

Review



Vanshatwakadi Agada in the management of Loota Visha (Spider bite poisoning): A narrative review.

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ABSTRACT:

Background: In Ayurveda, 'Gada' refers to the disease or suffering, whereas 'Agada' refers to antidote which alleviates the effect of the disease or poison exposed locally or internally. There are various *Agada* or antidote formulations which are indicated to counteract both animate and inanimate poisons in *Agada tantra* (Clinical Toxicology). This branch is among the eight branches of Ayurveda and that is *Ashtanga Ayurveda* which commonly deals with bites and poison management. *Vanshatwakadi Agada* is one such formulation referenced from the *Sushruta Samhita Kalpa-sthana (Sarpadashta Visha Chikitsa)*, indicated in *Loota Visha* (spider bite poison). The *Agada* combine eleven ingredients - *Vansha twak (Bambusa arundinacea Willd.)*, *Amalaki (Emblca officinalis Gaertn.)*, *Kapitha (Feronia limonia Linn. Swingle)*, *Kushtha (Saussurea lappa C.B. Clarke)*, *Shunthi (Zingiber officinale Roxb.)*, *Maricha (Piper nigrum Linn.)*, *Pippali (Piper longum Linn.)*, *Hemavati (Acorus calamus Linn.)*, *Karanja (Pongamia pinnata Linn Merr.)*, *Tagara (Valeriana wallichii DC)*, *Shirisha (Albizia lebeck Bent.)* with cow's bile to alleviate sign and symptoms of *Loota Visha*. This article aims to discuss the role of *Vanshatwakadi Agada* as an antidote for reducing sign and symptoms of *Loota Visha* by analysing the pharmacological property and therapeutic utility of individual ingredients. **Materials and methods:** Several classical texts were referenced including *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Hridaya*, *Ashtang Sangraha*, *Bhavapraksha Samhita*, *Sharangdhara Samhita* and textbooks like *Dravyaguna Vigyana* and *Agada Tantra*. *Jangama Visha*, *Loota Visha*, *Agada* formulation, *Chikitsa* etc. were used as search terms in database search. **Conclusion:** The *Vanshatwakadi Agada* given in *Sushruta Samhita* have potential role in managing *Loota Visha* symptoms. The pharmacological characteristics and medicinal properties of *Vanshatwakadi Agada* are highlighted in this article in relation with contemporary concepts.

KEYWORDS: *Agada*, *Agada Tantra*, *Jangama Visha*, *Loota Visha*, narrative review, spider bite, spider venom, *Vanshatwakadi Agada*.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In *Ashtanga Ayurveda* (the eight branches of Ayurveda), the treatment of poisoning falls under the category of *Visha Chikitsa* or *Agada Tantra* under which the poisoning by animate sources primarily spiders, snakes, rodents, and insects poison, etc. are mentioned. The word *Agada Tantra* is derived from the combination of the two words- *Agada* and *Tantra*. The word '*Agada*' comes from the word '*Gada*'. *Gada* means disease, toxin or suffering and *Agada* means anything that counteract the disease, toxin or suffering and may be referred as antidote. So, *Agada Tantra* is a system of knowledge for protecting the body by conquering poison. In Ayurveda, variety of *Agada* formulations are given that offers anti-toxic property which are known to counteract the effects of both inanimate and animate poisons. *Loota* (spider) comes under animate or *Jangama* poison as per Ayurveda. Upon biting, spider presents with various symptoms at the bite site and body often associated with clinical complication like systemic neurotoxicity, bleeding, inflammation, necrosis, etc. which requires fast and efficient management.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS:

This is a narrative review focused mainly on the epidemiology, diagnosis and management of spider poison based on the

Table no. 1: Database search methodology table

S.No.	Database	Search Strategy	Filters Applied	Results retrieved	Notes
1.	PubMed	Spider Envenomation	Language: English; in last 10 years	225	Exploration of different aspect of spider poisoning.
2.	PubMed	Spider venom AND antivenom	Language: English; Full text available; in last 10 years	80	Focused on different types of venomous spiders, their sign and symptoms and role of anti-venom as their treatment
3.	PubMed	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn. OR <i>Amalaki</i>	Language: English; Publication year: 2016-2026	1042	Focused on anti-inflammatory effect in acute & chronic inflammation in pre-clinical studies
4.	PubMed	<i>Amalaki Rasayana</i>	Language: English; Publication year: 2011-2026	56	Focused on <i>Rasayana</i> or anti-oxidant effect of <i>Amalaki</i>

principles and practices of *Agada Tantra*.

