

**CONTRIBUTION OF SUSHRUTA IN DRAVYAGUNA w.s.r .t DRAVYA -  
SANGRAHANIYA-ADHYAYA****Reju Krishnan<sup>1</sup> Krishna Kishore kumar<sup>2</sup> Deepa K.K <sup>3</sup> Indira Venu<sup>4</sup>**

1. Associate professor Department of Dravyaguna J.S. Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Nadiad, Gujarat
2. Professor Department of Dravyaguna J.S. Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Nadiad, Gujarat
3. Associate professor Department of Dravyaguna KMCT Ayurveda College Mukkam Kerala
4. Assistant professor Department of Agadatantra J.S. Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Nadiad, Gujarat

**Corresponding Author:** [rejukrishnanr50@gmail.com](mailto:rejukrishnanr50@gmail.com)<https://doi.org/10.46607/iamj2211052023>**(Published Online: May 2023)****Open Access**

© International Ayurvedic Medical Journal, India 2023

**Article Received:** 27/04/2023 - **Peer Reviewed:** 04/05/2023 - **Accepted for Publication:** 13/05/2023.**ABSTRACT**

*Acharya Sushruta* was an ancient Indian physician and the world's first surgeon known today as the "Father of Surgery" for inventing and developing surgical procedures. His work *Sushruta samhita* is one of the most ancient, encyclopedic classical books based on *Dhanwantariya sampradaya* (ancient surgical school) of Ayurveda. He is the first and last author to describe the method of dissection of human cadavers. Though *Sushruta samhita* mainly deals with Surgery, *Acharya Sushruta* has shown his legitimate classification & description of the *Dravyaguna* subject by classifying, so also by introducing several drugs which are added and increase in the ayurvedic pharmacopoeia than earlier texts and has classified them in a logical manner. The text includes a holistic approach towards the group of drugs under different *vargas* that have similarities in several aspects like *Aakruti*, *Karma*, etc.

This paper gives a brief description of the *Dravya sangrahaniya adhyaya of sushruta samhita sutra sthana 38<sup>th</sup>* chapter.

**Keywords:** *Susrutha samhita*, *Dravyaguna*, *Dravya sangrahaniya*, Legitimate, Cadavers

## INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is the most ancient indigenous medical system of India, derived from two words 'Ayu' and 'Veda', which means the knowledge deals with Ayu or life<sup>[1]</sup>. Ayurveda is divided into eight major branches known as *Astang Ayurveda* (Eight disciplines)<sup>[2]</sup>. *Dravyaguna* forms an integral part of *Astanga Ayurveda* (Eight disciplines)<sup>[3]</sup>. *Dravya* is the most important tool in therapeutics and one of the four limbs of treatment protocol (*Chikitsa chatuspada*).<sup>[4]</sup>

In practice, there are countless medical substances used in therapeutics, though it is not impossible, it is very difficult to understand and apply individually. Therefore, medicinal substances are classified on the basis of common parameters like *Akriti* (Morphology), *Guna* (Quality), *karma* (Pharmacological action), etc.<sup>[5]</sup> *Acharya Sushruta* in *Dravya sangrahaneya adhyaya of sushruta samhita sutra sthana 38<sup>th</sup>* chapter has explained 37 *gana* (Group), each *gana* has multiple indications. The components in this *gana* are included in such a way that they have similar actions and properties. The nomenclature of *gana* is given by the first drug in that particular *gana*. *Acharya*

*Sushruta* shows his unique liberal and progressive outlook when he states that when a formulation prescribed for a disease condition has many and rare drugs, treatment should be done with drugs that are available even if mentioned in a group, a drug not useful should be dropped, and can add a new useful drug<sup>[6]</sup>.

### Material and Methodology

This is a conceptual type of research. All references have been collected and compiled from Ayurveda classic text *Sushruta samhita Sutrastana 38<sup>th</sup> Chapter* and available commentaries on it.

### Contents and brief Information about DAVYA-SANGRAHANIYA-ADHYAYA.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

In *Dravya-sangrahaneya-adhyaya* the drugs are grouped under 37 *ganas* (Groups), based on the *dosha karma*, where the number of drugs varies in each group. The *ganas* are named after the first drug of that *gana* or based on morphology and useful parts.

