



Review Article

A CRITICAL REVIEW ON *DRAKSHADI AGADA*

Arya S Pillai^{1*}, Seemaja G²

*1PG Scholar, ²Associate Professor, Department of Agadatantra, Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

Article info

Article History:

Received: 11-01-2026

Accepted: 20-02-2026

Published: 26-03-2026

KEYWORDS:

Drakshadi agada,
Mandali visha,
Susruta Samhita.

ABSTRACT

Agadatantra, one among the eight branches of Ayurveda deals with various type of toxic substances like inanimate, animate, concocted and delayed toxicities even from environmental pollution as well. Among the animate or animal poisons, snakebite poisoning is more common and significant as the condition requires emergency care. Snakebite is a neglected public health issue in many tropical and subtropical countries. Snake venom is a heterogenous and complex mixture of proteins, amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates, metal ions and other compounds. Depending on the snake, type of venom and the amount of venom delivered, snake venom produces a number of effects on human beings. Many *Agada yogas* have been mentioned in the classical text books for the management of *Sarpa visha*. *Drakshadi agada* is one such formulation mentioned by *Acharya Susruta* in *Susruta Samhita Kalpa sthana* 5th chapter in the context of *Mandali visha chikitsa*. An attempt is made here to analyze the probable mode of action of *Drakshadi agada* in *Mandali visha*.

INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra is one among the eight branches of Ayurveda which encompasses the symptoms and treatment of many types of poisoning. This branch deals with the diagnosis and treatment of various types of poisonings such as bites by snakes, insects, spiders, rats etc and also the treatment of the various types of mobile and immobile poisons. Among the different types of animal poisoning, the envenomation produced due to snakes are much significant due to the fatality and emergencies produced by the same. *Susruta* had enumerated that the terrestrial snakes are of eighty in number and they can be divided into five types such as *Darveekara*, *Mandali*, *Rajimanta*, *Nirvisha* and *Vaikaranja*. *Mandali Sarpas* are those having large body, variegated with various types of circular marks, slowly moving and lustrous like fire and sun.

These snakes aggravate *Pitta dosha* in the body. *Drakshadi agada* is a formulation mentioned in the context of *Mandali visha chikitsa* for the pacification of symptoms.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This paper is an attempt to make a review on the formulation *Drakshadi agada*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Review of Literature

Drakshadi agada is mentioned under the treatment of *Mandali visha* in *Susruta Samhita Kalpasthana*.

Drakshadi Agada

It is one of the *Agada yogas* mentioned by *acharya Susruta* in *Susruta Samhita Kalpa sthana* 5th chapter, *Sarpadashta visha chikitsitham kalpam*.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code



<https://doi.org/10.47070/ijapr.v14i3.4018>

Published by Mahadev Publications (Regd.)
publication licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0
International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Table 1: Ingredients of *Drakshadi agada* with botanical name, family, parts used and proportion taken in Yoga

S.no	Drug name	Botanical name	Family	Part used	Proportion taken in yoga
1	<i>Draksha</i>	<i>Vitis vinifera</i> Linn.	Vitaceae	Dried fruit	1
2	<i>Sugandha</i>	<i>Rauwalfia serpentina</i> Benth ex. Kutz	Apocyanaceae	Root	1
3	<i>Nagavrttika</i>	<i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb. ex Colebr	Burseraceae	Oleo gum resin	1
4	<i>Swetha</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> Linn.	Fabaceae	Root	1
5	<i>Samanga</i>	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> Linn.	Mimosaceae	Whole plant	1
6	<i>Surasa</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> Linn.	Lamiaceae	Leaves	2
7	<i>Kapitha</i>	<i>Limonia acidissima</i> Linn	Rutaceae	Leaves	2
8	<i>Bilwa</i>	<i>Aegel marmelos</i> Linn. Corr	Rutaceae	Leaves	2
9	<i>Dadima</i>	<i>Punica granatum</i> Linn.	Punicaceae	Leaves	2
10	<i>Sita sindhuvara</i>	<i>Vitex negundo</i> Linn.	Verbinaceae	Root	½
11	<i>Ankola</i>	<i>Alangium Salvifolium</i> (Linn.f.) Wang.	Alangiaceae	Root	½
12	<i>Gairika</i>	<i>Red ochre</i>			½

