MERCURIAL, METALLIC AND MINERAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE
AILMENTS OF ALIMENTARY CANAL THROUGH THE
PERSPECTIVE OF “BASAVARAJIYAM”

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ABSTRACT: Basavarajiyam is one of the authoritative works on Ayurvedic treatment widely used in telugu region of India. The work describes the mercurial preparations and its efficacy vividly. The author scans here the work and highlights various mercurial preparations administered for the ailments of alimentary canal.

Introduction

Medicinal compounds prepared with the drugs of mineral resources have been renowned for their efficacy in rooting out any a number of diseases. While most of the drugs of the plant kingdom become important after certain period, the drugs of Mercurial kingdom are said to be retaining their potency even when they become older and older (Sarngadhara). Considering this virtue of Mercury and other associates, various zealots had drawn their attention towards this branch of medicine. Right from Nagarjuna, father of Indian chemistry and also a pioneer in Sanskrit language, upto vasudev Dwivedi Harisankarasarma etc, have brought out valuable works in the field of Rasa sastra.

Though the practice of mercurial system dates back to the time immemorial in peninsular India, works in Sanskrit language are much less in number. Vaidya cintamani, Ananda Kandam. Basavarajiyam are among them. Of these, vaidya cintamani besides presenting the management of diseases, gives details of Karma Vipaka i.e. unrighteous behavior leading to the manifestation of the morbidity in the body. Ananda tandem typically following the style of Rasarnava, gives more weight to Rasa Siddhi. Basavarajiyam is the one which is well received by the practitioners of Kasthausadhi and those of Rasausadhi as well.

This was first written in Telugu Script. Besides giving more importance to Rasausadhis in the management of various maladies, Basavaraja, the author specially allocates a chapter on the methods of exploration of Mercury, metals and minerals.

It appears that he in bringing out this valuable book, sought the help of many other works of the field. About 46 books have been recorded in the bibliography.

Nonetheless, this text is a bilingual. The expositions in Telugu are restricted to some
of the Anubhuta (experiences) compounds of herbal origin. Its first publication was presumably in totally telugu language with Sanskrit aphorisms transcribed in Telugu. This situation has restricted it from being popular in other parts of the country.

However in late 20s of this century one of the stalwarts in Ayurveda and Sanskrit as well, Govardhana Sarma Changani came to know about the validity of this work and got it transliterated with help of Nallagunda vara Hanumanta sastri et al. Even though very few of the scholars follow this work, it is felt that this can be explored to still more extent.

**Aims and Objectives:**

1. The prescriptions suggested in Basavarajiyam are mostly from the works which can be heard but not to be seen. By popularizing this work it is hoped it can be of some contribution to the field of Ayurveda.

2. Apparently, the prescriptions given by Basavaraja, the author, are of genuine experimental background. This fact could be understood by practice of the vaidyas and government bodies as well in Andhra Pradesh particularly and other states in general. It is opined that this fact can motivate the world of Ayurvedists in utilizing this book.

3. Nevertheless, same view is kept with regards this paper mentioning only about the compounds of mercurial kingdom.

**Methodology:**

Prescriptions based on only mercury, metals and minerals prescribed at the exact context of the diseases of alimentary canal are compiled and the tables are prepared accordingly. Certain compounds although prescribed for the diseases of other than the gastro intestinal tract are indicated in the ailment of this origin too.