**Table no.1. A Review on 37 ganas of Sushruta samhita**

Sl.No	Name of <i>Gana</i>	Total No. of drugs	karma	Remarks
1.	<i>Vidarigandhadi gana</i>	20	<i>Pittanilapaha</i>	Most of them are Herbs and climbers
2.	<i>Aragvadhadi gana</i>	21	<i>Sleshmavishapaha</i>	Most of them are Trees and shrubs
3.	<i>Salasaradi gana</i>	23	<i>kaphamedovisheshana</i>	Most of them are trees
4.	<i>Varunadi gana</i>	22	<i>kaphamedonivarana</i>	
5.	<i>Viratarvadi gana</i>	19	<i>vatavikaranuth</i>	
6.	<i>Lodhradi gana</i>	13	<i>medakaphahara</i>	Most of them are trees with gum/resins.
7.	<i>Arkadi gana</i>	14	<i>kaphamedovishapaha</i>	Herbs and Shrubs.
8.	<i>Surasadi gana</i>	22	<i>kaphahruth</i>	Maximums are Aromatic herbs
9.	<i>Mushkakadi gana</i>	11	<i>medhoghna</i>	Most of them are trees
10.	<i>Pippalyadi gana</i>	22	<i>Kaphahara</i>	Most of the drugs with a pungent taste and hot potency.
11.	<i>Eladi gana</i>	28	<i>vatakaphanihanti</i>	Most of them are Aromatic herbs.
12.	<i>Vachadi gana</i>	07	<i>doshapachana</i>	All drugs have a stronger effect.
13.	<i>Haridradi gana</i>	05	<i>doshapachana</i>	
14.	<i>Shyamadi gana</i>	19	<i>gulmavishapaha</i>	Most of the drugs mentioned are Purgatives
15.	<i>Brihatyadi gana</i>	05	<i>pittanilapaha</i>	Most of the drugs are pungent taste.

16.	<i>Patoladi gana</i>	07	<i>pithakaphahara</i>	Drugs have Bitter taste
17.	<i>Kakolyadi gana</i>	18	<i>pittashonitanilanashana</i>	Drugs having sweet taste
18.	<i>Ushakadi gana</i>	07	<i>Kapham hanti</i>	
19.	<i>Sarivadi gana</i>	08	<i>pittajwaraprashamana</i>	All drugs with cold potency.
20.	<i>Anjanadi gana</i>	08	<i>raktapittanibarhana</i>	Herbo-mineral drugs.
21.	<i>Parushakadi gana</i>	07	<i>vishopashamana</i>	Most of the drugs are a sweet- sour taste.
22.	<i>Priyngvadi gana</i>	14	<i>Sandhaniyo hito pitte</i>	Most of the drugs with Astringent taste and cold potency.
23.	<i>Ambastakadi gana</i>	10	<i>Sandhaniyo hito pitte</i>	Most of the drugs with Bitter and Astringent taste
24.	<i>Nyagrodhadi gana</i>	26	<i>dahamedoghna</i>	Most of the drugs with Astringent taste.
25.	<i>Guduchyadi gana</i>	05	<i>Sarvajwaran hanti</i>	Most of the drugs possess a bitter taste
26.	<i>Utpaladi gana</i>	07	<i>Dahapittarakta vinashana</i>	Most of the drugs are aquatic/marshy.
27.	<i>Mustadi gana</i>	11	<i>Sleshmanishudhana</i>	
28.	<i>Haritakyadi gana</i>	03	<i>kaphapittaghni</i>	<i>Triphala</i> drugs
29.	<i>Pippalyadi gana</i>	03	<i>kaphamedoghnam</i>	<i>Trikatu</i> drugs
30.	<i>Amalakyadi gana</i>	04	<i>sarvajwarapaha</i>	
31.	<i>Trapvadi gana</i>	07	<i>garakrimihara</i>	Mineral drugs
32.	<i>Lakshadi gana</i>	11	<i>kaphapittanashana</i>	Most of the drugs possess an astringent and bitter taste.
33.	<i>Kaniya panchamoola</i>	05	<i>Vataghnam pittashamanam</i>	Herbs/Shrubs
34.	<i>Brihat panchamoola</i>	05	<i>kaphavataghnam</i>	Tree species
35.	<i>Valli panchamoola</i>	05	<i>kaphanashanam</i>	Climbers
36.	<i>Kantaka panchamoola</i>	05	<i>kaphanilahara</i>	All drugs with spines
37.	<i>Trina panchamoola</i>	05	<i>Pittahara</i>	The root of the grass family