Table 2: Ingredients of *Drakshadi agada* and its properties

S.No	Drug	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Karma
1	<i>Draksha</i>	Madhura	Snigdha, Guru	Seetha	Madhura	Vata- pittahara, Brmhana, Virechanopaga
2	<i>Sugandha</i>	Tikta	Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Kapha-Vatahara, Nidrajanaka
3	<i>Nagavrttika</i>	Madhura, Katu, Tikta	Guru, Teekshna, Snigda	Ushna	Madhura	Kaphapittahara, Vatahara, Raktastambhahara
4	<i>Swetha</i>	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Seetha	Katu	Tridosha Shamana, Pittopadravanashini, Vishadoshaghni
5	<i>Samanga</i>	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Seetha	Katu	Kapha-pittahara, Sandhaniya, Puresha Sangrahaneya
6	<i>Surasa</i>	Katu, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Kapha-Vatahara, Deepana, Krimighna
7	<i>Kapitha</i>	Madhura, Amla, Kashaya	Laghu	Seetha	Madhura	Pittavatahara, Sangrahi, Vrananashaka
8	<i>Bilwa</i>	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Vata-kaphahara, Deepana, Pachana, Grahi
9	<i>Dadima</i>	Kashaya, Madhura, Amla	Laghu, Snigda	Ushna	Madhura /Amla	Tridosahara, Hrdya, Grahi
10	<i>Sita sindhuvara</i>	Katu, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Vatakaphahara, Krimighna, Vranaropana
11	<i>Ankola</i>	Tikta, Katu,	Laghu, Snigda,	Ushna	Katu	Kapha-vatahara, Brmhana,

		<i>Kashaya</i>	<i>Teekshna</i>			<i>Vishaghna</i>
12	<i>Gairika</i>	<i>Madhura, Kashaya</i>	<i>Snigda, Vishada</i>	<i>Seetha</i>	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Pittanashaka, Vranaropana, Kaphajith</i>

Method of preparation

All the ingredients in the formulation are taken in the prescribed quantity; cleaned, washed, dried and then made into fine powder form and stored in airtight containers. Purification of *Gairika choorna* can be done by the method of *Bhavana* in cow’s milk. During the time of administration, *Agada* is mixed with honey.

