



## **A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON ACTION OF MRITYUPASACCHEDI GHRITAM IN GARA VISHA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Agada tantra is defined as one among the eight branches of Ayurveda which deals with the signs, symptoms and management of poisoning, resulting from the bites of snakes, insects, worms, spiders, rodents etc and various other poisons produced by improper combinations of substances or drugs. Garavisha (~concocted poison) is mentioned as a type of visha (~poison) which is formed by the combination of two or more poisonous or non-poisonous substances, which slowly gets accumulated in the body and ultimately affects all parts of the body by vitiating all Dosha (~humor), Dhatu (~tissues), Mala (~waste products) and Srotas (~channels). Many ayurvedic formulations are mentioned for the treatment of Gara visha. Mrityupasacchedi ghrita is one among them which is explained in Bhaishajya Ratnavali. It is a form of Ghrita Kalpa (~ghee preparation), the use of Ghrita (~ghee) plays an important role in the management of Visha (~poison) condition. It's effect cures severe poisoning and garadoshaja (~concocted poison) poisoning. It cures disorders like tamaka swasa (~bronchial asthma), kandu (~itching), mamsasada (~depletion of muscles) and visamjna (~fainting). It also cures poisoning caused by the bite of snake, poisonous insects, rats and spiders. Mrityupasacchedi ghritam is a formulation that has a combination of many herbs which are easily accessible and have a simple method of preparation. Hence an effort is made to review the Mrityupasacchedi ghritam for Vishahara (~anti-poison) property.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Mrityupasacchedi ghritam, Ayurveda, Visha, Agada Tantra*

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Agada tantra is one among the eight branches of Ayurveda. It mainly deals with Visha (~poison) with its types, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, and management with various formulations. 'Gada' means Roga (~disease) and 'Agada' means Roga Pratikara (~to fight against disease)<sup>1</sup>. On the basis upon its origin, visha has been classified into two categories viz. Jangamavisha (animal poison) and Sthavaravisha (plant and mineral poisons). Further it is also classified as Akritrimavisha (natural poison) and krittirimavisha (~artificial poison). Garavisha (~concocted poison) is a type of krittirimavisha (~artificial poison). Acharya Vagbhata opines that Garavisha (~concocted poison) is the poison which is formed from the combination of different parts of animals and excreta or combination of medicines or Bhasmas (~ash preparations) which are having opposite properties or the poisons having the less potency<sup>2</sup>.*

*The signs and symptoms of gara visha are pandu (paleness), krisa (emaciation), alpagni (weak digestive capacity), kasa (cough), swasa (dyspnoea), jvara (fever), ardhita (facial palsy), vayu pratilomatwa (upward movement of vata), swapna and chintna (spending more time in sleeping and worrying), mahodara (enlarged abdomen), yakrut roga (disorders of liver), pleeha roga (spleen disorder), deenavak (feeble voice), dourbalya (weakness), alasa (laziness), shophya (develops swellings), adhmata*



( distention of abdomen), *sushka pada kara kshayi* (dryness of feet and hand emaciation ), dreams of seeing the jackal , cat , mungoose , snake , monkey , trees and reservoirs which are dry , thinks that he has become black instead of his original white colour or that he has become white colour instead of his original black colour , sees his ears , nose , eyes as rough and distorted <sup>3</sup>.

*Mrityupasacchedi ghritam* is one among the formulation mentioned for the treatment of *visha*(~poison) explained in *Bhaishajya Ratnavali* in the context of treatment of *visha*. It has a wide range of indications such as severe poisoning , *garadoshaja* (~concocted poison) poisoning, poisoning caused by bite of snakes , insects , rats and spiders. It is also indicated in disorders like *tamaka svasa*(~bronchial asthma), *kandu*(~itching), *mamsasada*(~depletion of muscles) and *visamjna*(~fainting)<sup>4</sup>. *Mrityupasacchedi ghritam* is a *Ghrita Kalpa* (~ghee preparation) that contains nineteen ingredients in it.

