara' instead of 'Grinjana'.
- In Kritanna varga also several new items were included: e.g.: Puspavati, Kachavati, Jalavalivalaya etc.
- He also wrote another book called '**Yoga Tarangini**'.

ABHIDHANA RATNAMALA

- There is no indication about the author except some information in a manuscript found at Madras (Ms. No . D 13257 of Govt. Oriental Mss Library, Madras) which mention that the work is composed by a person who is the **elder brother of Chatura Rachita (Chatura Rakshita)**.
- As the famous commentator **Mallinatha (14 AD)** quoted about this work, it may be placed in **12-13 AD**.
- This text is otherwise known as '**Shadrasa Nighantu**'. It is less known in North India.

SUBJECT

- The subject matter is arranged in six chapters on the basis of taste (Rasa).
- The classification is mainly based upon Charaka & SusrutaSamhitas. At the chapter beginning a list of drugs which are going to be discussed are provided followed by one by one description with synonyms.
- As Rasa is the criteria of classification, vegetable, animal and mineral drugs are included in the respective taste groups.
- They are as following:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|
| • Madhura Skandha | 102 | drugs |
| • Amla. | 32 | drugs |
| • Lavana | 1 | drug |
| • Tikta " | 128 | drugs |
| • Katu | 70 | drugs |
| • Kashaya | 115 | drugs |

BHAVAPRAKASH NIGANTU

- Author – Bhavamisra son of Latakan Misra
- Period – 16-17th AD
- Text Included among Lagu trayas
- last popular & known text of Ayurveda

CONTENT

- Explained **22** groups of drugs
- 1. Haritakyadi 2. Karpooradi 3. Guduchyadi 4. Puspa 5. Phala 6. Vatadi 7. Dhatu 8. Danya 9. Shaka 10. Vari 11. Dugda 12. Dadhi 13. Takra 14. Navaneeta 15. Gratha 16. Mootra 17. Taila 18. Madhu 19. Ikshu 20. Sandhana 21. Mamsa 22. Kratanna
- Types of **Kasturi, Chmapka , Kadali, Karjoora , Kunkuma** explained.

RAJA VALLABHA NIGHANTU

- It was originally written by Rajavallabha Vaidya and later redacted by Narayana Dasa.

CONCLUSION REGARDING PERIOD

- Though the authors time is doubtful but he used some verses of Bhavamishra & Madana pala, Hence can be placed between 17 & 18 AD.
- The redactor Narayana Das belongs to 1760.

THIS TEXT IS CLASSIFIED INTO SIX CHAPTERS (6 PARICCHEDAS). IMPORTANCE IS GIVEN TO THE DRUGS USED IN DINACHARYA.

- Prathama Parichcheda - about Dinacharya (daily regimen)
- Dwitiya Parichcheda - about the Dravya varga.
- Tritiya Parichcheda - about Ahara etc.
- Chaturtha Parichcheda - about learning process & teaching.
- Panchama Parichcheda - about age groups, Brahma charya
- Shashtah Parichcheda - Nanoushadhi Varga

NIGHANTU RATNAKARA

- This text is written by Vishnu Vasandeva Godabole in 1867 AD.
- In this the Sanskrit verses have translated in Marathi language also.

SUBJECT

- The ~~subject matter is discussed under two parts viz.,~~
Prathama khanda & Dwitiya khanda.
- The first part (Guna Dosha Prakarana) deals with Dravyaguna aspects followed by Shareera, Ashta sthana Pariksha, Mana-Paribhasha, Rasa Sastra, Arka Prakasa, Ajeerna Manjari etc.
- The second part deals with Nidana and Chikitsa.

IMP DRUGS EXPLAINED

- Some of the important drugs mentioned in this text are:
Akara Karabha, Kakodumbara, Kulanjan, Kankushta,
Agnijara, Tuvaraka, TamraPatra, Karpurataila, Pudina,
Makhana, Raktanga, Rasakarpura, Rudanti, Seetaphala,
Nava Sadara etc.

SALIGRAMA NIGHANTU

- ~~This text is being considered as the last in the series of classical nighantus.~~
- It was written by Lala Saligrama Vaidya of Muradabad (U.P.)
It was completed in 1896 AD.
- He is the author of another book "Saligrama oushadha Sabda Sagara" and written commentaries on several books.

- This text is divided into two parts viz., **Purvartha (part-I)** and **Uttarartha (part ·II)**.
-

- **First part contains 23 Vargas:** (1) Karpuradi (2) Haritakyadi (3) Guduchyadi (4) Pushpa (5) Phala(6) Vatadi (7) Dhatupadhatu (8) Visha (9) Dhanya (10) Saka (11) Vari (12) Dugdha (13) Dadhi (14) Takra (15) Navanita (16) Ghrita (17) Mutra(18) Taila (19) Arka (20)Madhu (21) Ikshu (22) Sandhana (23) SankhyaVargas.

- **Second part possess** only two vargas viz., **Anupadi varga and Misraka varga.** At the end of the text an annexure is provided.

- The author mentioned about many new drugs brought to India by

MADANADI NIGHANTU

- This book is a glossary in Sanskrit and is written by **Chandranandana** son of Ravinandana and is often cited as an authority in lexicography by Ksheera Swamy.
- Text is also known as '**Guna Nighantu**'.
- The work is based upon several groups of drugs i.e., Ganas described in **Ashtanga Hridaya Sutra Sthana 15 chapt.**
- **As the text starts with Madanadi Gana it is named as Madanadi Nighantu.**
- Though it is claimed to possess 33 Ganas only 32 are available in the present text.
- Chandranandana is the son of Ravinandana and is often cited as an authority in lexicography by Ksheera Swamy.
- His time is fixed between **10-1 1 AD** on the basis of available evidences.

MAHOUSHADHA NIGHANTU

- It is written by **Aryadasa Kumara Singha** of Ceylone and published with Hindi commentary in 1971 from Varanasi.
- The subject matter is compiled after consulting several other nighantus and treatises.
- It consists of 7 vargas.
- Coffee, Tea etc. are also mentioned in this work.

ABHINAVA NIGHANTU

- It is written by' **Pandit Dattaram Choube** of Mathura.
- It mainly describes single drugs with their morphological features and pharmacological properties.

NIGHANTU SESA

- This text was written by ~~Jain Acharya Hemachandra~~ in ~~12 AD~~.
- It deals with synonyms mainly.
- There are six khandas (6 chapters) in this text :
- (1) Vriksha kanda (2) Gulma kanda (3) Lata kanda (4) Saka kanda (5) Trina kanda (6) Dhanya kanda.
- Some of the important drugs Rudraksha, Putranjeevaka , Chanaka Mulaka, Yavanala etc.

VANAUSHADHI DARSIKA

- Author of this book Thakur Balavant Singh claimed it as a guide
- to Himalayan herbs. It is compiled in 1950s.