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## **Review Article**

#### ROLE OF SHLESHMATAKADHYA AGAD IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DUSHI VISHA

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Article info	ABSTRACT
Article History:	Ayurveda is an ancient science that aims to maintain the good health and to cure the
Received: 24-11-2024	diseases and pathological conditions of human beings. <i>Agad tantra</i> is a branch of Ayurveda
Accepted: 16-12-2024	that deals with the <i>Visha</i> (poison), its associated symptoms along with its <i>Chikitsa</i>
Published: 10-01-2025	(management). In Agad tantra, concept of Viruddhahara (incompatible food/diet), Gara
<b>KEYWORDS</b> :	Visha (concocted poison) and Dushi Visha (denatured/latent poison) has been explained in
Ayurveda, Dushi	detail that contributes to the leading reasons for the occurrence of toxicity related disorders
visha,	or disease. Most of the diseases are caused due to unconventional etiology for which <i>Agad</i>
Shleshmatakadhya	<i>tantra</i> comes into focus. To combat the poisonous effect, various <i>Agad Yogas</i> are mentioned
Agad	in Visha Chikitsa grantha to counteract all types of poisons (Sthawara, Jangama, Kritima
Viruddhahara,	visha, Gara visha, Dushi visha). Shleshmatakadhya Agad is one of the Yoga mentioned in
Agad.	Yogaratanakar as a Sarva- vishanashanam under Visha Chikitsa. Shleshmatakadhya agad
	contains Shleshmatak, Apamarga, Guduchi, Nripdruma, Kantakari and Brihati. This article
	highlights the role of <i>Shleshmatakadya agad</i> , an antitoxic formulation to conquer diseases
	due to unconventional etiology in current scenario.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Agad tantra is one of the branches of Ashtanga Ayurveda that deals with the study of poisons, its action, clinical manifestation, diagnosis of acute, chronic, cumulative toxicity (Dushi visha) and its treatment. Dushi visha (cumulative toxicity) can be interpreted as denatured or latent poison. Acharya Sushruta and Vagbhatta described Dushi visha (cumulative toxicity) as any kind of poison originating from animate or inanimate sources or any artificial poison (Kritima Visha) retained in the body after partial expulsion or which has provisionally undergone detoxification by the anti- poisonous drugs, forest fire, the wind or the sun in termed latent poison (Dushi Visha). The Visha stays in the body for a long duration without producing any symptoms.<sup>[1]</sup>



Any poison that lacks the ten inherent characteristics of *Visha* (poison) and is unable to cause acute poisoning symptoms is referred to as *Dushi visha* (cumulative toxicity). It is stated that delayed action is caused by low strength of all ten *Visha* attributes. Due to low potency of poison and *Avaran* (enveloping) action of *Kapha dosha*, these poisons remain in the body for a prolonged duration without producing any fatal symptoms. <sup>[2]</sup>

In the present time, there are so many poisonous materials that get accumulated in the body of a person in their daily activities. These substances include metals, metallic compound, chemicals, pesticides, preservative, colouring agent, cosmetic agent, food additives, radiation and other pollutants. Over a billion humans have been exposed to high levels of toxic metals and metalloids in the environment<sup>[3]</sup>. These metals can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation or dermal contacts. Once they enter inside the body, they accumulate in various organs and tissues leading to various health issues and causing adverse effects on the nervous system, reproductive system, immune system and so on. There are different treatment protocols explained in the classical text for the management of *Dushi visha* (Cumulative toxicity). *Shleshmatakadhya Agad* is one of the *Agad yoga* mentioned in *Yogaratanakar* as a *Sarva-vishanashanam* under *Visha Chikitsa*<sup>[4]</sup>. To understand the mode of action of this formulation and to justify its efficacy, a comprehensive scientific review work is a pre-requisite. Thus, an effort has been made to review the said formulation to encourage its use in various poisoning condition.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Through this paper an attempt has been made to understand the properties and *Rasa Panchak* of all the ingredients of *Shleshmatakadhya Agad* in detail.