**Table no ;1 INGREDIENTS OF MRITYUPASACCHEDI GHRITAM**

Sl. No	Dravya (Drug)	Rasa (Taste)	Guna (Properties)	Veerya (Potency)	Vipaka (Metabolic property)
1	<i>Haritaki</i> <sup>5</sup> ( <i>Terminalia Chebula</i> )	<i>Pancharasa Kashaya</i> (astringent)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Ruksha</i> (dry)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)
2	<i>Gorochana</i> <sup>6</sup>	<i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	-
3	<i>Kushta</i> <sup>7</sup> ( <i>Saussaria lappa</i> C B. Clarke )	<i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Ruksha</i> (dry)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
4	<i>Arka</i> <sup>8</sup> ( <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> Linn.)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent) <i>Tikta</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Ruksha</i> (dry) <i>Tikshna</i> (sharp)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
5	<i>Utpala</i> <sup>9</sup> ( <i>Nymphaea alba</i> Linn.)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Kashaya</i> (astringent) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Snigdha</i> (unctuous) <i>Picchila</i> (sliminess)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)
6	<i>Nala</i> <sup>10</sup> ( <i>Arundo donax</i> )	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Kashaya</i> (astringent) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Snigdha</i> (unctuous)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)
7	<i>Vetasa</i> <sup>11</sup> ( <i>Salix Caprea</i> )	<i>Kashaya</i> (astringent) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light)	<i>sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
8	<i>Vatsanabha</i> <sup>12</sup> ( <i>Aconitum ferox</i> Wall.)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Ruksha</i> (dry) <i>Teekshna</i> (sharp)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
9	<i>Tulasi</i> <sup>13</sup> ( <i>Ocimum sanctum</i> Linn.)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
10	<i>Indrayava</i> <sup>14</sup> ( <i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> )	<i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter) <i>Kashaya</i> (astringent)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
11	<i>Manjishtha</i> <sup>15</sup> ( <i>Rubia cordifolia</i> Linn.)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Guru</i> (heavy) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
12	<i>Anantamoola</i> <sup>16</sup> ( <i>Hemodisumus indicus</i> R.Br.)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Guru</i> (heavy) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry) <i>Snigdha</i> (unctuous)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)
13	<i>Satavari</i> <sup>17</sup> ( <i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Guru</i> (heavy) <i>Snigdha</i> (unctuous)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)
14	<i>Srungataka</i> <sup>18</sup> ( <i>Trapa bispinosa</i> Roxb.)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Kashaya</i> (astringent)	<i>Guru</i> (heavy) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)



15	<i>Lajjalu</i> <sup>19</sup> ( <i>Mimosa pudica</i> Linn.)	<i>Kashaya</i> (astringent) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
16	<i>Kamala</i> <sup>20</sup> ( <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gretn.)	<i>Kashaya</i> (astringent) <i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>Laghu</i> (light) <i>Snigdha</i> (unctuous) <i>Picchila</i> (sliminess)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)
17	<i>Kesara</i> <sup>21</sup> ( <i>Mesua ferrea</i> Linn.)	<i>Kashaya</i> (astringent) <i>Tiktha</i> (Bitter)	<i>snigdha</i> (unctuous)	<i>Ushna</i> (hot)	<i>Katu</i> (pungent)
18	<i>Madhu</i> <sup>22</sup>	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet) <i>Kashaya</i> (astringent)	<i>Guru</i> (heavy) <i>Rooksha</i> (dry)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	-
19	<i>Goghrita</i> <sup>23</sup>	<i>Madhura</i> (sweet)	<i>Snigdha</i> (unctuous) <i>Guru</i> (heavy) <i>Mridu</i> (soft)	<i>Sheeta</i> (cold)	<i>Madhura</i>

