# VAIDYACINTĀMAŅI - AN IMPORTANT COMPENDIUM ON AYURVEDIC THERAPEUTICS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Ayurvedic scholars from Andhra Pradesh made significant contributions to the Ayurvedic literature both in Sanskrit and Telugu languages. Vaidyacintāmaņi of Vallabhācārya (15th century) is one of the most popular among them and is listed under Ayurvedic books of first schedule in The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It consists of 73 Prakarana (chapters) in 26 Vilāsa (sections) dealing with diagnosis of diseases, treatment, purification procedures, description of equipments/ furnaces used in Ayurvedic drug manufacturing, management of snake bites and other poisonous animal bites, group of drugs, etc. Unique contributions of author include detailed pulse examination; attribution of astronomical phenomenon, sinful deeds, evil consequences, etc. to disease occurrence; mantra, homa, etc., sanctified therapies, virtuous conduct; use of Narāsthi taila (made from human bones) in Nāḍīvraṇa, etc. In spite of its uniqueness on various aspects and regional popularity, it could not get acquainted by the Ayurvedic scholars due to its availability in Telugu script till 1994. The uniqueness of this text in various aspects has been enlightened in this work.

Key words: Vaidyacintāmaņi, Vallabhācārya, Narāsthi taila

#### Introduction:

The people of Telugu speaking region (i.e., Andhra Pradesh) never lagged behind in contributing to Sanskrit literature in the arts and science subjects including Medicine. Scholars from Andhra Pradesh have contributed the following Sanskrit and Telugu works in the field of medicine.<sup>1</sup>

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#### A. Sanskrit works

- a) Kakṣapuṭa tantra of Ācārya Nāgārjuna
- b) Cārucarya of King Bhōja
- c) Parahita samhitā of Śrīnātha Paṇḍita
- d) Vaidyacintāmaņi of Indrakaņţhi Vallabhācārya
- e) Basavarājīya of Nīlakaņtha Basavarāja

### B. Telugu works

- a) Vastugunadīpika of Erra Venkataswamy
- b) Vastugunapradīpika of Granthi Venkatasubbayya Śarma

Vaidyacintāmaņi is one of the most popular treatises from Andhra Pradesh. It is also included in the list of Ayurvedic books mentioned under the first schedule of The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.<sup>2</sup>

#### **OBJECTIVES AND METHODS:**

Prime objectives of this work encompass the following issues.

- To present an account on the lesser known Telugu text on Ayurvedic therapeutics.
- Exposition of hidden knowledge about the contents of the text
- To convey the basic knowledge and information on core issues dealt by the author and peculiar features of this classical text.

#### Author and period:

Genealogy: Author of Vaidyacintāmaṇi, Vallabhendra (Vallabhācārya) is son of Amareśvara Bhaṭṭa of Śrīvatsa gotra and of Apasthambasūtra, belongs to Indrakaṇṭhi family.<sup>3</sup> Though the native of author is unknown, he certainly belongs to the Telugu speaking region which is evident by the presence of some text in Telugu language in poetic and prose form.<sup>4</sup>

Period. The period of the author is exactly known. As author has extracted from Aṣṭāṅga hṛdaya (7th Century AD), (Vṛndamādhava (7th Century AD), Cakradatta (11th Century AD) and Śāraṅgadhara saṁhitā (13th AD), his period must be after 13th Century. It is further to note that, some verses from this text are found in Parahita saṁhitā of 16th Century AD. Hence it can be assumed that, this text must be formulated between 13th and 16th century AD. Some authors have attributed his period as 17th Century AD (B. Rama Rao, 1978) and 15th Century AD (Subhose Varanasi et.al, 2008).

#### Methodology, presentation and core contents of the text:

The text starts with benediction to deities Śrī Mahā Viṣṇu consort of Lakṣmi, Śiva Śaṅkara: consort of Pārvati; Brahma: consort of Sarasvati; Durgāvaṭuka Bhairava and Vighneśvara (Heraṁba). Almost similar act of praying is seen in Basavarājīya of Nīlakaṇṭha Basavarāja, another most important classical text from Telugu region.