## **Review of Literature**

Dushi Visha is any poison, whether it be Sthawar (inanimate), Jangam (animate). or Kritim Visha (artificial), that has not been entirely removed from the body or rendered partially ineffective by antipoisonous remedies and that has lost its effectiveness as a result of exposure to environment factors such as fire, wind, sun, etc. Furthermore, the Visha is devoid of ten qualities. This Dushi visha does not cause any immediate fatality because of low potency and remains inside the body for several years, that is covered by Kapha<sup>[5]</sup>. Similarly, Vagbhatta in his Ashtanga Hridaya stated that, when toxin becomes chronic inside the body, and after taking *Vishaghna* medicine, its potency and effect become weak or decreases after exposure to fire (heat), forceful wind or sun. At that time toxins lose its properties and become inactive. This type of poison is known as *Dushi Visha* <sup>[6]</sup>. Acharva Cakrapanidatta explain that such kinds of toxins which shows its toxic effect in the body after prolonged exposure is called *Dushi Visha*. It remains in an inactive state for a long period and that can extend for years. Sharangdhar has mentioned Dushi Visha is a kind of *Kritim Visha* <sup>[7]</sup>. Hence, all types of poison being *Dushi* Visha, when natural qualities of poison diminish and becomes less potency.

### Factors Aggravating the Effect of Dushi Visha

Polluted land (*Dooshita desha*), deranged seasons (*Kala*), toxic food (*Anna*) and daytime sleep (*Diwaswapna*) are factors that aggravate latent poison

(*Dushi Visha*). These conditions have the potential to exacerbate an existing latent poison (*Dushi Visha*). Commutators *Dalhana* has explained these symptoms in detail <sup>[8]</sup>.

**Polluted Land**: Wet, watery or humid land (*Anupa Desha*) with high rainfall, chilly temperature, and lots of wind can be referred to as polluted land (*Dushita Desha*). Such land (*Anupa Desha*) influences on humors *Kapha* and *Vata*, and leads to aggravation of poison (*Visha*) is enfeebled by humor *Kapha*.

**Deranged atmosphere**: Cloudy days (*Durdina*) and chilly wind (*Sheet Anila*) are two aspects of *Kala* that may be related to latent poison (*Dushi Visha*). Rain makes body moist (*Klinna*), cold air reduce the power of digestion (*Pachakagni*) i.e., metabolism or detoxification is deranged and may lead to aggravation of both *Kapha* and *Vata Dosha*.

Toxic or harmful food: Alcohol, sesame oil and horse gram, hot (Teekshna), Vidahi Dravvas and unwholesome meals are example of Food (Anna) that naturally aggravates *Pitta Dosha*. Additionally other aggravating circumstances that influence both the body and mind, such as wrath, sexual indulgence, exercise, etc, can also exacerbate latent poison (Dushi *Visha*). Hence these factors can be further classified as Aharaja (the factors concerned to food like Sura (alcohol), Tila (sesame), etc.), Viharaja- the factors concerned to activities like exercise, over strain etc. and Kalaja (seasonal factors such as wetland, chilly weather, cloudy weather etc). They can be divided into two categories based on the body and mind: somatic (Shareerika) factors which are related to the body and psychic (Manasika) element, which are related to the mind. Once more, these secondary causal variables fall into two general categories: Exogenous (external components) and Endogenous (internal components). While exogenous influences include seasonal (Kalaja) and lifestyle dependent (*Viharaja*) factors, endogenous factors include comprise of psychic (Manasika) and nutritional (Aharaja) factors.