SL NO.	Dravya (drug)	Doshagnata (action on dosha)	Karma (action)	Indications
1	<i>Haritaki</i> <sup>5</sup> ( <i>Terminalia Chebula</i> )	<i>Tridosahara</i>	<i>Anulomana</i> <i>Rasayana</i> ( <i>Rejuvinate</i> ) <i>Hridhya</i> <i>Lekhana</i> ( )	<i>Kasa</i> (cough), <i>Swasa</i> (difficulty in breathing), <i>Shotha</i> (inflammation)
2	<i>Gorochana</i> <sup>6</sup>	-	<i>Vishagna</i> <i>Kantakaraka</i> <i>Mangala</i>	<i>Visha</i> (poisoning conditions) <i>Unmada</i> (insanity) <i>Graha roga</i>
3	<i>Kushta</i> <sup>7</sup> ( <i>Saussaria lappa C B. Clarke</i> )	<i>Vata kaphahara</i>	<i>Lekhaniya</i> <i>Vrishya</i>	<i>Kushta</i> (skin disease) <i>Swasa</i> (difficulty in breathing) <i>Kasa</i> (cough)
4	<i>Arka</i> <sup>8</sup> ( <i>Calotropis gigantea Linn.</i> )	<i>Vatahara</i>	<i>Vishagna</i> <i>Rechana</i> <i>Deepana</i>	<i>Pliharoga</i> ( spleen disorder) <i>Visharoga</i> (poisoning conditions) <i>Shopha</i> (inflammation)
5	<i>Utpala</i> <sup>9</sup> ( <i>Nymphaea alba Linn.</i> )	<i>Tridosahara</i>	<i>Grahi</i> <i>Medhya</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Daha</i> (burning sensation) <i>Atisara</i> (diarrhea)
6	<i>Nala</i> <sup>10</sup> ( <i>Arundo donax</i> )	<i>Kaphapittahara</i>	<i>Vrishya</i> <i>mutrala</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Daha</i> (burning sensation) <i>Ashmari</i> (calculi)
7	<i>Vetasa</i> <sup>11</sup> ( <i>Salix Caprea</i> )	<i>Kaphapittashamana</i>	<i>Vedanasthapana</i> <i>Kushtagna</i> <i>Jwaragna</i>	<i>Shotha</i> (inflammation) <i>kushta</i> (skin disease)
8	<i>Vatsanabha</i> <sup>12</sup> ( <i>Aconitum ferox Wall.</i> )	<i>Kaphavatahara</i>	<i>Jwarahara</i> <i>Jangama vishahara</i> <i>Madakari</i> <i>Kushtagna</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Swasa</i> (difficulty in breathing) <i>Kasa</i> (cough) <i>Pliha roga</i> ( spleen disorder) <i>Agnimandhya</i> <i>Vataroga</i> (disorders of vata)
9	<i>Tulasi</i> <sup>13</sup> ( <i>Ocimum sanctum Linn.</i> )	<i>Kapha vatahara</i>	<i>Deepana</i> <i>Krimighna</i> <i>putigandhahara</i>	<i>Swasa</i> (difficulty in breathing) <i>Kasa</i> (cough) <i>Visha roga</i> (poisoning conditions) <i>Vishama jvara</i> (fever)
10	<i>Indrayava</i> <sup>14</sup> ( <i>Holarrhena antidycentrica</i> )	<i>Kapha pittahara</i>	<i>Graahi</i> <i>Deepana</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Kushta</i> (skin disease) <i>Visarpa</i> (erysipelas)
11	<i>Manjishta</i> <sup>15</sup> ( <i>Rubia cordifolia Linn.</i> )	<i>Kapha pittahara</i>	<i>Vishagna</i> <i>varnya</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Shotha</i> (inflammation) <i>Kushta</i> (skin disease)
12	<i>Anantamoola</i> <sup>16</sup> ( <i>Hemedismus indicus R.Br.</i> )	<i>Tridosahara</i>	<i>Graahi</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Kasa</i> (cough) <i>Swasa</i> (difficulty in breathing) <i>Agnimandhya</i> (diminished digestive fire)
13	<i>Satavari</i> <sup>17</sup> ( <i>Asparagus racemosus Willd.</i> )	<i>Vatapittahara</i>	<i>Rasayana</i> <i>Vrishya</i>	<i>Grahani</i> (ulcerative colitis) <i>Kshaya</i> (cachexia) <i>Atisara</i> (diarrhea)
14	<i>Srungataka</i> <sup>18</sup> ( <i>Trapa bispinosa Roxb.</i> )	<i>Pittahara</i>	<i>Vrishya</i> <i>Grahi</i>	<i>Raktapitta</i> ( bleeding disorder) <i>Garbha pata</i> (abortion)
15	<i>Lajjalu</i> <sup>19</sup> ( <i>Mimosa pudica Linn.</i> )	<i>Kapha pittahara</i>	<i>Sandhaniya</i> <i>Purisha</i> <i>sangrahana</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Atisara</i> (diarrhea) <i>Raktapitta</i> (bleeding disorder)
16	<i>Kamala</i> <sup>20</sup> ( <i>Nelumbo nucifera Grertn.</i> )	<i>Kapha pittahara</i>	<i>Mutra virechaniya</i> <i>Varnya</i> <i>Garbha sthapaka</i>	<i>Visha roga</i> (poisoning conditions) <i>Visarpa</i> (erysipelas)