## DISCUSSION

Acharya Sushruta has mentioned 37 groups of drugs in this chapter. He advice that a wise physician should identify, collect (*Sangrahana*), and preserve these drugs with him for treating different disease conditions. Acharya Sushruta had designed this *gana* in such a way that any physician can use this as the first line of treatment just by assessing *dosha*, *dushya*, and *srothas*. In this chapter, he included many new drugs which we can't find in other *samhitas* like *kapotavanga* (*Dalbergia lanceolaria* Linn.), *Kurantika* (*Celosia argentea* Linn.), *Vishamushtika* (*Melia azedarach* Linn.), etc. Acharya Sushruta dedicated ample time to field survey which was shown by his informal observation in the field

of *dravyaguna* by mentioning the morphological characters and popular names (*Lok prasiddha*) of the plants famed which include Sanskrit names, popular in a learned circle and local names, frequently used by the common man such as *Parushaka* (*Grewia asiatica* L.) *Jivanti* (*Leptadenia reticulate* W.&A.) *Parushakoalpaasthimriduphala* '*faalsa iti loke*'.<sup>[9]</sup> *Latarkaphalakarakashiraphala* '*Dodika loke*'<sup>[9]</sup> He used many synonyms in his group but the commentary of particular reference describes the morphological characters of the drug which are not found in the *Nighantus* and by which the drug can be identified easily such as *Kadara* (*Acacia suma* (Roxb.)Voigt) *Karamarda* (*Carissa carandas* L.) etc, also each *gana* of *Sushruta* represents first drug in the group which has common actions on *doshas*

'Kadara khadirakara swethasara' <sup>[9]</sup> 'Karamardhi ksheraphala' <sup>[9]</sup> Sushruta mentioned *Triphala* (*Hari-takyadi gana*) as a specific *gana* for first time, where this combination alone is capable to cure most of the disease conditions.

Also, he mentioned *Tikatu* (*Pippalyadi gana*), *Kaniya panchamoola*, *Brihat panchamoola*, *Valli panchamoola*, *Kantaka panchamoola*, *Trina panchamoola* (5 groups collectively known as *Panchapanchamoola*) which are very important in clinical practice for disease condition as well as for the general health. Out of these five groups, the first two are *vatahara*, the last is *pittahara*, and the remaining two are known to be *kaphahara*. At the end of the chapter, he concluded that Physicians with higher intelligence (*Budhimatha*) can further elaborate on these groups by looking into drugs with similar properties (*Swalakshana*), inference (*Anumana*), logic (*Yukti*) and also the strength and weakness of *dosha* of patients.

He described the morphological characteristics of drugs which are not found in *Nighantus* and by which the Drugs can be identified easily. These drugs are *Vatama* (*Prunus amygdalus* Batsch.), *Akshoda* (*Juglans regia* Linn.), etc.

## CONCLUSION

*Sushruta* was the most celebrated physician and surgeon of *Ayurveda*. He made a unique contribution to

*Dravyaguna* by mentioning a list of plants with their identity, therapeutic uses, and basic concept of *Dravyaguna* (*Rasa*, *Guna*, *Virya*, *vipaka*, *karma*, etc). Even though it mainly deals with surgery but other branches of *Ayurveda* were also elaborated and hence can be given prime importance even in *Doshika chikitsa* (Palliative treatment).

## REFERENCES

1. Dwivedi L.D Guru L.V Introduction to *Ayurveda* Varanasi: Chowkamba Krishnadas Academy 1988.
2. Srikantha murthy K R Vagbhata's *Astanga Hrdayam* Varanasi: Chowkamba Krishnadas Academy 2018.
3. Dhyani S.C *Rasa-Panchaka* Varanasi: Chowkamba Krishnadas Academy 2003
4. Acharya Y.T *Charaka samhita Sutrashtan Chapter 9/3* with *Ayurveda dipika* commentary by Chakrapanidatta Varanasi: Chowkamba Sanskrit prakashana 2016.
5. Acharya YT *Dravyaguna Vijnaniyam 1*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed Nagpur: Baidynath *Ayurveda bhavan* 1997.
6. Singhal G.D *Susruta samhita Sutrastana* Delhi: Chaukamba Sanskrit pratishthan 2018.
7. Sharma PV *Susrutha samhita sutra Vol.1* Varanasi: Chaukambha vishvabharati 2010.
8. Sharma P.V *Plants and other drugs of Susrutasamhita Saptadhyaya* New delhi: Rashtriya *Ayurveda Vidya-peetha* 2002
9. Lale sanjeev kumar *Aushadha Namarupa vijnanam Vol.1* Indore: Vijaysree paper products 2003.

Source of Support: Nil

Conflict of Interest: None Declared

How to cite this URL: Reju Krishnan et al: Contribution of Sushruta in Dravyaguna W.S.R. T Dravya-Sangrahaneya-Adhyaya. International Ayurvedic Medical Journal {online} 2023 {cited May 2023} Available from: [http://www.iamj.in/posts/images/upload/1149\\_1152.pdf](http://www.iamj.in/posts/images/upload/1149_1152.pdf)