śrīnātham pārvatīnātham vāṇīnātham sarasvatīm durgāvaṭuka heramban satatam ca namāmyaham. (Vaidyacintāmaṇi, 15<sup>th</sup> Century AD) śrīnātham pārvatīnātham vāṇīnātham sarasvatīm herambam vaṭukam vidyām satatam namāmyaham. (Basavarājīya, 18<sup>th</sup> Century AD)

#### **Core contents:**

This is a treatise on medicine broadly dealing with etiology, diagnosis of diseases, treatment, purification of metals, minerals, poisonous plants before using in medicinal preparations. This compendium consists of 73 *Prakaraṇa* (chapters), which are systematically accommodated in 26 *Vilāsa* (sections).

First Vilāsa contains Aṣṭasthāna parīkṣā prakaraṇa dealt with the systematic method of examining the patients with utmost importance to the pulse examination. First vilāsa starts with the worship to the deities followed by detailed description of eight regions/ areas/ things to be examined in a patient (अष्ठस्थान परीक्षा). The detailed description of pulse examination (nāḍī parīkṣā) is unique to this text and not available in any other contemporary texts.

Second *vilāsa* contains *Pancalakṣaṇa nidāna prakaraṇa* dealt with the basics on etiopathological aspects, prodromal signs and symptoms, clinical features of the disease conditions.

Third *vilāsa* to twenty third *vilāsa* is devoted for descriptions on various disease conditions in regard to the etiology, pathophysiology, prodromal signs and symptoms, clinical features, prognosis, treatment measures and wholesome diet & lifestyle guidelines. It is interesting to note that, some of the diseases' occurrence is also attributed to astronomical phenomenon, sinful deeds of an individual in past life and evil consequences; sanctified procedures/ therapies and practice of virtuous conduct, etc. are also indicated along with drug therapies.

Twenty fourth *vilāsa* contains *Śuddhi prakaraṇa* which deals with purification procedures for the metals, minerals, precious & semi precious stones and poisonous plant products.

Twenty fifth *vilāsa* contains three *prakaraṇa* namely, *Yantra prakaraṇa*, *Māna prakaraṇa* and *Paribhāṣā prakaraṇa* which deals with description on various instruments/ furnaces,

measuring methods for drugs and drugs in groups, substitute drugs (Alabdapratinidhi dravya) respectively.

Twenty sixth *vilāsa* contains *Viṣa prakaraṇa* dealt with artificial poisons, antitoxic formulations, clinical features, and treatment for bites by the poisonous snakes, animals & insect bites, etc.

Among 73 prakaraṇa in 26 vilāsa of this text, Jrava prakaraṇa (3<sup>rd</sup> prakaraṇa) of 3<sup>rd</sup> vilāsa is the largest one and deals with the etiology, pathophysiology, prodromal signs and symptoms, clinical features, prognosis, treatment measures of jvara (fevers) described in about 865 verses. Whereas, Granthiroga prakaraṇa (51<sup>st</sup> prakaraṇa) of 18<sup>th</sup> vilāsa is the smallest one and deals with the etiopathology, clinical features, prognosis, treatment measures of granthi (swellings/ growth) described in about 15 verses.

It is a comprehensive independent text deals with the therapeutic modalities of various disease conditions. Author has indicated various pharmaceutical dosage forms (viz., decoctions, powders, pastes, guḍa, ghṛta, bhasma, guggulu, nasal medicaments, collyrium, herbomineral preparations, āsava, medicated oils, salts, tablets/ pills, electuaries, etc.), therapeutic procedures (dāhakarma, sirāvedha, karṇavedha, raktasrāva, lepa), anupāna (vehicle) and dietetic & lifestyle regimen (pathyāpathya) based on the clinical conditions. However, it is peculiar to note that āsavariṣṭas do not find prominence in this book. Only four āsava are found in the text i.e., Drākṣāsava (in saṅgrahaṇī), Lohāsava (in pāṇḍu) and Pippalyāsava, Drākṣāsava & Kharjurāsava (in kṣaya). Author has mentioned preparative and biocleansing procedures under pathyāpathya itself.

The author seems to have been followed the earlier samhitā and some other works of Southern India earlier to him. Agastya harītakī rasāyana<sup>6</sup> and Pippalyādyāsava<sup>7</sup> mentioned by author is almost similar to the descriptions of Aṣṭhāṅga hṛdaya<sup>8</sup> and Śāraṅgadhara saṁhitā<sup>9</sup> respectively. Further, descriptions of Dīpikā taila<sup>10</sup> and Cavyādi taila<sup>11</sup> are also more or less similar to Cakradatta.<sup>12</sup> Mahātiktaka ghṛta, Paḥcatiktaka ghṛta, Bṛhanmarīcādi taila mentioned by Vṛnda in Vṛndamādhava (Siddhayōga)<sup>13</sup> are similarly found in Vaidyacintāmaṇi.<sup>14</sup> By this it is evident that the author has thorough knowledge on various ancient texts and picked up important formulations; however, his own significant contributions are noteworthy viz., attribution of astronomical phenomenon, sinful deeds of an individual in past life and evil consequences, etc. to disease occurrence; indication of sanctified procedures/ therapies and practice of virtuous conduct, etc. to pacify them, unique formulations, detailed pulse examination.