17	<i>Kesara</i> <sup>21</sup> ( <i>Mesua ferrea</i> Linn.)	<i>Kapha Pittahara</i>	<i>Vishahara</i> <i>Pachana</i> <i>Sothahara</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Sopha</i> (inflammation) <i>Visha roga</i> (poisoning conditions)
18	<i>Madhu</i> <sup>22</sup>	<i>Kaphapittahara</i>	<i>Vishagna</i> <i>Chakshushya</i> <i>Chedhana</i>	<i>Swasa</i> (difficulty in breathing) <i>Kasa</i> (cough) <i>Kushta</i> (skin disease)
19	<i>Goghrita</i> <sup>23</sup>	<i>Vatapittahara</i>	<i>Vishagna</i> <i>Agni deepana</i> <i>Balya</i> <i>Ayushya</i> <i>Ojo vivardhana</i>	<i>Jvara</i> (fever) <i>Shosha</i> (cachexia)

**METHOD OF PREPARATION**

Murcchita cow ghrita(~ghee) (1 kg), cow milk (4 litres), kalka prepared out of the powders of *haritaki*, *gorocana*, *kushta*, leaves of *arka*, *utpala*, root of *nala*, root of *vetasa*, *vatsanabha visa*, *tulasi*, *indrayava*, *manjistha*, *anantamula*, *satavari*, *sringata*, root of *lajjalulu* and *kamala*, *kesara*(15 gm. each). Also take water measuring 4 litre. Combine all these materials and cook the preparation methodologically to obtain medicinal *ghritam*. When the *ghritam* gets cool down to atmospheric temperature, add to it 1 kg, measure of honey and preserve it<sup>4</sup>.

**INDICATION**

*Sarpa*, *Keeta*, *Lootha*, *Mooshika utpannadi visha*, *gara visha* (~concocted poison), *tamaka svasa*(~bronchial asthma), *kandu*(~itching), *mamsasada*(~depletion of muscles) and *visamjna*(~fainting)<sup>4</sup>.

**Table no ;2 Showing symptoms of Garavisha (~concocted poison), action of Mrityupasacchedi ghritam and the responsible ingredients**

Symptoms	Action of Mrityupasacchedi ghritam	Responsible ingredients
<i>Pandu</i> ( paleness)	<i>pittahara</i>	<i>Srungataka</i>
<i>krisa</i> (emaciation)	<i>Rasayana</i> , <i>balya</i>	<i>Haritaki</i> , <i>Goghrita</i> , <i>Satavari</i>
<i>alpagni</i> (weak digestive capacity)	<i>Deepana</i> , <i>Pachana</i>	<i>Arka</i> , <i>Tulasi</i> , <i>Indrayava</i> , <i>Kesara</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Anantamoola</i> , <i>Goghrita</i>
<i>kasa</i> (cough)	<i>Kasagna</i>	<i>Haritaki</i> , <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Tulasi</i> , <i>Anantamoola</i> , <i>madhu</i>
<i>swasa</i> (dyspnoea),	<i>swasagna</i>	<i>Haritaki</i> , <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Anantamoola</i> , <i>madhu</i>
<i>jvara</i> ( fever)	<i>Jvaragna</i>	<i>Utpala</i> , <i>Nala</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i> , <i>Tulasi</i> , <i>Indrayava</i> , <i>Manjistha</i> , <i>Anantamoola</i> , <i>Lajjalulu</i> , <i>Kesara</i> , <i>goghrita</i>
<i>ardhita</i> (facial palsy)	<i>Vatarogaghna</i>	<i>Arka</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i>
<i>ayuna pratilomana</i> (upward movement of vata)	<i>Vatarogaghna</i>	<i>Arka</i> , <i>Vatsanabha</i>
<i>swapna</i> and <i>chintha</i>	<i>Medhya</i>	<i>Utpala</i>
<i>mahodara</i> (enlarged abdomen),	<i>Udararogahara</i>	<i>Arka</i>