#### Sign and Symptoms (Lakshana)

According to various classical texts, different kinds of clinical features of *Dushi Visha* have mentioned in table no. 1

Diwaswapnaj		ate latent poison				
Charaka Samhita <sup>[9]</sup>	Sushruta Samhita <sup>[10]</sup>	Astanga Samgraha <sup>[11]</sup>	Astanga Hridaya <sup>[12]</sup>	Bhavaprakash	Yogaratnakar <sup>[14]</sup>	
Rakta dushti	Avipaka	Bhinna purisha Bhinna purisha Bhinna p		Bhinna purisha	Bhinna purisha varna, Annamada	
Vrana	Arochak	Bhinna varna	Bhinna varna	Bhinna varna	Mukha dauragandhya	
Kitiba	Annamada	Rakta dushty Rakta dushty		Vigandhi	Arochak, Avipaka	
Kotha	Mandala	Trik	Trik	Vairasya	Mandala	
	Kotha	Arocaka	Arocaka	Pipasi	Kotha	

Moha	Ayur. Pharma Res Moorcha	Moorcha	Moorcha	Tikshna, Moha
 Padha Sopha (swelling of lower extremities)	Vami	Vami	Vami	Vamana, Atisara
Kara Sopha (swelling of upper extremities)	Gadgadavak	Gadgadavak	Bhrama	Mamsa kshaya
Ashya Sopha (swelling of oral cavity)	Moha	Moha	Vicheshta	
Dakodara (ascites)	Dooshyodara	Dooshyodara	Arati (restlessness)	
Chardi (emesis)				
Atisara (diarrhea)				
Vaivarnya				
Moorcha (fainting)				
Vishamajwara				
Trishna (thirstiness)				
Unmada (psychosis)				
Aanaha (distention of abdomen)				
Sukrakshaya	alof http:	ijapr.in An		
Gadgadya	5			
Kustha	<u>SN</u>			

#### Ingredients

The ingredients of *Shleshmatakadhya Agad* are mentioned in the Table no 2.

 Table 2: Ingredients of Shleshmatakadhya Agad [15, 16]

Drug	Latin Name	Family	<b>Chemical Constituents</b>	Part Used
Shleshmatak	Cordia dichotoma Forst.	Boraginaceae	Flavonoids, saponins, terpenes, sterols	Twak
Apamarga	Achyranthes aspera Linn	Amarathaceae Potash, betaine, saponins, achyran		Panchang
Guduchi	<i>Tinospora cardifolia</i> wall.ex Seringe	Menispermaceae	Berberine, giloin, tinosporol, cordifolide	Kaand
Nripdruma <sup>[16]</sup>	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn	Fabaceace	Tannin, gulutin, pectin, anthraquinone, calcium-oxalate.	Twak
Kantakari	Solanum surattense Burm.F	Solanaceae	Saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, diosegenin	Panchang
Brihati	Solanum indicum Linn. S Ferox L	Solanaceae	Solanine, solanidine, tannin, saponins.	Panchang

## **Method of Preparation**

All the drugs mentioned in the formulation will be taken in equal quantity, cleaned and dried individually. A fine powder of all the ingredients will be made and then mixed to form a homogeneous mixture.

## Administration of Shleshmatakadhya Agad

This *Agad* can be administered in the form of powder (*Churna*) for internal use.

#### Dose of Shleshmatakadhya Agad [17]

Reference regarding the dosage of *Shleshmatakadhya agad* is not seen in Ayurvedic literature. As per *Sharangdhar Samhita*, dosage and time of administration of the human dose of *Churna Kalpana* is said to be 1 *Karsh* (12gm) per day.

### Probable Action of Shleshmatakadhya Agad

It is having indication as *Sarva-vishanashanam* i.e., it relieves all type of poisoning and their associated symptoms. *Shleshmatakadhya agad* possesses all the necessary action like, *Kapha- pitta shamak, Rasayana, Bhedana, Deepana, Pachana, Lekhana* etc. The properties of the formulation can be understood by properties of individual ingredients.