Ancient scholars attributed medicinal properties to breast milk and human urine. It is interesting to note that the author indicated Narāsthi taila made from human bones for the treatment of  $N\bar{a}d\bar{i}vrana$ .

Sections of the text-The sequential arrangement of various sections of the text comprise:

S. No.	Sections (vilāsa)	Chapters (prakaraṇa)	No.of śloka	Contents/ information
1.	Prathama vilāsa	Aṣṭasthāna parīkṣā prakaraṇa	42	Clinical methods on examination of patient
2.	Dvitīya vilāsa	Pańcalakṣaṇa nidāna prakaraṇa	18	Basics on etiology and etiopathogenesis of diseases
3.	Tṛtīya vilāsa	Jvara prakaraņa	865	Etiology, clinical features and management of fevers
4.	Caturtha vilāsa	Sannipāta prakaraņa	256	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Sannipāta</i> conditions
5.	Pancama vilāsa	Kṣaya prakaraṇa	500	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Kṣaya</i>
6.	Şaşţama vilāsa	Pāṇḍu prakaraṇa	215	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Pāṇḍu</i>
		Kāmilā prakaraņa	84	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Kāmilā</i>
		Śopha prakaraṇa	91	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Sopha</i> Etiology, clinical features and
		Atisāra prakaraņa	219	management of Atisāra
		Samgrahaṇī prakaraṇa	196	Etiology, clinical features and management of Samgrahanī
7.	Saptama vilāsa	Vāta prakaraņa	826	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Vātaroga</i>
8.	Așțama vilāsa	Raktapitta prakaraņa	144	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Raktapitta</i>
		Caturvimśati pitta roga prakaraņa	212	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Caturvimśati pitta roga</i>
9.	Navama vilāsa	Aruci prakaraņa	63	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Aruci</i>
		Chardi prakaraṇa	80	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Cardi</i>
10.	Daśama vilāsa	Kāsa prakaraņa	281	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Kāsa</i>

		Śvāsa prakaraņa	126	Etiology, clinical features and management of Śvāsa
		Hikkā prakaraņa	55	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Hikkā</i>
		Svarabheda prakaraņa	40	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Svarabheda</i>
11.	Ekādaśa vilāsa	Prameha prakaraņa	218	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Prameha</i>
		Mūtrakṛcchra prakaraṇa	82	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Mūtrakṛcchra</i>
		Mūtrāghāta prakaraņa	59	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Mūtrāghāta</i>
		Aśmarī prakaraņa	54	Etiology, clinical features and management of Aśmarī
12.	Dvādaśa vilāsa	Śūla prakaraņa	209	Etiology, clinical features and management of Śūla
		Udāvarta - Ānāha prakaraņa	45	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Ānāha</i>
		Gulmaroga prakaraņa	137	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Gulmaroga</i>
		Hṛdroga prakaraṇa	47	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Hrdroga</i>
		Udara roga prakaraņa	121	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Udararoga</i>
		Aṇḍavṛddi prakaraṇa	70	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Aṇḍavṛddi</i>
		Medoroga prakaraņa	34	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Medoroga</i>
13.	Trayodaśa vilāsa	Vātarakta prakaraņa	127	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Vātarakta</i>
		Ūrustambha prakaraņa	48	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Ūrustambha</i>
		Āmavāta prakaraņa	102	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Āmavāta</i>
		Śītapitta prakaraṇa	28	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Śītapitta</i>
		Amlapítta prakaraṇa	80	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Amlapitta</i>
14.	Caturdaśa vilāsa	Ajīrņa prakaraņa	159	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Ajīrṇa</i>

