

**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 satri 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**

**Table showing the compounds indicated in the diseases of Alimentary canal**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Compound</b>	<b>Indications</b>
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, Ploiha, Atisara, Agnimandya
6.	Mahapranesvara Rasa	Gulma, Arsas, Grahani
7.	Amlapittantaka Rasa	Amlapitta
8.	Tamradi Kalpa	Amlapitta
9.	Purna Candrodaya Sinduram	Aruci, Chardi, Svarabjhanga, 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

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17.	Mrtasanjivani Rasa	Amatisara, Raktatisara, Grahani
18.	Grahanika Madavarana Simharasa	Grahanika, Viucika, Agnimandya, Sula, Vibandha, Gulma
19.	Lokanatha Rasa	Grahadni, Atisara, Ajirna
20.	Kanakasundara Rasa	Agnimandya, Atisara
21.	Grahanika 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, Plihavrdhi Grahani, 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, Agnimandya, Anaha, Vistambha, Grahani, Sula, Arsas
40.	Sankha Dravakam	Ajirna
41.	Arsakuthara Rasa	Vatarsas
42.	Raja Vallabha Rasa	Agnimandya, Arsas, Bhagandara
43.	Vaikrantakhya Rasa	Tridosajarsas
44.	Abhraka Haritaki	Tridosajarsas
45.	Paradadi Vatika	Gulma, Raktapitta
46.	Sankhadrava	Gulma, Udara, Sula
47.	Sikhi Vadava Rasa	Vatagulma, Anaha, Sula
48.	Sankhadrava	Kantha Roga, Gulma, Sula, Agni Mandya
49.	Dandamara Rasa	Pitta Gulma
50.	Vidyadhara Rasa	Slesma Gulma, Plihodara
51.	Kancana Mohana Rasa	Vatasula, Agnimandya, Gulma, Malabandha
52.	Suladavanala Rasa	Ajirna, Sula, Anaha, Plihodara, Gulma
53.	Sulakuthara 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, Tuni, Prati Tuni, Sula
61.	Sankhadrava	Sula, Agnimandya, Gulma, Kantha Roga
62.	Mahasankhadrava	Gulma, Udara
63.	Bbhima Rudra Rasa	Garavisa
64.	Rasarat	Bhagandara

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**TABLE – II****Table showing the list of the****Compounds indirectly indicated in the diseases of alimentary canal**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the compound</b>	<b>Indication (G. I. Tract)</b>	<b>Context</b>
1.	Candabhanu Rasa	Arsas	Jwara
2.	Navajvarebha Simha Rasa	Grahani	Navajwara
3.	Tripurabhairava Rasa	Sula, Arsas, Krmi, Vistambha	Navajwara
4.	Swacchanda Bhairava Rasa	Visuci, Agnimandya, Vamana	Jwara
5.	Suta Rajiya Rasa	Gulma, Sula, Udara	Jwara
6.	Kalpataru Rasa	Atisara, Grahani	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, Vamana	Ksaya Roga
12.	Mahadagni Kumara Rasa	Kantha Roga, Agnimandya, Sula	Ksaya Roga
13.	Jirna Mandura Curnam	Agnimandya	Ksaya Roga
14.	Kanta Vallabha Rasa	Chardi, Arocaka, Gulma, Grahani, Arsas	Ksaya Roga
15.	Hamsa Manduram	Arsas	Pandu
16.	Agnimukha Manduram	Agnimandya, Grahani, Krmi, Arsas, Kantha Roga	Pandu
17.	Siddha Manduram	Udara, Anaha, Sula Arsas, Krmi, Gulma	Pandu
18.	Mandura Vataka	Arocaka, Arsas, Plihodara	Pandu
19.	Purnacandra Rasa	Agnimandya, Ajirna, Grahani Amlapitta	Pandu
20.	Sophari Rasa	Arocaka, Agnimandya, Grahani, Arsas	Sopha
21.	Vata Vidhvamsaka Rasa	Sula, Grahani, Arsas	Sutika Vata
22.	Kalagni Rudra Rasa	Gulma, Grahani	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	Prameha
29.	Gunjabhadra Rasa	Udara	Hrdroga
30.	Vadavanala Rasa	Amlapitta, Gulma, Udara	Kustha
31.	Candra Kala Rasa	Raktapitta	Asrgdara
32.	Vijayagutika	Krmi, Arsas, Atisara, Udara Grahani, Sula	Unmada

**TABLE – III**

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

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Mode of Preparation</b>	<b>Names of the compounds</b>
1	Kharaliya Rasayana	Kita Mardana Rasa, Amlapittantaka Rasa, Tamradikalpa-Grahanyankusa Rasa, Ama Kutara Rasa, Ananda Rasa, Kanaka Sundara Rasa, Mrta Sanjivani Rasa, Grhanika, madavarana Simha Rasa, Lokanatha Rasa, Kanaka Sundara Rasa, Grahani Gaja Kesari Rasa, Trailokya Sundara Rasa, Yogasara Rasa, Tamradika Rasa, Agnikumara Rasa, Agnitundi Vatika, Ksaradi Vatika, Tamrabasma Yoga, Cintamani Rasa, Abhrahamitaki, Pardadi Gutika, Sikhi 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.	Putra 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, Arsakuthara 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 from other works like, Pujya Padiyam, Nityanathiyam, 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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