**TABLE – I**

| S. No. | Name of the Compound       | Indications                                                             |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Kitamardana Rasa            | Krmi Roga                                                               |
| 2     | Sanjiva Rasa                | Amlapitta                                                              |
| 3     | Pitta Bhanjana Rasa         | Amlapitta, Grahani                                                     |
| 4     | Lila Vilasa Rasa            | Amlapitta                                                              |
| 5     | Pranesvara Rasa             | Amlapitta, Grahni, Gulma, Ploha, Atisara, Aagnimandya                  |
| 6     | Mahapranesvara Rasa         | Gulma, Arasas, Grahani                                                |
| 7     | Amlapittantaka Rasa         | Amlapitta                                                              |
| 8     | Tamradi Kalpa               | Amlapitta                                                              |
| 9     | Purna Candrodaya Sinduram   | Aruci, Chardi, Svarabjhang, Mandagni                                   |
| 10    | Badabamukha Rasa            | Vataja Grahani                                                         |
| 11    | Vajrakapata Rasa            | Vataja Grahani                                                         |
| 12    | Citrambara Rasa             | Pittaja Grahani, Amasula, Pravahika                                   |
| 13    | Arkalokesvara Rasa          | Kaphaja Grahani                                                       |
| 14    | Grahanyankusa Rasa          | Grahani                                                                |
| 15    | Ananda Rasa                 | Grahani                                                                |
| 16    | Kanakasundara Rasa          | Vatatisaram                                                           |
| No. | Rasa Name                         | Ingredients                                      |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 17  | Mrtasanjivani Rasa                | Amatisara, Raktatisara, Grahani                  |
| 18  | Grahanika Madavarana Simharasa    | Grahani, Viucika, Agnimandya, Sula, Vibandha, Gulma |
| 19  | Lokanatha Rasa                   | Grahadni, Atisara, Ajirna                        |
| 20  | Kanakasundara Rasa               | Agnimandya, Atisara                             |
| 21  | Grahan Gajakesari Rasa           | Atisara, Grahani, Gulma, Sula Ajirna, Visuci, Agnimandya |
| 22  | Agnikumara Rasa                  | Vatodara, Gulma                                 |
| 23  | Trailokya sundara Rasa           | Pittodara                                        |
| 24  | Vahni Virya Rasa                 | Jalodara                                        |
| 25  | Vangesvara Rasa                  | Plihodara                                       |
| 26  | Yogasara Rasa                    | Anaha, Udavarta, Gulma, Sula                     |
| 27  | Tamradika Rasa                   | Trsna                                            |
| 28  | Rasadi Curnam                    | Trsna                                            |
| 29  | Agnimukha Rasa                   | Ajirna, Sula, Visucika, Gulma, Udara             |
| 30  | Agnikumara Rasa                  | Ajirna, Visucika                                |
| 31  | Agnikumara Rasa                  | Ajirna, Visucika                                |
| 32  | Kravyada Rasa                    | Arsas, Gulma, Plihavrdhdi Grahari, Udara        |
| 33  | Agnikumara Rasa                  | Agni Mandya                                     |
| 34  | Agnimandya Vatika                | Ajirna                                          |
| 35  | Ksaradi Vatika                   | Agnimandya                                      |
| 36  | Tamrabhasma Yoga                 | Agnimandya                                      |
| 37  | Cintamani Rasa                   | Ajirna, Sula                                    |
| 38  | Aditya Rasa                      | Ajirna, Agnimandya                              |
| 39  | Ajirna Balakalanala Rasa         | Ajirna, Agnimanda, Anaha, Vistambha, Grahan, Sula, Arsas |
| 40  | Sankha Dravakam                  | Ajirna                                          |
| 41  | Arskuthara Rasa                  | Vatarsas                                        |
| 42  | Raja Vallabha Rasa               | Agnimandya, Arsas, Bhagandara                   |
| 43  | Vaikrantakhiya Rasa              | Tridosajarsas                                   |
| 44  | Abhraka Haritaki                 | Tridosajarsas                                   |
| 45  | Paradadi Vatika                  | Gulma, Raktapitta                               |
| 46  | Sankhadrava                      | Gulma, Udara, Sula                              |
| 47  | Sikh Vadava Rasa                 | Vatagulma, Anaha, Sula                          |
| 48  | Sankhadrava                      | Kantha Roga, Gulma, Sula, Agni Mandya           |
| 49  | Dandamara Rasa                   | Pitta Gulma                                     |
| 50  | Vidyardha Rasa                   | Slesma Gulma, Plihodara                         |
| 51  | Kancana Mohana Rasa              | Vatasa, Agnimandya, Gulma, Malabandha           |
| 52  | Suladavanala Rasa                | Ajirna, Sula, Anaha, Plihodara, Gulma           |
| 53  | Sulakuthdara Rasa                | Sula                                            |
| 54  | Mustadi Manduram                 | Pittaja Sula                                     |
| 55  | Gomutra Manduram                 | Tridosaja Sula                                   |
| 56  | Sanmukha Rasa                    | Amasula                                         |
| 57  | Gajakesari Rasa                  | Sula                                            |
| 58  | Sulari Rasa                      | Sula, Gulma, Udavarta, Agnimandya               |
| 59  | Sulantaka Rasa                   | Sula                                            |
| 60  | Sulaga jankusa Rasa              | Gulma, Udara, Prati Tuni, Sula                  |
| 61  | Sankhadrava                      | Sula, Agnimandya, Gulma, Kantha Roga            |
| 62  | Mahasankhadrava                  | Gulma, Udara                                    |
| 63  | Bhimma Rudra Rasa                | Garavisa                                         |
| 64  | Rasarat                          | Bhagandara                                      |
### TABLE – II