<i>pleeha roga</i> (spleen disorder), <i>deenavak</i> (feeble voice)	<i>Pleeha rogakrut</i> <i>Rasayana ,Balya</i>	<i>Arka, Vatsanabha</i> <i>Haritaki,Goghrita, Satavari</i>
<i>dourbalya</i> (weakness)	<i>Balya ,ayushya</i> <i>Ojo vivardhana</i>	<i>Goghrita</i>
<i>shopha</i> (develops swellings )	<i>Shophagna</i>	<i>Haritaki ,Arka ,Manjishta</i> <i>Kesara</i>
<i>adhmata</i> ( distention of abdomen )	<i>Vatarogaghna</i>	<i>Arka,Vatsanabha</i>

**PROBABLE MODE OF ACTION****Based on Veerya (~potency) of ingredients:**

63% of the ingredients are having *Sheeta* (~cold) *Veerya* and 37 % of the ingredients are having *Ushna* (~hot) *Veerya*.

**Based on the Doshagnata (~action on dosha) of ingredients:**

The majority of the ingredients of this formulation is having *Kapha-pittahara* (~alleviates *Kapha* and *pitta*) and *Tridosahara* (~alleviates *Vata, Pitta, Kapha*) property.

**DISCUSSION**

*Mrityupasacchedi ghritam* is indicated *gara visha*(~concocted poison) .This formulation contains nineteen drugs, out of which 13 drugs have *Sheeta* (~cold) *Veerya* and 6 drugs have *Ushna* (~hot) *Veerya*. Most of the drugs have *Laghu guna* (~light) which helps to act fast and *Snigdha Guna* (~unctuous) of the ingredients helps to counteract the poison. Most of the drugs have *Kaphapittahara* (~alleviates *Kapha* and *pitta*) and *Tridosahara* (~alleviates *Vata ,Pitta , Kapha*) properties which help in counteracting the ill effects caused because of *Visha* (~poison). The drugs in *Mrityupasacchedi ghritam* have *Vishaghna* (~anti-poisonous) property and the symptoms of *Garavisha* like *Krishna* (~cachexia), *Alpagni* (~weak digestive power), *kasa* (cough) , *swasa* (dyspnoea), *jvara* (fever) , *vayu pratilomana* ( upward movement of vata ) , *swapna* and *chintna* ( spending more time in sleeping and worrying ) , *mahodara* (enlarged abdomen) , *yakrut roga* ( disorders of liver) , *pleeha roga* (spleen disorder), *deenavak* (feeble voice) , *dourbalya* (weakness) , *alasa* (laziness), *shopha* (develops swellings ) , *adhmata* ( distention of abdomen ) , *sushka pada kara kshayi* (dryness of feet and hand emaciation ) are counteracted by *Rasayana, Balya ,Ayushya ,Deepana, Pachana , Kasagna, swasagna, Jvaragna, vatarogakrut, Medhya, Udararogahara, Pleeha rogakrut* properties of the ingredients.

**CONCLUSION**

*Mrityupasacchedi ghritam* is one among the formulation mentioned for the treatment of *visha*(~poison) explained in *Bhaishajya Ratnavali* in the context of treatment of *visha*. The formulation is a combination of nineteen ingredients and each ingredient has a significant action to pacify the signs and symptoms of *gara visha* (~artificial poison) . These ingredients are easily accessible and have a simple method of preparation which may encourage the physician to use this formulation in the management of *Visha* (~poison) condition.

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