Analysis

Diagram 1: Analysis of Rasa of ingredients of Drakshadi agada

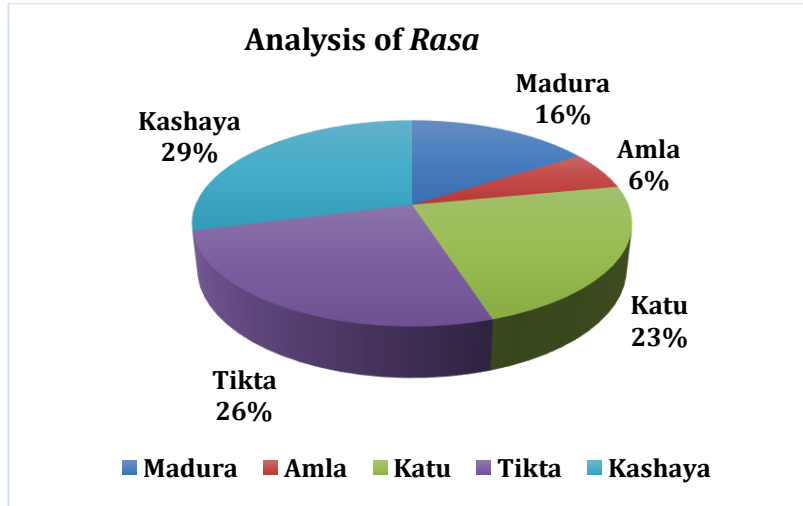


Diagram 2: Analysis of Guna of ingredients of Drakshadi agada

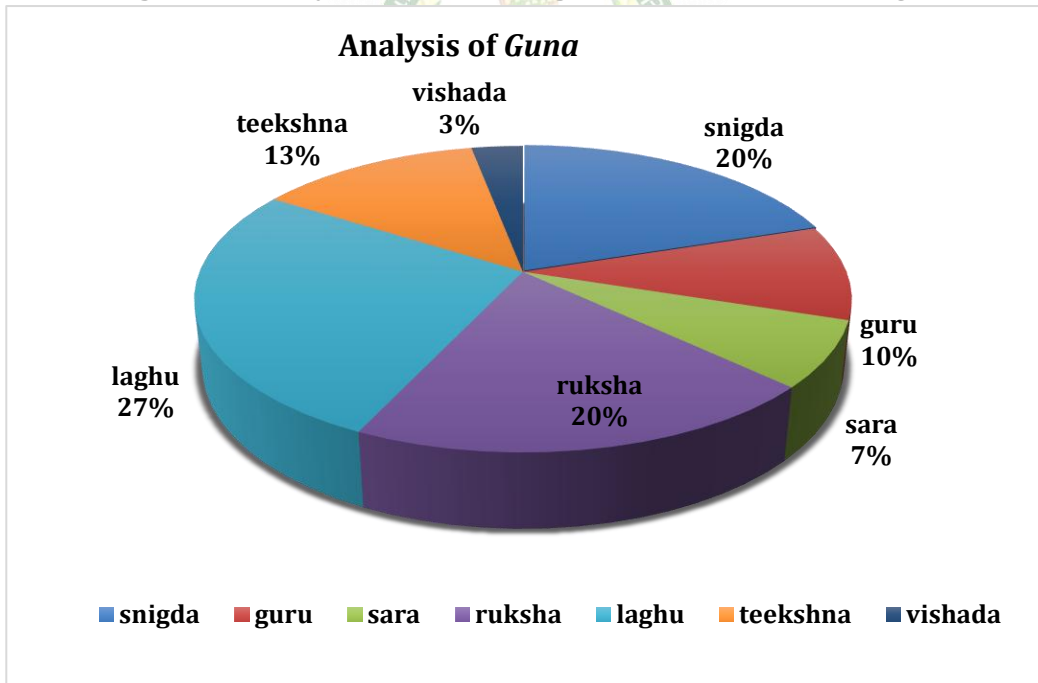


Diagram 3: Analysis of Veerya of ingredients of Drakshadi agada

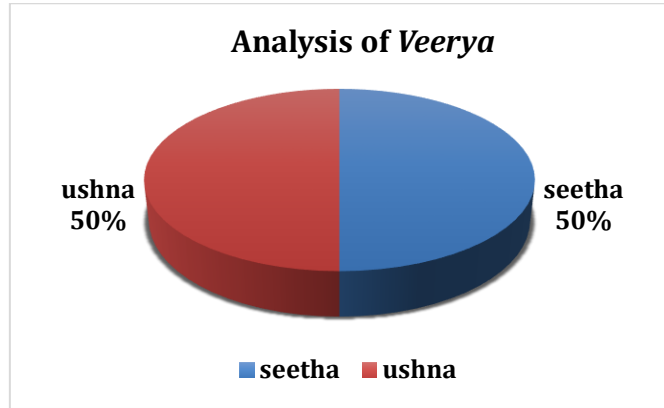


Diagram 4: Analysis of Vipaka of ingredients of Drakshadi agada

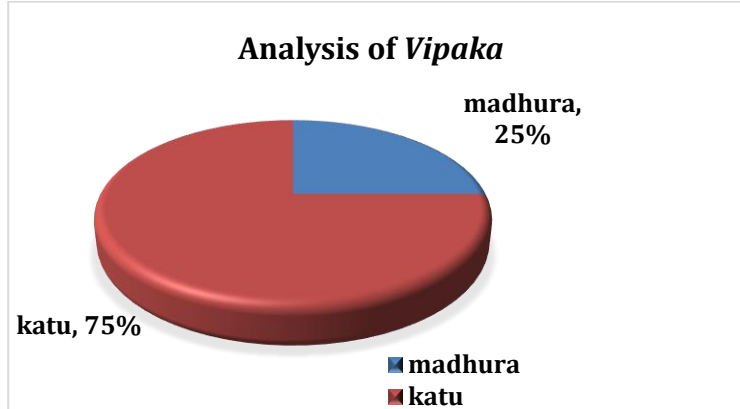
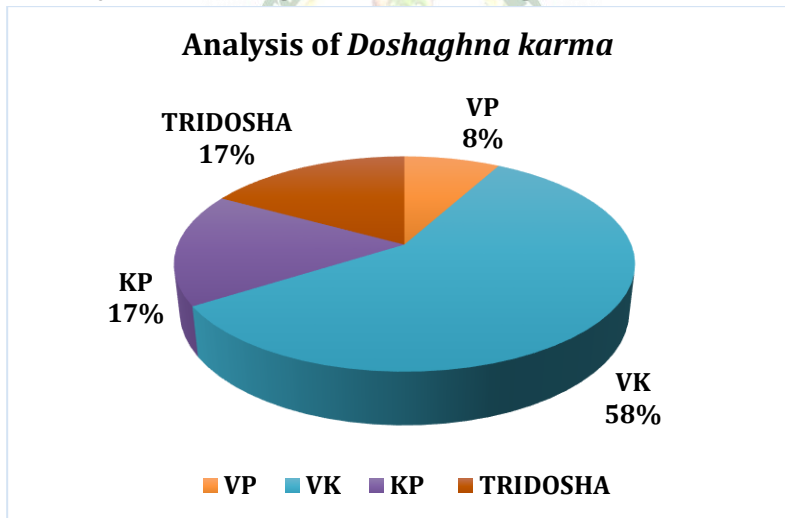