- a) **Classical Ayurveda texts:** Several texts were reviewed with the concerned subject. Primary references were taken from *Brihatrayee* and *Laghutrayee* classical books which includes *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Hridaya*, *Ashtang Sangraha*, *Bhavapraksha Samhita*, *Sharangdhara Samhita*, specifically focused on *Sushruta Kalpa-sthana*, *Charak Chikitsa sthana* and *Ashtanga Uttar-tantra*. Textbooks like *Dravyaguna Vigyana* and *Agada Tantra* were also referenced.
- b) **Electronic databases and journals:** Various peer-reviewed journals, articles, clinical study, case study, experimental study, etc. were reviewed to gather information about the concerned topic. The search terms used to retrieve information were spider bite, *Agada*, *Visha*, *Loota Visha*, envenomation, spider venom and antivenom, *Vanshatwakadi Agada* and many more and the primary database is utilized for searching is PubMed.
- c) **Contemporary texts:** Different medical texts were thoroughly reviewed for the modern aspect of spider envenomation sign and symptoms.

Search Strategy

5.	PubMed	<i>Albizia lebeck</i> Bent.	Language: English; Full text available; in last 10 years	36	Involved study of pharmacological property, traditional medicinal uses and anti-inflammatory response.
6.	PubMed	<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn. pharmacology	Language: English; Full text available	350	Focused on anti-inflammatory and wound healing activity.
7.	PubMed	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (Linn) Merr. in wound healing	Language: English; Publication year: 2011-2026	11	Included in-vivo and in-vitro studies to prove its role in dermatological manifestations along with its anti-inflammatory activity.
8.	PubMed	Spider anti-venom	Language: English; Full text available	510	Explored effectiveness of spider antivenom especially for black widow venomous spider.
9.	PubMed	Spider AND its bite prevalence	Language: English; Full text available	303	Focused on habitat and epidemiology of spider and prevalence of bite.
10.	PubMed	<i>Saussurea lappa</i> C.B. Clarke	Language: English; Full text available	657	Focused on phytoconstituents, wound healing and anti-oxidant properties in pre- clinical studies
11.	PubMed	<i>Vishaghna Dravya</i>	Language: English; Full text available	1	Focused on collective classification of <i>Vishaghna</i> or anti-toxic drugs mentioned in classical Ayurveda Samhita.

Epidemiology

After insects, spiders are the largest group of species among terrestrial organisms and cover major ecological areas of this planet. There are more than 53,000 known species of the spider in all over the world and estimated to reach a figure of 120,000 species. [1] Spider is a member of Arthropoda group which contributes to the largest number of it. It shows a variety of size, adaptation and behavior, belongs to the subphylum Chelicerata, class of arachnids and Araneae order along with ticks, scorpions and mites. [2] Spider bite is known to be very common especially in tropical regions. However, few of them are fatal and may lead to death in case of unavailability of proper management.

Loota Visha

As per Ayurveda, there are sixteen numbers of *Loota Vagbhata* classified them on the basis of severity, *Dosha* involvement and prognosis. [3, 4, 5]

Classification of *Visha* based on-

1. Severity

- Mild: death occur within 15 days
- Moderate: death occur within 7-10 days

- Severe: death occur within 7 days

2. Dosha involvement

- Vata*: Swelling (rough on touch), blackish discoloration and pain in joints.
- Pitta*: Burning sensation, fever, suppuration and thirst.
- Kapha*: Hard swelling, itching, whitish in color and mild pain.
- Sannipata*: It shows mixed symptoms of *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha*

3. Prognosis

- Kricchsadhya* (difficulty in curing)-8
- Asadhya* (incurable)- 8

Dermatological manifestation of *Loota Visha*

In Ayurveda, *Acharya Vagbhata* mentioned the following symptoms of *Loota Visha*. [6]

- Appearance of round rash
- Resembling a net at its edges
- Burning sensation and swelling that spreads
- Severe pain
- Suppuration
- Exudation

g) When the pus from the wound comes, ulcers are formed on the parts that comes in contact with that pus

By seeing the round lesion, it should not be confused with the fungal infection because it also shows similar lesion that can easily be differentiated with each other by considering other sign and symptoms also. While going through the sign and symptoms, it is evident enough to conclude that there is predominance of *Pitta* and *Kapha Dosh*a in *Loota Visha*.

