

HASTYĀYURVĒDA - A COMPLETE TREATISE ON ELEPHANTS

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ABSTRACT

Āyurvēda, the oldest existing medical science of India, which is not only responsible for the health of human beings but also, plays an important in Veterinary sciences. In India, history of traditional Veterinary medicine dates back to the era of *Mahābhārata* i.e.5000 B.C., recorded in the form of "*Nakula Samhitā*". *Hastāyurvēda* is a treatise on elephants, *Palkāpya* wrote this *Samhitā*. The present book is available as a complete *Samhitā*, edited by Pandit Shivadutta Sharma. *Hastāyurvēda* was printed at *Anandāśrama* press in 1894. *Hastāyurvēda* has 160 *Adhyāyās*.

This *Samhitā* is based on fundamental principles of *Āyurvēda*, containing all aspects of Sharir including Anatomy & Physiology, *Rog Vigyāna*, Surgery and Treatment of elephants as well as their care. It is the one and only complete printed *Samhitā* and rare book on *Hastāyurvēda* by *Palkāpya*.

India with its ecological and climatic diversities is perhaps the richest nation with herbal medicinal wealth. *Āyurvēda*, the oldest existing medical science of India, with its generous and veritable material medica, fulfills the mission of serving the ailing population through the ways of nature since time immemorial. Although research on medical science has opened new sources of remedies, *Āyurvēda* is continuing as a mainstay in the treatment due to its easy availability coupled with safe, effective and sustainable claims. *Āyurvēda* is not only responsible for the health of human beings but also plays an important role in Veterinary sciences. In India, history of traditional Veterinary medicine dates back to the era of *Mahābhārata* i.e. 5000 B.C., recorded in the form of "*Nakula Samhitā*". Medicinal

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plants were used with predictable results during the famous war of *Mahābhārata*, where thousands of animals afflicted with wounds and diseases were successfully treated under the able guidance of Pandav Prince, “*Nakula Saṁhitā*”. Written during the period of *Mahābhārata*, deals with the diseases of the animals and their treatment by medicinal plants and could be essential and useful to vindicate the claim on modern scientific line to clearly assess their value. Similarly other references are also found in *Mahābhārata*, i.e. *Nakula* had the responsibility of horses and Prince *Sahadev* had the responsibility of cows in the palace of King *Virata*. So, Prince *Nakula* was known as the Veterinarian of horses and Price *Sahadev* as the Veterinarian of Cows. Prince *Nakula* was the author of the treatise like “*Nakula-saṁhitā* and “*Aśva Śāstra*”, while Prince *Sahadev* was the author of “*Gavāyurvēda*”. *Ācārya śālīhōtra* of North Western part of India was regarded as the expounder of “*Aśvāyurvēda*” whereas *Ācārya Pālakāpya* of *Angadēśa* was regarded as the expounder of *Gajāyurvēda* and Prince *Sahadev* as the expounder of “*Gavāyurvēda*”.

Since antiquity, different braches of *Āyurvēda*, like *Vṛkṣāyurvēda*, *Hastāyurvēda*, *Aśvāyurvēda*, *Gajāyurvēda* etc. are dealing with the disease and their treatment in respective groups along with serving the human beings with the preservation of health and treatment of the various diseases. Some of the famous treatises of above sciences are:

(A) *Hastāyurvēda* – Expounder *Pālakāpya*.

Other treatises are –

- (i) *Gaja Lakṣaṇa* by *Bṛhaspati*
- (ii) *Mātanga Līla* by *Nilakaṇṭha*
- (iii) *Gaja Darpaṇa* by *Hemadri*

(B) *Aśvāyurvēda* – Expounder *Shalihotra*.

Other treatises are –

- (i) *Aśva Vaidyaka* by *Jayadatta*
- (ii) *Aśva Śāstra* by *Nakula*
- (iii) *Nakula Saṁhitā* by *Nakula*
- (iv) *Aśva Vaidyaka* by *Dipankar*
- (v) *Siddhappadēśa Saṁgraha* by *Gaṇa*

- (vi) *Śālihōtra* by *Bhōjās*
(C) *Gavāyurvēda* by *Sahadēva*
Mrgapāda Śāstra – *Haṁsadēva*
Mānasōllāsa - *Sōmēśvara*

Maximum treatises of above mentioned are not available today and some of them are available in *Pāṇḍulipi*. One and only complete printed *Samhita* is one of the rare book- *Hastāyurvēda* by *Pālkāpya*. This is high time to publish the available *Pāṇḍulipi* and research work should be done to prove the claims and global attention and acceptance of alternative veterinary medicine.