Table no 3. Properties of ingredients [18, 19]

Drug	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Karma
Shleshmatak	Madhur	Guru,	Sheeta	Madhur	Kapha-Pitta Shamak
	(sweet)	Snigadha,	(cold)	(sweet)	Vishahara
		Pichila			Pachana (digestive)
					<i>Krimighna</i> (anti-helminthic)
					Vrana Ropana (wound healing)
					Jantughna (anti-microbial)
					Madhumehanaska (anti-diabetics)
					Yakritauttejak (hepatoprotective)
Apamarga	<i>Tikta</i> (bitter),	Laghu,	Ushna	Katu	Kapha-Vata Shamak
npuntargu	Katu	Ruksha,	(hot)	(pungent)	Vishaghna
	(pungent)	Tikshna	(not)	(pungenc)	Pachana (digestive)
	(1	1.5	AVUI	Ved	Vedanashapana (analgesic)
			of http://ij	apr.in an	Vamaka
			St Ca	S No	Nephroprotective
		le l			Yakritauttejak (hepatoprotective)
		al		MAN	Diuretic
		ioY		E S	Shoth hara (anti-inflammatory)
Guduchi	Kashaya	Laghu,	Ushna	Madhur	Tridosh Shamak
Guuucm	(astringent),	Snigdha	(hot)	(sweet)	Rasayana (rejuvenating)
	Tikta	Siligunu		(Sweet)	Yakritauttejak (hepatoprotective)
	(pungent)				Immuno- modulatory activity
	(pungent)				Hrudhya (cardio-protective)
					Jantughna (anti-microbial)
Natio danana a	Madhur	Mridu	Sheeta	Madhur	Vata-Pitta Shamak
Nripdruma					
	(sweet)	Guru Spiadha	(cold)	(sweet)	Yakritauttejak (hepato-protctive)
		Snigdha			Jantughna (anti-microbial)
					Jwarahara (anti-pyretic) Shoth hara (anti-inflammatory)
					Raktashodhaka (blood purifier)
					Ama Sanshodhana (eliminates Ama)
77 , 1 ,	IZ l	I	II-less a	V.	Anulomana (laxative)
Kantakari	Katu	Laghu,	Ushna	Katu (nun gont)	Kapha-Vata Shamak
	(pungent), <i>Tikta</i> (bitter)	Ruksha, Tikshna	(hot)	(pungent)	Deepana (appetizer)
		11K5/1/10			Pachana (digestive)
					Jwaraghna (anti-pyretic)
					Yakritauttejak (hepato-protective)
					Vedanasthapana (analgesic)
					<i>Mootrala</i> (diuretic)
					Shoth hara (anti-inflammatory)
					Raktashodhaka (blood purifier)
					Shwasahara (bronchodilator)

Brihati	<i>Katu</i> (pungent), <i>Tikta</i> (bitter)	Laghu, Rukshna	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)	Kapha-Vata Shamak Yakritauttejak (hepatoprotective)	
					Anti-hypertensive activity Anti-oxidant, Anti-bacterial	

## DISCUSSION

Acharya Yogaratanakar indicated Shleshmatakadhya Agad in Sarva-vishanashanam as one of the potent formulations to treat all the modalities related to all type of poisoning and their associated symptoms. Majority of drugs present in Shleshmatakadhya Agad are Ushna in Veerya, Katu-Tikta in Rasa. Hence, they show Kapha-vatashamaka, Amadoshara, Vishaghna properties.

**Shleshmatak** is described by Acharya Charaka as one of the drugs in Vishaghna Mahakashaya. Shleshmataka from which the name of drug is derived is Shleshmanashka i.e., Kapha shamak (Shleshma in our literature is taken similar to Kapha). Hepato and nephro toxicity is a Kapha-pittajvyadhi and thus Shleshmataka helps in preventing it by being Kapha-Pitta shamaka and Vishaghna.