Stages of spider envenomation

Acharya Vagbhata explains the day-wise manifestation of spider bite symptoms. He also mentions that the symptoms at the bite site do not manifest themselves for half a day from the time of bite. [7]

Table no. 2: Stages of spider envenomation

1 st day	It appears as if pricked by a needle, no discoloration at bite site, only mild itching and pain
2 nd day	Raised edges at bite site surrounded by eruptions, depressed at center, discoloration, itching
3 rd day	Fever, piloerection, red circular patches at the site, discharge from hair follicles, pricking pain
4 th day	Profound swelling with fever, dyspnea and giddiness
5 th day	Symptoms of poisoning appears as per predominant <i>Dosha</i> vitiated at the bite site.
6 th day	All vital organs show sign and symptoms of poisoning
7 th day	Death

Sites of poison in Spider as per Ayurveda: There are eight sites where the poison of spider resides: nails, urine, stool, semen, saliva, menstrual fluid, fangs and breath. [8]

Mode of administration *Vanshatwakadi Agada* [9]

1. *Anjana* (Collyrium)
2. *Nasya* (Nasal administration)
3. *Lepa* (External application)
4. *Pana* (Oral administration)

Indications of *Vanshatwakadi Agada* [10]

1. Spider bite poisoning
2. Rat bite poisoning

3. Snake bite poisoning
4. Insect bite poisoning

Modern aspect of Spider venom

Among the poisonous organisms, spider is commonly known to be a venomous species after snakes and some of the aquatic organisms whose venom is produced in specialized venom glands. Spider bites are common but severe envenomation is rare. Majority of them do not bite humans and are not harmful except for a few varieties like Black widow spider, Hobo spider, Funnel-web spider, etc. Some of the reasons that spider bite is not fatal to humans are: more than 85% of spider species secrete venom in small quantity, many spiders are not aggressive, they don't have venomous fangs powerful enough to penetrate through the human skin and most importantly humans are not meant to be a prey for the spider. [11]

Still, some of venomous spiders could prove to be really fatal for the health that should be taken care of. Spider venoms consist of various components like antimicrobial peptides, larger proteins, small molecules and cysteine rich peptides, hematotoxins, neurotoxins and other necrolytic enzymes that effect blood vessels, nervous system and destroy the tissues that leads to necrosis or gangrene. The local and systemic sign and symptoms of spider poison include pain and swelling, necrosis, pyrexia, pulmonary oedema, respiratory distress, hypertension, kidney dysfunction and death. [12] Although many spider bites are not fatal and self-limiting in few days without any treatment while some require emergency management which includes symptomatic measures and antivenom injections.

Management of *Loota Visha*

Acharya Sushruta mentioned ten treatment modalities for *Loota Visha*. They include: *Nasya* (nasal administration), *Anjana* (collyrium), *Abhyanga* (therapeutic massage), *Pana* (oral administration), *Dhuma* (inhalation of medicated smoke), *Avpeeda Nasya* (nasal administration of medicated

extract), *Kavala* (medicated mouth washing), *Vamana* (therapeutic emesis), *Virechana* (therapeutic purgation) and *Raktamokshana* (blood-letting). [13] *Vagbhata* says that among fats, there is no other better medicine than cow's ghee in case of envenomation. [14] He also emphasized the importance of surgical procedure, thermal cautery, blood-letting by vein puncture and some other anti-toxic formulations for *Loota Visha*. [15]

Vanshatwakadi Agada

Vanshatwakadi Agada [16] is a potent classical formulation which is specifically indicated for *Loota Visha*, referenced

from *Sushruta Samhita, Kalpa-sthana (Sarpadashta Visha Chikitsa)*. It has eleven herbal ingredients: *Vansha Twak (Bambusa arundinacea Willd.)*, *Amalaki (Emblia officinalis Gaertn.)*, *Kapitha (Feronia limonia Linn. Swingle)*, *Kushtha (Saussurea lappa C.B. Clarke)*, *Shunthi (Zingiber officinale Roxb.)*, *Maricha (Piper nigrum Linn.)*, *Pippali (Piper longum Linn.)*, *Hemavati (Acorus calamus Linn.)*, *Karanja (Pongamia pinnata Linn Merr.)*, *Tagara (Valeriana wallichii DC)*, *Shirisha (Albizzia lebeck Bent.)*, all in equal quantities and their pharmacological and pharmacodynamics properties can align with the counteract mechanism of spider bite poisoning.