Table showing the list of the

Compounds indirectly indicated in the diseases of alimentary canal

| S.No | Name of the compound       | Indication (G. I. Tract)            | Context          |
|------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.   | Candabhanu Rasa           | Arsas                              | Jwara            |
| 2.   | Navajvarebha Simha Rasa   | Grahan                             | Navajwara        |
| 3.   | Tripurabhairava Rasa      | Sula, Arsas, Krmi, Vistambha       | Navajwara        |
| 4.   | Swacchanda Bhairava Rasa  | Visuci, Agnimandya, Vamana         | Jwara            |
| 5.   | Suta Rajaivaya Rasa       | Gulma, Sula, Udara                 | Jwara            |
| 6.   | Kalpataru Rasa            | Atisara, Grahan                    | Asadhya Jwara    |
| 7.   | Cintamani Rasa            | Sula                               | Jwara            |
| 8.   | Sannipata Bhairava Rasa   | Arocaka, Atisara, Sula, Udavarta   | Sannipatajwara   |
| 9.   | Sitamsu Rasa              | Mukharoga                          | Sannipata Jwara  |
| 10.  | Mrtasanjivana Rasa        | Gulma, Sula, Udara                 | Sannipata Jwara  |
| 11.  | Srimadagni Kumara Rasa    | Sula, Vanama                        | Asadhy Jwara     |
| 12.  | Mahadagni Kumara Rasa     | Kantha Roga, Agnimandya, Sula      | Ksaya Roga       |
| 13.  | Jirna Mandura Curnam      | Agnimandya                         | Ksaya Roga       |
| 14.  | Kanta Vallabha Rasa       | Chardi, Arocaka, Gulma, Grahan, Arsas | Ksaya Roga     |
| 15.  | Hamsa Manduram            | Arsas                              | Pandu            |
| 16.  | Agnimukha Manduram        | Agnimandya, Grahan, Krm, Arsas, Kantha Roga | Pandu          |
| 17.  | Siddha Manduram           | Udara, Anaha, Sula Arsas, Krm, Gulma | Pandu          |
| 18.  | Mandura Vatak             | Arocaka, Arsas, Plihodara          | Pandu            |
| 19.  | Purnacandra Rasa          | Agnimandya, Ajirna, Grahan Amlapitta | Pandu          |
| 20.  | Sophari Rasa              | Arococa, Agnimandya, Grahan, Arsas | Sopha           |
| 21.  | Vata Vidhivamsaka Rasa    | Sula, Grahan, Arsas                | Sutika Vata      |
| 22.  | Kalagni Rudra Rasa        | Gulma, Grahan                       | Vataroga         |
| 23.  | Gandhaka Rasayanam        | Agnimandya, Atisara, Gulma, Arsas  | Carmaroga        |
| 24.  | Trivikrama Rasa           | Gulma                              | Vataroga         |
| 25.  | Sudhanidhi Rasa           | Amlapitta                          | Pitta Roga       |
| 26.  | Nilakantha Rasa           | Gulma                              | Jihwaka Kasa     |
| 27.  | Swarna Bhupati Rasa       | Gulma, Sula, Udavarta, Agnimandya  | Kasa             |
| 28.  | Vasanta Kusumakara Rasa   | Amlapitta, Sula                     | Pramecha         |
| 29.  | Gunjabhadra Rasa          | Udara                              | Hrdroga          |
| 30.  | Vadavanala Rasa           | Amlapitta, Gulma, Udara            | Kustha           |
| 31.  | Candra Kala Rasa          | Raktapitta                         | Asrgdara         |
| 32.  | Vijayagutika              | Krm, Arsas, Atisara, Udara Grahan, Sula | Unmada         |
### TABLE – III