Hastāyurvēda:

Hastāyurvēda is a treatise on elephants and a complete science of elephants considers all facts about wild & pet elephants. This *Samhita* was written by *Pālkāpya*. Time of *Pālkāpya* has been decided by historians as 11th century but it would be more ancient.

The present book which is available as a complete *Samhita* has been edited by Pandit *Śivadutta Śarma*, who was native & teacher of Jaipur *Sanskrit* School and later a eminent teacher of *Sanskrit* School, Lahore.

Hastāyurvēda was printed at *Ānandāśram* press in 1984.

This book was edited from four manuscripts, one was available from *Śrī Kṛṣṇa Śarma* of his own collections, and another two from library of Pune and Kolkata and the last one from the personal collection of a Sikar based Vaidya Goswami Anandilal

Hastāyurvēda has 160 *Adhyāyās* and they are divided in these *Sthānas* :

<u><i>Sthānas</i></u>	<u><i>Adhyāyās</i></u>
<i>Kṣudrarōga</i>	62
<i>Mahārōga</i>	18
<i>Śalya Sthāna</i>	34
<i>Uttara Sthāna</i>	36

This *Samhita* is based on fundamental principles of *Āyurvēda*, containing all aspects

of *Śārīra* including Anatomy & Physiology, *RōgVigyān*, Surgery and Treatment of elephants as well as their care.

Importance of Elephants:

According to *Pālkāpya*, elephant is an important tool for army as well as civil work of a king. In *Hastāryuvēda*, one complete chapter has been mentioned to determine the importance of elephant, they have mentioned as *Vajra* in war and also for different types of work. Only one Elephant can win over six thousands Horses,

Jayatyēkō mātaṅgaḥ ṣaṭ sahastrāṇi vājinām (gajarakṣaṇavinyāsādhyāyah)

To crush the enemy force, there is no comparison other than elephant.

Mardanē parasainyānām kōnyōnāgātparaḥ sahēt (gajarakṣaṇavinyāsādhyāyah)

The elephant is an ornament of Army.

*Narāṇām bhūṣaṇm vidyāsainyānām bhūṣaṇam gajāḥ
(gajarakṣaṇavinyāsādhyāyah)*

Thus, *Pālkāpya* has primarily described the importance of the elephant so that all Kings kept elephant as an important pet animal. This was the reason that every King has no. of pet elephant.

Vāraṇēṣu sāmartyam viśeṣēṇēha dṛśyatē.

prayāṇāmapī sainyānām vidyantē naiva tē guṇāḥ..

candrahīnā yathā rātriḥ sasya hīnā vasundharā,

gajahīnā tathā sēnā vistīrṇāpi na śōbhatē.

ētēcānyēpi bahavō vāraṇānām guṇāḥ smṛtāḥ (gajarakṣaṇavinyāsādhyāyah)

Classification of Elephant Diseases:

Pālkāpya has classified various diseases of Elephant as it has been classified in various *Āyurvēda* Samhitas. The diseases are mentioned as *Ādhyātmika* and *Āgantuka*.

Ādhyātmik diseases are *Doṣaja* & *Mānasika*,

Āgantuka diseases are *Ādibhautika* & *Ādidaivika*.

Vātik Diseases – 67

Some of them are *Kadamabakṣa*, *Tṛṇśōṣī*, *Utakarnako*, *Gadhmuḥrī* etc.

Paittik Diseases – 27

Some of *Paittik* diseases are *Kuthārak*, *Droniko*, *Gulma*, *Kawalvyāpad* etc.

Śleṣmika Diseases – 32

The *Śleṣmika* diseases are *Visarpa*, *Pramēha*, *Khesīr Mehi*.