Table no.3: Ingredients of Vanshatwakadi Agada

Ingredient	Latin Name	Family	Part used	Quantity
<i>Vansha</i>	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Willd.	<i>Gramineae</i>	Bark	1 part
<i>Shirisha</i>	<i>Albizzia lebeck</i> Bent.	<i>Leguminosae</i>	Flower, leaves, seed	1 part
<i>Amalaki</i>	<i>Emblia officinalis</i> Gaertn.	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	Fruit	1 part
<i>Tagara</i>	<i>Valeriana wallichii</i> DC	<i>Valerianaceae</i>	Root	1 part
<i>Pippali</i>	<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.	<i>Piperaceae</i>	Fruit	1 part
<i>Maricha</i>	<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linn.	<i>Piperaceae</i>	Fruit	1 part
<i>Shunthi</i>	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roxb.	<i>Zingiberaceae</i>	Rhizome	1 part
<i>Karanja</i>	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (Linn) Merr.	<i>Leguminosae</i>	Seed, leaves	1 part
<i>Hemavati</i>	<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn.	<i>Araceae</i>	Rhizome, leaves	1 part
<i>Kapitha</i>	<i>Feronia limonia</i> (Linn.) Swingle	<i>Rutaceae</i>	Fruit pulp	1 part
<i>Kushtha</i>	<i>Saussurea lappa</i> C.B. Clarke	<i>Compositae</i>	Root	1 part

Table no.4: Pharmacological properties of Vanshatwakadi Agada

Ingredient	Rasa (Taste)	Guna (Attribute)	Veerya (Potency)	Vipaka (Bio-transformation of Dravya)
<i>Vansha twak (Bambusa arundinacea Willd.)</i> [17]	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet), <i>Kashaya</i> (Astringent)	<i>Ruksha</i> (Dry), <i>Tikshna</i> (Penetrating), <i>Laghu</i> (Light)	<i>Sheeta</i> (Cold)	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)
<i>Shirisha (Albizzia lebeck Bent.)</i> [18]	<i>Tikta</i> (Bitter), <i>Kashaya</i> , <i>Madhura</i>	<i>Ruksha</i> , <i>Tikshna</i> , <i>Laghu</i>	<i>Ishad Ushna</i> (Slight Hot)	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent)
<i>Amalaki (Emblia officinalis Gaertn.)</i> [19]	<i>Amla Pradhana Pancharasa</i> (Sour Dominating Five Rasa, Except Salt)	<i>Guru</i> (Heavy), <i>Sheeta</i> (Cold), <i>Ruksha</i>	<i>Sheeta</i>	<i>Madhura</i> (Sweet)
<i>Tagara (Valeriana wallichii DC)</i> [20]	<i>Katu</i> (Pungent), <i>Tikta</i> , <i>Kashya</i>	<i>Snigdha</i> (Lubricating), <i>Laghu</i>	<i>Ushna</i> (Hot)	<i>Katu</i>

<i>Pippali</i> (<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.) [21]	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Snigdha, Tikshna, Laghu</i>	<i>Anushnashita</i> (Neither Hot nor Cold)	<i>Madhura</i>
<i>Maricha</i> (<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linn.) [22]	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Tikshna, Laghu</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>
<i>Shunthi</i> (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roxb.) [23]	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Tikshna, Laghu</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Madhura</i>
<i>Karanja</i> (<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> Linn Merr.) [24]	<i>Katu, Tikta, Kashaya</i>	<i>Tikshna, Laghu</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>
<i>Hemavati</i> (<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn.) [25]	<i>Tikta, Katu</i>	<i>Tikshna, Laghu</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>
<i>Kapitha</i> (<i>Feronia limonia</i> Linn. Swingle) [26]	<i>Amla (Sour), Madhura</i>	<i>Snigdha, Guru (Heavy)</i>	<i>Sheeta</i>	<i>Madhura</i>
<i>Kushtha</i> (<i>Saussurea lappa</i> C.B. Clarke) [27]	<i>Katu, Tikta, Madhura</i>	<i>Ruksha, Laghu, Tikshna</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>