15.	Pancadaśa vilāsa	Arśoroga	151	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Arśoroga
		Kṛmiroga prakaraṇa	57	Etiology, clinical features and
		-		management of Kṛmiroga
16.	Şaşţhā daśa vilāsa	Tṛṣṇā prakaraṇa	42	Etiology, clinical features and
		D=1	49	management of <i>Tṛṣṇā</i> Etiology, clinical features and
		Dāha roga prakaraņa	49	management of <i>Dāha</i>
		<u> </u>	20	
		Mūrcchā	38	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraṇa		management of Mūrcchā
		Madātyaya	31	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Madātyaya
		Unmāda roga	68	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of <i>Unmāda</i>
		Apasmāra roga	45	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Apasmāra
17.	Saptādaśa vilāsa	Kuṣṭha roga	292	Etiology, clinical features and
	1	prakaraņa		management of Kustha
18.	Aṣṭādaśa vilāsa	Visarpa roga	70	Etiology, clinical features and
	''	prakaraņa		management of Visarpa
		Visphotaka	31	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Visphotaka
		Masūrikā roga	78	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa	'-	management of <i>Masūrikā</i>
		Galaganda	29	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Galaganda
		Gandamālā	37	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraṇa	] "	management of Gaṇḍamālā
		Granthiroga	1.5	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa	13	management of Granthi
			22	
		Arbudaroga <i>prakaraņa</i>	22	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Arbuda</i>
		•	27.5	
		Ślīpada roga	375	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraṇa		management of Ślīpada
		Antarvidradhi	42	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraṇa		management of Antarvidradhi
19.	Ekoņavimsati vilāsa	Vraņaroga	70	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Vranaroga
		Agnidagdha	22	Etiology, clinical features and
		prakaraņa		management of Agnidagdha

		<i>Āguntuka vraņa</i> prakaraņa	60	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Āgantuka vraņa</i>
		Nāḍī vraṇa prakaraṇa	22	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Nāḍīvraṇa</i>
		Bhagandara prakaraṇa	56	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Bhagandara</i>
		Upadamśa prakaraņa	54	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Upadarńśa</i>
		Śūka doṣa prakaraṇa	29	Etiology, clinical features and management of Śūkadoṣa
20.	Vimsati vilāsa	Kṣudra roga prakaraṇa	168	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Kṣudraroga</i>
		Snāyuka roga prakaraņa	27	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Snāyukaroga</i>
21.	Ekavimsati vilāsa	Mukha roga prakaraṇa	133	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Mukharoga</i>
		Karņa roga prakaraņa	59	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Karṇaroga</i>
22.	Dvāvimsati vilāsa	Nāsāroga prakaraņa	99	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Nāsā roga</i>
		Śiroroga prakaraņa	101	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Śiroroga</i>
23.	Trayovimsati vilāsa	Netraroga prakaraņa	226	Etiology, clinical features and management of <i>Netraroga</i>
24.	Caturvimsati vilāsa	Śuddhi prakaraṇa	664	Detailed descriptions on purification and incineration of <i>Dhātu</i> (metals), <i>Mahārasa, Uparasa &amp; Sādhāraṇarasa</i> , etc., precious and semi precious and their properties and actions are explained. Purification procedures to some medicinal plant products like <i>Ahiphēna, Hingu, Jīraka, Nepāla, Vatsanābhi</i> were also mentioned.
25.	Pamcavimšati vilāsa	Yantra prakaraṇa	61	Description of various Yantra (Vidhyādhara yantra, ṭaṅka yantra, Garbha yantra, Kacchapa yantra, etc.) and Puṭa (Mahā puṭa, Gaja puṭa, Vārāha puṭa, Kukkuṭa puṭa, Kapōta puṭa, etc.)
		Мапа ргакагаџа	32	Measurements & specific measuring practices/ schools of thoughts in

				measuring various drugs, scholars' opinions/versions, etc. are mentioned. Dimensions of <i>prastha</i> measuring vessel is also mentioned.
		Paribhāṣā prakaraṇa	76	Group of drugs, substitute drugs (Alābhapratinidhi dravya)
26.	Şadvitisati vilāsa	Vișa prakaraņa	40	Artificial poisons, antitoxic formulations, clinical features & treatment for poisonous snake, animal & insect bites. Incantations are also indicated for snake bites & scorpion sting.

#### Discussion and conclusion:

Vaidya cintāmaṇi of Indrakaṇṭhi Vallabhācārya is one among the most important Ayurvedic classical texts listed in the first schedule of The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. In spite of its uniqueness on various aspects and regional popularity, it could not get acquainted by the Ayurvedic scholars since it is available only in Telugu script till 1994. Unique contributions of author are evident in this text such as attribution of astronomical phenomenon, sinful deeds, evil consequences, etc. to disease occurrence, sanctified therapies, virtuous conduct, etc. Use of Narāsthi taila (made from human bones) in Nāḍīvraṇa is one among them.