**Table showing the various methods of Preparation of the compounds prescribed in the diseases of G.I.T.**

| S.No | Mode of Preparation   | Names of the compounds                                                                 |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Kharaliya Rasayana    | Kita Mardana Rasa, Amlapittantaka Rasa, Tamradikalpa-Grahanyakusa Rasa, Ama Kutara Rasa, Ananda Rasa, Kanaka Sundara Rasa, Mṛta Sanjivani Rasa, Gṛhanika, mādavarana Simha Rasa, Lokanatha Rasa, Kanaka Sundara Rasa, Grahani Gaja Kesari Rasa, Trailokyā Sundara Rasa, Yogasara Rasa, Tamradika Rasa, Agnikumara Rasa, Agnitudi Vatika, Kṣaradi Vatika, Tamrabasma Yoga, Cintamani Rasa, Abhiraharitaki, Pardadi Gutika, Sīkhi Vadava Rasa, Vidyadhara Rasa, Kancana Mohana Rasa, Suladavanala Rasa, Sula Kuthara Rasa, Gomutra Mandura, Sulari Rasa, Sulantaka Rasa, Sula Gajankusa Rasa, Bhima Rudra Rasa. |
| 2    | Kupipakva Rasayana    | Sanjiva Rasa, Pita Bhanjana Rasa, Praneswara Rasa, Maha Praneswara Rasa, Purna Chandrodaya Sindura, Sudhanidhi Rasa, Ajirna Balakalanala Rasa. |
| 3    | Puta Paka              | Lila Vilasa Rasa, Arkalokeswara Rasa, Agnikumara Rasa, Venkgeswara Rasa, Dandamara Rasa, Udayabhaskara Rasa, Sammukha Rasa, Gajakesari Rasa. |
| 4    | Laghu Pacana           | Badabamukha Rasa, Vajrakapata Rasa, Citrambra Rasa, Agnikumara Rasa, Arusakuthara Rasa. |
| 5    | Tiryakpatana           | Sankhadrava, Sankhadrava, Sankhadrava, Sankhadrava, Maha Sankhadrava. |

**Discussion**

About 64 compounds with drugs of mercurial kingdom as main ingredients are prescribed for various ailments of alimentary canal, and nearly 32 of the same origin are suggested indirectly in the diseases of Gastro intestinal tract the main context being some other disease.

As far as the observation of the ingredients is concerned, it may be opined that equal importance is given to the drugs of plant origin. In some places more number of herbal drugs are used than the mercurial drugs, Preference is given for Bhavana also. Certain names of the compound are repeated more than once. For example, Tamradi Kalpa, Agnikumara Rasa, Sankhadrava etc. In these cases the contents of the compound and the modus operandi adopted for the preparation are not similar. As mentioned earlier, some prescriptions are taken form other works like, Pujya Padiyam, Nityanathiym, Siddha Rasarnava, Madhava Kalpa etc. Surprisingly enough, Caraka, Madhavanidana are also given as references for certain mercurial compounds which do not at all appear in these texts. The editor of
the sanskritized version of Basavarajiyam says it is by mistake, instead of Madhava Kalpa, Madhavanidana is written. Regarding Caraka, he justifies that caraka also had the knowledge of Rasa Sastra. The editor mentions about Yadavaji Trikamji Acarya, who has got this work first transliterated to Sankrit.

Coming to the part of the methods of Pharmaceutical preparation of the compounds suggested directly for the ailments of alimentary canal, it is obvious that most of them can be categorised in Kharaliya Rasayana. About seven preparation come under Kupipakva Rasayana. Nearly eight are prepared in Puta Paka Vidhi in which, Laghu Puta, Bhanda Puta, Bhudhara Puta, Gajaputa etc. are used. The fourth category may be termed as Laghu Pacana in which some heating process is needed. The sankhadrava as known widely can be prepared in Tiryak Patana Yantra.

Regarding the query of the validity of this work, it is opined that some of these yogas may be taken up for pharmaceutical and clinical studies and accordingly the conclusions may be drawn

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