Table no.5: Pharmacodynamics of *Vanshatwakadi Agada*

S.NO.	Ingredient	Effect on <i>Dosha</i>	Phyto-constituents	Action of drug in body	Clinical or experimental research findings
1.	<i>Vansha</i> (<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Willd.)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Pitta</i>	<i>Vanshalochan</i> (contain silica)	<i>Krimighna</i> (anti-helminthic), <i>Shothahara</i> (anti-inflammatory), <i>Kushthghna</i> (alleviate skin disease)	No any studies found related to the context
2.	<i>Shirisha</i> (<i>Albizia lebeck</i> Bent.)	Alleviates <i>Tridosha</i>	Phenols, Saponins, Flavonoids	<i>Vishaghna</i> (Best Anti-toxic), <i>Shothahara</i> , <i>Vedana-sthapana</i> (Analgesic), <i>Rakta-shodhaka</i> (Purification of blood)	Analgesic, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-toxic. [28, 29, 30]
3.	<i>Amalaki</i> (<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.)	Alleviates <i>Tridosha</i> (Specially <i>Pitta</i>)	Tannin, Flavanols, Hydroxy-benzoic acid	<i>Rasayana</i> (Rejuvenating), <i>Shonita-sthapana</i> (Stop bleeding), <i>Daha-prashmana</i> (Alleviate burning sensation)	Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, Analgesic, Immunomodulator, As an adjunct in cobra snake envenomation. [31, 32, 33, 34]
4.	<i>Tagara</i> (<i>Valeriana wallichii</i> DC)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Vata</i>	Valerianic acid, valepotriates	<i>Vrana Ropana</i> (Wound healing), <i>Shula-prashmana</i> (Analgesic), <i>Vishaghna</i>	Analgesic, Neuroprotective, Antioxidant, Anti-inflammatory. [35, 36]
5.	<i>Pippali</i> (<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Vata</i>	Piperine	<i>Shula-prashmana</i> , <i>Krimighna</i> , <i>Rakta-shodhana</i> , <i>Rasayana</i>	Anti-inflammatory, Anti-oxidant. [37]
6.	<i>Maricha</i> (<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linn.)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Vata</i>	Piperine	<i>Pramathi</i> (scrapes out the toxins from subtle channels in body), <i>Krimighna</i> , <i>shula-prashmana</i> , <i>Shoshana</i> (Drying in nature)	Anti-inflammatory, Anti-pruritic.[38]
7.	<i>Shunthi</i> (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roxb.)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Vata</i>	Gingerols (phenolic compound)	<i>Shula-prashmana</i> , <i>Shothahara</i>	Anti-inflammatory Analgesic. [39]
8.	<i>Karanja</i>	Alleviates	Karanjin,	<i>Kandughna</i> (Reduce itching), <i>Krimighna</i> ,	Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic,

	<i>(Pongamia pinnata</i> Linn Merr.)	<i>Kapha-Vata</i>	Pongamol, Pongone	<i>Shothahara, Vrana-ropana, Vedana-sthapana, Rakta-prasadana</i> (improves blood quality), <i>Vishaghna</i>	Anti-ulcerogenic, Wound healing, Anti-pruritic. [40, 41, 42]
9.	<i>Hemavati</i> (<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn.)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Vata</i>	Phenyl-propanoids, Asarone, sesquiterpenoids	<i>Shothahara, Vedana-sthapana,</i>	Wound healing, Analgesic, Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant. [43, 44]
10.	<i>Kapitha</i> (<i>Feronia limonia</i> Linn. Swingle)	Alleviates <i>Vata-Pitta</i>	Eugenol, Coumarins, Integriquinolone	<i>Vishaghna</i> (Anti-toxic)	Anti-microbial.[45]
11.	<i>Kushtha</i> (<i>Saussurea lappa</i> C.B. Clarke)	Alleviates <i>Kapha-Vata</i>	sesquiterpene lactone (Cynaropicrin)	<i>Vedana-sthapana, Varnya</i> (Improve appearance), <i>Rakta-shodhaka</i>	Wound healing, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-microbial, Anti-oxidant. [46, 47]