It can be established that the author may belong to Andhra region on basis of following facts

- 1. Presence of some text in Telugu language in poetic and prose form
- 2. The usage of Telugu words for medicinal plants such as *Miriyālu, Tippatīga, Ūḍuga, Jilleḍu, Jemuḍu, Ceṅgalvakoṣṭhu, Nāgamalle vēru*, etc.

The following three publications of Vaidya Cintāmaņi are available

- a. Vaidya Cintāmaņi (1925) in two volumes along with Telugu meaning & explanation by Pidugu Venkata Krishna Rao Pantulu published by Hindu Ratnakara Mudraksharashala.<sup>16</sup>
- b. Vaidya Cintāmaņi (1952) in two volumes along with Telugu meaning & explanation by Sri Jayakrishnadas published by M/s, Vavilla Ramaswamy Sastrulu & Sons, Madras.<sup>17</sup> It contains five 26 Vilasa (sections) consisting about 9404 śloka in 73 prakaraņa (chapters). Each sloka dealt with Telugu meaning with explanations.

c. Vaidyacintāmaņi (1994) along with Hindi translation & explanation by Dr. Ramniwas Sharma published by M/s. Dakshina Prakashan, Hyderabad.<sup>18</sup>

Other Telugu works with the name of Vaidyacintāmaņi

- a. Vaidyacintāmaņi in Telugu: Author, Dhenuvakonda Kesavakavi, son of Jogamamathya. This is a Telugu poetical rendering of the work in Sanskrit by Indrakanti Vallabhāchārya. It is written based on the main text but contains only 4 chapters (Āśvāsa). This was published by Veturi Sankara Sastri in Sree Dhanwantari journal in the year 1927. Subsequently, this was again published by the Madras Oriental Manuscripts Library in 1952.<sup>19</sup>
- b. Andhra Vaidyacintāmaṇi. Author of this text is Devulapalli Venkanarasamantri, son of China Narasanna Mantri of Kasyapagotra. It contains only five chapters, also based on Vallabhācharya's 'Vaidyacintāmaṇi'. This was published by Veturi Sankara Sastri in Sri Dhanwantari in 1927.

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## सारांश

# वैद्यचिन्तामणि - एक महत्त्वपूर्ण आयुर्वेद चिकित्सा ग्रन्थ अला नारायण एवं बंडि वेंकटेश्वर्लु

आन्ध्रप्रदेश के आयुर्वेदीय विद्वानों ने संस्कृत एवं तेलुगु भाषाओं में आयुर्वेद वाद्यय का महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान किया। वल्लभाचार्य विरचित वैद्यचिन्तामणि (१५वीं शताब्दी) उनमें से एक है। औषध और प्रसाधन सामग्री अधिनियम-१९४०, अनुसूची-१ आयुर्वेद उपशीर्षक के अन्तर्गत भी इस ग्रन्थ का उल्लेख किया गया है। इस ग्रन्थ में रोगनिदान एवं चिकित्सा, शोधनकर्म, विविध उपकरण, आयुर्वेद औषध निर्माण का वर्णन, सर्पविष और अन्यविषाक्त जन्तुदंष्ट्र अवस्थाओं की चिकित्साप्रणाली, औषधिवर्ग आदि विषय विस्तार से २६ विलास (विभाग) के अन्तर्गत ७३ प्रकरणों (अध्यायों) में प्रस्तुत किये गये हैं। नाडीपरीक्षा का विस्तृत विवरण; रोगोत्पत्ति में ज्योतिष संबन्धित ग्रहपीडा, पापकर्म एवं अशुभ परिणाम का योगदान, उन रोगों में मन्त्र, होम आदि पवित्रकर्म; सद्दृत पालन करने का आदेश, नाडीव्रण में मनुष्यों की हिड्डियों से बनाया गया नरस्थि तैल का प्रयोग आदि ग्रन्थकार के विलक्षणपूर्वक विशिष्ट योगदान के पहलू हैं। इस लेख में वैद्यचिन्तामणि ग्रन्थ की विशिष्टतायें सविस्तार प्रस्तुत करने का प्रयास किया गया है।