Diagram 5: Analysis of Doshaghna karma of ingredients of Drakshadi agada



DISCUSSION

A large number of formulations have been mentioned in our classics which includes *Kashaya, Choorna, Kalka* etc. But many of these formulations are not made use of by the practitioners. This may be due to the doubt arising in the safety of the drug or due to the lack of confidence or due to the lack of practical experience etc. A major group of the formulations which are not used like this are the *Agada yogas* mentioned in *Visha chikitsa* for the treatment of various types of snake bites. Most of these *Agada yogas* are very potent medicines which can be used not only in the concerned poisonings but also in other conditions similar to it. *Drakshadi*

agada is one such herbo mineral preparation which is not widely used in the clinical practice. By thoroughly understanding the mode of action of this *Agada yoga*, it can be used in other conditions similar to the pathology of *Mandali visha*.

Drakshadi agada consist of 12 drugs and the *Anupana* of the *Yoga* is *Madhu*. On analysing the *Rasa* of ingredients, 29% of the ingredients constitute *Kashaya rasa*, 26% of them constitute *Tikta rasa*. 23% of them constitute *Katu rasa*, 16% *Madhura rasa* and 6% *Amla rasa*. *Kashaya, Katu* and *Tikta* are the *rasas* which pacify *Pitta dosha*. *Kashaya rasa* is *Stambhaneeya, Sandhaneeya, Vrana ropaka*.

Tikta rasa is *Vishaghna*, *Krimighna*, it cures *Daha*, *Murcha*, *Trishna* etc. *Laghu guna* constitutes about 27% in this formulation which have wound healing property which aids in bite cases. On considering *Veerya*, out of the twelve drugs, six are having *Ushna veerya* and the rest of them possess *Setha veerya*. *Seetha veerya* of the drugs are antagonistic to *Pitta* and *Rakta*. 75% of the drugs in the formulation constitutes *Katu vipaka*.

CONCLUSION

Ingredients present in the formulation act against *Pitta pradhana tridoshas* thereby pacify the *Mandali visha lakshanas*. *Jwaraghna*, *Sothahara*, *Dahahara*, *Murchahara* etc., properties of the formulation aid in counteracting the *Sarpa visha lakshanas*. Hence *Drakshadi agada* is a potent anti-poisonous formulation which may be used in other clinical conditions with *Pitta pradhana tridosha dushti* also. In order to understand the efficacy of the formulation further experimental and clinical studies are required

REFERENCES

1. Susruta, Susruta Samhita, Translated by K R Srikantha Murthy, Chowkambha Orientalia, Reprint 2010, Vol II, Kalpa sthana.
2. Indian Medicinal Plants, Vaidyaratnam P.S Varier's Arya vaidyasala, Kottakkal, University Press, India, Reprint edition 2010.
3. The Ayurvedic Pharmacopeia of India. New Delhi: Govt. of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dept. of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy; 2008.
4. J L N Sastry, Dravyaguna Vijnana, Chaukhamba Orientalia, 3rd edition 2006, Varanasi, Vol 2.
5. Dr.S.D.Kamat. Studies on medicinal plants & drugs in Dhanvantari-Nighantu, Chaukhamba Sanskrit Pratishthan. 2002.
6. Prof.Priyavata Sharma & Dr.Guru Prasada Sharma. Kaiyadeva Nighantu. Chaukhamba Orientalia.2017.
7. M.Narayanan Vaidhyar. Bhavaprakasha Nighantu. M. Narayanan Vaidhyar Redstar offset Printers. 1st edition 2001. Kannur.
8. P.Hariprasad Tripadi. Madanaphala Nighantu. Chaukhamba Krishnadas Academy. 1st edition 2009. Varanasi.
9. Dr. Indradeo Tripathi. Raja Nighantu of Pandit Narahari. Chaukhamba Krishnadas Academy. 2nd edition 1998, Varanasi.

Cite this article as:

Arya S Pillai, Seemaja G. A Critical Review on Drakshadi Agada. International Journal of Ayurveda and Pharma Research. 2026;14(3):119-123.

<https://doi.org/10.47070/ijapr.v14i3.4018>

Source of support: Nil, Conflict of interest: None Declared

*Address for correspondence

Dr. Arya S Pillai

PG Scholar,

Department of Agadatantra,

Government Ayurveda College,

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Email: aryaspillai04@gmail.com

Disclaimer: IJAPR is solely owned by Mahadev Publications - dedicated to publish quality research, while every effort has been taken to verify the accuracy of the content published in our Journal. IJAPR cannot accept any responsibility or liability for the articles content which are published. The views expressed in articles by our contributing authors are not necessarily those of IJAPR editor or editorial board members.