Raktaja Diseases – 15

Apart from this classification, *Pālkāpya* has mentioned many other categories of elephant diseases.

A detailed *Rog Vikṛti Vigyān* related topics are available in this *Samhitā* but it is surprising that all of them are based on *Tridōṣa & Pañcabhūta Siddhānta*.

Gajānām dēhajā nityam vātapittakaphāstrayaḥ.
vyādhayastu guṇāścaiva tēṣām rasanimitajāḥ.
triṣu dōṣēṣu yē dṛṣṭā guṇā gurvādayō daś.
rasēṣvapi ta ēva syurvijñātavyā vicakṣaṇaiḥ.
śītōṣṇau snigdharūkṣau ca tathā viśadapicchilau.
mṛdutikṣṇau guru laghu vijñēyāstu guṇā daś.
buddhvā samyagguṇānētāstriṣu dōṣēṣu buddhimān.
pratihanyādurnītvaiḥ pratyānīkairguṇairguṇān. (dvādaśōpakramādhyāyāḥ)

Likewise many references are also available on the *Tridōṣa Siddhānta* for treatment and other aspects of the elephant.

Most important is –

Vijñāya dōṣōpacayaṁ yathāvadr̥gavṛttau kālavibhaktarūpam rōgōpaśāntiḥ
prayatēta kartṛm dōṣḥ pravṛtdōhi nihanti nāgān.

Eating habits of wild elephants:

Wild elephants have different food habits. They eat sometimes that available in forest, especially the trees & Shrubs. *Pālkāpya* has mentioned these habits of elephants under different *ṛtucaryas*, as in Hemant *ṛtucarya*, it is described that

Hēmantē cāpi mātaṅgā nibādhē bhakṣayanti ca
 śallakī karṇikāraṃ ca kōvidāramudambaram
 plakṣaṃ nyāgrōdhavrṅkṣaṃ ca yaksañcādakam tathā (vanānucāritādhyāya 190)

Water drinking habits:

Hēmantē sthalajaṃ cāpi bhakṣayanti mataṅgajāḥ
 tē svairam trṇapuṣṭāstu svacchandātapasēvinaḥ. (vanānucāritādhyāya 195)

Care of Pet Elephants:

There is difference between life style of wild elephant and pet elephant. Pet elephant needs extra care, therefore *Pālkāpya* has mentioned various formulations for daily use so that *Agni* and different physiological functions of an elephant should be in normal state.

For example:

Taṇḍulāmlavaṇaṃ caiva upanāhya pradāpayēt.
 ētēna varddhatē varhṇibalaṃ tējaśca jāyatē. (annasamācārādhyāya/31)
 kulmāṣamēdakaṃ caiva guḍayuktaṃ pradāpayēt.
 ētēna dīpatēāsyāgnirbalaṃ tējaśca jāyatē. (annasamācārādhyāya)

Bathing habit of elephant:

Elephant is habitat to spend much time in river or pond etc, but pet elephant has no such atmosphere therefore regular bath is essential for an elephant.

Kālē jalāvagāhaṃ ca yatharttuṃ samupācarēt
 yadā sthirāgnisampannaḥ suvīśuddhamukhō gajaḥ

A detail description about bathing of pet Elephants is narrated, with the use of different decoctions and other special herbal formulations.

Standard doses of different Kalpanas for elephants

Each person and animal has different body constitutions and therefore their dose schedule varies with that. *Pālkāpya* has mentioned doses of different *kalpanas* for the elephants as:

Niṣpāvamātrō nāgānām kalkāstīkṣṇāñjanasya ca
 adhyardhamadhyamasyāpi mṛdunō dviguṇō bhavēt
 kalkāñjanātpādahīnaṁ jñēyaṁ cūrṇāñjanaṁ nṛpaḥ
 bhēṣajānām daśapalaṁ drōṇaṁ cūrṇasya dāpayēt
 palāni viṁśati caivaṁ catvāri ca narādhipaḥ
 rasaprasthastu vijñēyō bhiṣajābhāvacaṛaṇē
 māṣānām dvādaśa drōṇī tulāmārōpya dhārayēt (sātmyaniścayādhyāya)

<i>Kalka of Tikṣanāñjanam</i>	-	One <i>Niṣpāva</i>
<i>Mṛdu Añjana</i>	-	Two <i>Niṣpāva</i>
Medicine	-	10 <i>Pala</i>
<i>Cūrṇa</i>	-	1 <i>Droṇ & Pala</i>
<i>Rāśi</i>	-	1 <i>Prastha</i>
<i>Māṣa</i>	-	13 <i>Droṇi</i>

This is a standard but doses may vary according to the conditions of Elephants.