Apamarga is Teekshna in Guna that has capacity and strength to expel vitiated *Doshas* and waste substances from the body. *Kapha* is naturally dull and slow acting in nature and *Teekshna guna* is opposite to *Kapha* and its quality, especially dullness. Hence it mitigates the vitiated *Kapha* from the body which basically improves Agnimandva and Srotorodha and eventually curing Dushi Vishajanyayakrit and Vrikka roga. Several pharmacological properties of Achyranthes aspera has been tested viz., immunity enhancing activity, in inflammation, in arthritis, as hypoglycemic, as cardiac stimulant and against leprosy. The collyrium prepared with flower of *Apamarga* is useful in *Praklinnavartma* (eyelid disease)<sup>[20]</sup>. Diarrhoea and dysentery can be treated in their early stages by decocting powdered leaves with honey or sugar sweets <sup>[21]</sup>. The pulverized plant is used to treat pneumonia after being heated in water. A mild astringent is produced by infusing the root. In order to treat night blindness and cutaneous condition, the flowering spikes or seeds are pulverized and combined with water to create a paste that may be applied externally to snake and reptile bites [22]. Additionally, the plant is used to cure a variety of conditions, including asthma, bleeding, in facilitating delivery, boils, bronchitis, cold, cough, colic, debility, dropsy, dog bite, dysentery, ear complications, headache, leucoderma, pneumonia, renal complications, scorpion bite, snake bite and skin condition etc [23].

**Guduchi** has Tikta-Kashaya rasa and Ushna veerya with Tridosha shamaka, Amahara, Vamihara, Mehahara, Panduhara and Rasayana Karmas. Guduchi is one among the four drugs of Medhya Rasayana which has anxiolytic and tranquilizing effect, which helps to maintain the mental health of human being. Regular consumption promotes strength, Agni, complexion, voice, and sickness alleviation. In hepato-nephro toxicity, the toxins produced that damage the liver and kidney can be rejuvenated by Rasayana property of Guduchi. Hence, it proves to be a potent hepatonephroprotective in its effect. Guduchi with its wide range of actions and abundant components is a real treasure among herbal drug sources. Medicinal applications of *Guduchi* in counteracting various disorders and its usage as anti-oxidant, antihyperglycaemic. anti-hyper lipidemic, hepatoprotective, cardiovascular protective, neuroprotective, osteoprotective. radioprotective. anti-anxiety. adaptogenic/stress-response modifiers, analgesic. anti-inflammatory, anti-pyretic, anti-diarrheal, antiulcer, anti-microbial and anti-cancer have been well established. A special emphasis has been made on its health benefits in treating various metabolic disorders and its potential as an immune booster.

It is described under "*Tikta-Shakavarga*" in *Sushruta Samhita* and is said to be effective in curing the *Aruchi* (anorexia), *Kushtha* (leprosy), *Mahajvara* (a type of fever), and *Shwasa* (asthma). In other treaties, *Charaka Samhita* and *Ashtang Hridaya* has indicated diseases like *Kamala* (jaundice), *Jwara* (fever) and *Vatarakta* (gout) etc<sup>[24-25]</sup>. In *Bhavprakash*, it is considered as a bitter tonic, astringent, diuretic and potent aphrodisiac and curative against skin infections, jaundice, diabetes and chronic diarrhoea and dysentery <sup>[26]</sup>.

Nripdruma (Amaltas) possesses Madhur rasa (sweet taste), *Sheeta veerya* (cool potency), *Madhur* (sweet) vipaka and Guna (properties) such as Guru (heavy), Snigdha (unctuous) and Mridu (soft). Due to these properties, Amaltas is described as useful in diseases like Amavata (rheumatoid arthritis), Vatarakta (gout), Kandu (purities), Kushtha (skin diseases), Kamala (jaundice), Mutra krichhra (dysuria), Raktapitta (blood disorders), Hridroga (cardiovascular diseases) etc [27] and it is said to be Mridu Virechaka and Udarashoolahara which helps to relieve the vibandha and udarshoola symptoms of Dushi vishajanya yakrit and Vrikka roga. Amaltas is sheeta veerya and Pitta-Kapha hara in Dosha karma that clearly indicates to be helpful in improving our Kapha-Pitta Janya vyadhi. It has also been studied to be Hepato- nephroprotective, effective in jaundice and other inflammatory disorders. The plant possesses antipyretic and analgesic properties, making it a valuable medicinal herb.