Importance of water to elephant:

According to *Pālkāpya*, water is *Prāṇa* of elephant either pet or wild therefore adequate arrangements must be made for proper availability of water for the elephants. Water is also a complete medicine for the elephants.

Gajānāmudakaṁ rājanprāṇānāhurmaniṣiṅḥ
 viśeṣēṇa tu nāgānām prāyēṇa jalamauśadham (sātmyaniścayādhyāya)

Pālkāpya has made it clear that without water *Vāta* may be elevated and may be the cause of various serious disorders to the elephant.

Ariṣtha of elephants and Rakṣāvidhi:

As we consider *Ariṣta Lakṣaṇas* while treating human beings, the same is also in case of elephants and we should not treat such ill elephants.

Riṣṭaprāptaṁ tu mātaṅgaṁ drṣṭvaiva parivarjayēt
 sādhyam tu sādhyēdvaidyaḥ śāstrōddiṣṭēna karmaṇā
 viśrāvya bhāṣāvayathōrjalaṁ yasmātpravarttatē

kadalīskandhaśōpham tu tamasādhyam vinirdēsat
 vidhā kavalayāsānāya dvēṣṭā hr̥ṣtamānasah
 sagadē ca yadā prāptaḥ sa śōphō yasya hāttinaḥ
 tadā tēna śōphēna māsādūrdhvaṅ na jīvati (annasamācārādhyāya)

These are important *Ariṣṭa Lakṣaṇas* of Elephants but apart from these symptoms there are many other symptoms of *Ariṣṭa* occurred in Elephants.

Like wise there is a provision of *Rakṣāvidhi* for different type of *Graha bādhas* of elephants in this book.

Effect of poisons on elephants:

Hastāyurvēda has an important role for overcoming of different poisoning effects of various snakes, insects, metals & Minerals etc. He has also mentioned various herbs used for treatment of poisons.

Candanaṁ tagaraṁ caiva tvagēlā patramēva ca
 priyaṅgu nāgapuṣpaṁ ca māmsī kuṣṭhaṁ sapadmakam
 kuṅkumaṁ ca mṛṅgālaṁ ca mustāṁ spṛkkāṁ śatāhvayām
 sarvaṁ viṣanāśanam
 dvē haridrē vacā caiva pippalī maricāni ca
 dvau karaṅjau śaṭhī caiva balāmatibalāmapi
 ētatsandṛvyasambhāraṁ gavyaṁ śrēṣṭhaṁ ca yadghṛtam
 bastamūtrēṇa tatsarvaṁ kṣōdayitvā vicakṣaṇḥ
 ajānāmavahāvīnām raktaṁ kṣīpramupārjayēt
 raktadvayēna taṁ piṇḍaṁ bhōjayēdvāraṇaṁ bhiṣak
 piṇḍēna tēna nāgasya viṣḥ kṣīpraṁ praṇaśyati (kṣudrarōgādhyāya)

Like above *Agada*, *Hastāyurvēda* has many types of *Agada* for use in case of poisoning conditions of an elephant. Treatment of Snakebite has also been mentioned in *Hastāyurvēda Samhitā* narrating various sign and symptoms.

Plants used for Treatment of *Pāda Roga*:

Elephants have diseases in their legs; a separate chapter for *Pāda Rōga* has been

mentioned by *Pālkāpya* in *Hastāyurvēda*. Plants useful for treatment of *Pāda Rōgas* in Elephant are –

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| - <i>Guggulu</i> | - <i>Commiphera mukul</i> |
| - <i>Nimba Patra</i> | - <i>Azadirachta indica</i> |
| - <i>Atasī</i> | - <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> |
| - <i>Bhallātaka</i> | - <i>Semicarpus anacardium</i> |
| - <i>Nīlika</i> | - -- |
| - <i>Haridra</i> | - <i>Curcuma longa</i> |
| - <i>Paṭōla</i> | - <i>Trichosanthes dioica</i> |

Plants used for Treatment of *Shofa Roga*:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - <i>Haridra</i> | - <i>Curcuma longa</i> |
| - <i>Āmragandhi Haridra</i> | - <i>Curcuma amada</i> |
| - <i>Dādima</i> | - <i>Punica granatum</i> |
| - <i>Kuṣṭha</i> | - <i>Saussurea lappa</i> |
| - <i>Manjiṣṭha</i> | - <i>Rubia cordifolia</i> |
| - <i>Ajamoda</i> | - <i>Carum roxburghianum</i> |
| - <i>Vidānga</i> | - <i>Embelia ribes</i> |
| - <i>Dantī</i> | - <i>Baliospermum montanum</i> |
| - <i>Śatāvārī</i> | - <i>Asparagus racemosus</i> |
| - <i>Drākṣa</i> | - <i>Vitis vinifera</i> |

And many other plants have been used for *Pāda – Rōga*.

Different types of diseases of Elephants :

- *Pratibadha Rōga* – it occurs at the time of sexual desire
- *Valakṣaṇī Rōga*
- *Medhrakṣī Rōga*

- *Hastval Rōga*
- *Utkarṇa Rōga*
- *Mānyāgrība*
- *Talakashī Rōga*
- *Sidhārthaka Rōga*
- *Bhūtagraha*
- *Lupta Rōga*
- *Patrakrimi Rōga*
- *Śoṇita anḍa Rōga*
- *Avasanna Rōga*
- *Sūtika Rōga*
- *Danta Rōga*
- *Madhumakṣhika Rōga*
- *Mṛttika Rōga*
- *Grahaṇee, Gulma, Kṣaya* etc. are also included in this *Samhitā*.
- Genetic disorders like absence of outer teeth etc.
- Other many Chapters on Diseases have also been included.

Use of Medicinal Plants :

Hastāyurvēda Samhitā has a number of plants, which are used for treatment of various disorders, although all plants are common in all *Āyurvēdic Samhitās*. Some of the important ones are:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ <i>Guggulu</i> | - <i>Commiphora mukul</i> |
| ❖ <i>Śallaki</i> | - <i>Boswellia serrata</i> |
| ❖ <i>Arjuna</i> | - <i>Terminalia arjuna</i> |
| ❖ <i>Haridra</i> | - <i>Curcums longa</i> |

❖ <i>Āmra Gandhi Haridra</i>	- <i>Curcuma amda</i>
❖ <i>Harītaki</i>	- <i>Terminalia chebula</i>
❖ <i>Āmlaki</i>	- <i>Embllica officinalis</i>
❖ <i>Bībhītaka</i>	- <i>Terminalia bellerica</i>
❖ <i>Śunṭhi</i>	- <i>Zingiber officinalis</i>

Plants of *Daśamūla*:

<i>Bilva</i>	- <i>Aegle marmelos</i>
<i>Śyonāka</i>	- <i>Oroxylum indicum</i>
<i>Gambhāri</i>	- <i>Gmelina arborea</i>
<i>Pātala</i>	- <i>Stereospermum suaveolens</i>
<i>Agnimantha</i>	- <i>Premna integrifolia</i>
<i>Śālaparṇi</i>	- <i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>
<i>Pṛśniparṇi</i>	- <i>Uraria picta</i>
<i>Bṛhati</i>	- <i>Solanum indicum</i>
<i>Kaṇṭakāri</i>	- <i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i>
<i>Gōkṣūra</i>	- <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
❖ <i>Khajūra</i>	- <i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>
❖ <i>Mustaka</i>	- <i>Cyperus rotundus</i>
❖ <i>Mṛdvīka</i>	- <i>Vitis vinifera</i>
❖ <i>Ikṣuraka</i>	- <i>Astracantha longifolia</i>
❖ <i>Śṛṅgāṭaka</i>	- <i>Trapa natans</i>
❖ <i>Udumbara</i>	- <i>Ficus glomerata</i>
❖ <i>Tintidika</i>	- <i>Rhus parviflora</i>
❖ <i>Mātuluṅga</i>	- <i>Citrus medica</i>