Because plant parts include fiber and mucilage content, it has been found that they may be employed as a medicinal agent to treat hypercholesterolemia.

Kantrari has Katu-Tika rasa; Ruksha, Laghu, Teekshna guna, Ushna veerya. Guru, Snigdha and Manda guna is natural quality of Kapha while Laghu, Ruksha and Teekshna are opposite qualities of them respectively. Any food or medicine possessing Laghu, Ruksha, Teekshna quality mitigates Kapha thus helps in healing Dushi vishajanya Yakrit and Vrikka roga. Kantakari also has karma like Aruchihara, Amadoshhara and Agnikrut which helps to cure Agnimandya that leads to the occurrence of Dushi visha and cures the symptoms like Aruchi, Avipaka etc. thus preventing the disease.

Brihati has Katu-Tikta rasa and Ushna veerva which act on the vitiated Kapha that causes Mandagni and *Srotorodha*, helping to cure the further vitiated *Vata* and end of the fat deposition cycle causing *Yakrita* and Vrikkaroga. It is also known to be Chardihara, Amadoshahara, Deepana, Paachana, Arochakahara and *Mandagnihara* in its *Karmas* that relieve the symptoms like Hrillas evam chardii. Avipaka, Aruchi and Asva *vairasva* hence curing the disease of liver and kidneys. It is used in vitiated conditions of Vata, Pitta and Kapha and cures vomiting, heart diseases, poisonous effect, skin diseases, ulcers, difficult breathing and abdominal pain. Whole plant act as a digestive and diuretic fruit useful in liver and spleen enlargement and leaves act as haemostatic. This formulation helps in relieving the symptoms of poisoning because of its multifold properties.

## CONCLUSION

Dushi visha is a condition where a toxic substance remains in the body for an extended period without causing immediate symptoms or death. In this mainly Kapha avaran (Kapha enveloping) is seen, hence *Kaphahara* treatment should be adopted as well as to remove the Avaran (enveloping). Shleshmatakadhya Agad is the medicine of choice for the management of *Dushi visha* (cumulative toxicity) by Acharya Yogratnakar. It is the herbal formulation where the majority of the ingredients mainly have Kaphahara, Rasavan and Vishaahna (antipoisonous) properties. In this modernized world, we are exposed to a wide range of environmental factors including radiation, chemicals, preservatives and pollutants that can contribute to cumulative toxicity of and increase the risk various diseases. Shleshmatakadhya agad can be used in everv individual as a preventive and curative measure as people are consuming *Dushi visha* in different forms on day-to-day basis. Most of the drugs are Ushna veerya (hot potency) and *Katu vipaka* hence they will quickly act as a Prativisha (antidote) in Dushi visha. Shleshmatakadhya Agad, being traditionally used for countering toxins, likely enhances liver detoxification

processes, potentially by modulating cytochrome P450 enzymes (CYPs) which are involved in the metabolism of foreign substances and toxins. Increased CYP activity would support the body's ability to clear toxins effectively. *Shleshmatakadhya agad* helps in lowering the oxidative stress on the body by scavenging free radicals, an essential step in minimizing toxicity induced cellular damage.

From this review, clear it is that Shleshmatakadhya agad comprises a variety of Dravya's with anti-toxic, hepato-protective, antimicrobial, anti-diabetic, diuretic, anti-itching, antiinflammatory. anti-helmenthic and anti-pyretic qualities. Along with a comprehensive understanding of *Shleshmatakadhya agad* as a whole, an attempt has been made to present a collective knowledge of all of its constituents on therapeutic, pharmacological and medicinal uses of its review. Due to the actions and properties of its ingredients, it can be useful in poisoning condition to give symptomatic relief. Further research work might be helpful to explore its exact mode of action and to use the formulation as a whole in poisoning condition.

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