❖ <i>Sinśupa</i>	- <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>
❖ <i>Dāruharidra</i>	- <i>Berberis aristata</i>
❖ <i>Snuhī</i>	- <i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i>
❖ <i>Vaca</i>	- <i>Acorus calamus</i>
❖ <i>Vidanga</i>	- <i>Embelia ribes</i>
❖ <i>Pippali</i>	- <i>Piper longum</i>
❖ <i>Cavya</i>	- <i>Piper caba</i>
❖ <i>Citraka</i>	- <i>Plumbago Zeylanica</i>
❖ <i>Mūrva</i>	- <i>Marsdenia tenacissima</i>
❖ <i>Jiraka</i>	- <i>Cuminum cyminum</i>
❖ <i>Karanja</i>	- <i>Pongamia piñata</i>
❖ <i>Ajmoda</i>	- <i>Carum roxburghianum</i>
❖ <i>Dhava</i>	- <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>
❖ <i>Pātha</i>	- <i>Cissampelos pareira</i>
❖ <i>Nimba Phala</i>	- <i>Azadirachta indica</i>
❖ <i>Tumbī Bija</i>	- <i>Luffa acutangula</i>
❖ <i>Mañjiṣṭha</i>	- <i>Rubia cordifolia</i>
❖ <i>Uśīra</i>	- <i>Vetiveria zizanioidis</i>
❖ <i>Padmaka</i>	- <i>Prunus cerasoides</i>
❖ <i>Jaṭāmānsi</i>	- <i>Nordostachys jatamansi</i>
❖ <i>Methika</i>	- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i>
❖ <i>Bhārangī</i>	- <i>Clerodendrum serratum</i>
❖ <i>Madhuyasṭhī</i>	- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>
❖ <i>Madhūka</i>	- <i>Madhuca indica</i>
❖ <i>Nirgundi</i>	- <i>Vitex negundo</i>
❖ <i>Śigru</i>	- <i>Moringa oleifera</i>
❖ <i>Śirīṣa</i>	- <i>Albizia leback</i>

- ❖ *Kārṇikā* - Casia fistula
- ❖ *Lavaṇa Varga* - Group of salts

And much more.....

Use of metal & minerals is not available in *Hastāyurvēda*.

Thus, it is proved that there was super speciality available in this country not only for Human beings but also for animals. It is high time that, *Āyurvēdik* physicians should develop such speciality.

सारांश

हस्त्यायुर्वेद-हाथियों पर आधारित एक संपूर्ण ग्रन्थ

महेश चन्द्र शर्मा

भारतवर्ष में आयुर्वेद प्राचीनतम प्रचलित चिकित्सा-विज्ञान है। यह मानव मात्र के स्वास्थ्य के प्रति ही उत्तरदायी नहीं है अपितु यह पशु चिकित्सा विज्ञान के रूप में भी योगदान प्रदान करता है। भारतवर्ष में पारम्परिक पशु चिकित्सा विज्ञान का इतिहास महाभारत काल (५००० सदी ईसा पूर्व) से 'नकुलसंहिता' के रूप में लिपिबद्ध है। हस्त्यायुर्वेद हाथियों की चिकित्सा से सम्बन्धित शास्त्र है। इस संहिता का लेखन पालकाप्य ने किया था। वर्तमान में पूर्ण रूप में उपलब्ध इस संहिता का संपादन पण्डित शिवदत्त शर्मा ने किया। हस्त्यायुर्वेद आनन्दाश्रम प्रेस में सन् १८९४ में मुद्रित की गई। यह संहिता आयुर्वेद के मौलिक सिद्धान्तों पर आधारित है। इसमें हाथियों की शरीररचना, शरीरक्रिया, रोगविज्ञान, शल्यक्रिया, चिकित्सा और पालन-पोषण से सम्बन्धित सभी पक्ष सन्निहित हैं। पालकाप्य द्वारा रचित यह दुर्लभ ग्रन्थ हस्त्यायुर्वेद पर एक मात्र पूर्णतः मुद्रित संहिता है।