3. DISCUSSION

As per *Acharya Vagbhata*, *Loota Visha* is included under *Keeta Visha* (insect poisoning) having all the symptoms of insect bite. When it comes to the *Dosha* involvement in spider, there is imbalance of all the three *Doshas* (*Vata, Pitta, Kapha*) but there is predominance of *Pitta* and *Kapha* along with *Rakta Dushti* (vitiation of blood).

The formulation exhibits a dominance of *Katu* [48] and *Tikta* [49] *Rasa*, both of which are anti-microbial, anti-pruritic, helps in wound cleansing and healing, drying of pus and discharge. *Tikta Rasa* is best for alleviating the *Kapha* and *Pitta Dosha* and act as 'anti-poisonous' as per *Charak*. This ultimately contributes in blood detoxification and blood nourishment, making it the primary line of defence against spider poisoning.

The inclusion of *Sheeta Veerya* (*Bambusa arundinacea* Willd., *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., and *Feronia limonia* Linn. Swingle) and *Madhura Vipaki* drugs (*Bambusa arundinacea* Willd., *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., *Feronia limonia* Linn. Swingle, *Piper longum* Linn., *Zingiber officinale* Roxb.) offers a crucial antagonist to prevent aggravation of *Pitta* and *Rakta*, thereby addressing symptoms such as inflammation and burning sensation associated with spider bite. At the same time, *Ushna Veerya* and *Katu Vipaki* drugs (*Albizzia lebbbeck* Bent.,

Valeriana wallichii DC, *Piper nigrum* Linn., *Zingiber officinale* Roxb., *Pongamia pinnata* Linn Merr., *Acorus calamus* Linn. and *Saussurea lappa* C.B. Clarke) supports for *Vata* and *Kapha Dosha* vitiation (Table no. 4). Hence, all the three *Doshas* come into homeostasis.

Vishaghna Drugs: *Shirisha* (*Albizzia lebbbeck* Bent.) is best among all the anti-poisonous drugs in Ayurveda, as mentioned in *Charak Samhita* text "*Shirisho Vishaghnanam*". [50] Likewise *Kapitha* (*Feronia limonia* Linn. Swingle), [51] *Kushtha* (*Saussurea lappa* C.B. Clarke), [52] *Karanja* (*Pongamia pinnata* Linn Merr.), [53] *Tagar* (*Valeriana wallichii* DC), [54] have *Vishaghna* effect that work to neutralize the spider poison in the body. *Acharya Vagbhata* mentioned spider bite symptoms (as mentioned earlier): severe pain, burning sensation, itching, inflammatory round lesion that spreads and if gets infected, ulceration and pus develop. To combat these symptoms, ingredients of *Vanshatwakadi Agada* provides a holistic approach in its management.

- **Vansha** (*Bambusa arundinacea* Willd.): Alleviates mainly *Kapha- Pitta Dosha*. It is anti-inflammatory, and helps in treating skin disease which is useful in reducing localized swelling and other dermatological symptoms present at bite site. (Table no. 5)

- **Shirisha (*Albizzia lebeck* Bent.):** Best anti-toxic drug known in Ayurveda. It is anti-inflammatory, analgesic in nature, useful in reducing local and systemic inflammation and pain, act as blood purifier ultimately bringing back the discoloration of skin to the normal. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Amalaki (*Embllica officinalis* Gaertn.):** It is an antioxidant drug that helps in stabilizing damaged tissues/cells and regenerates new tissues. It is anti-inflammatory, analgesic and immunomodulatory drug. *Amalaki* plays important role in *Pitta* alleviation thereby reducing burning sensation associated with bite. There is also a study about *Amalaki* that it acts as adjunct in cobra envenomation proving its anti-toxic potential. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Tagara (*Valeriana wallichii* DC):** It is anti-toxic, neuroprotective, anti-inflammatory which contributes in calming the nervous system and helps in managing neurological symptoms due to neurotoxins present in spider venom. Useful in wound healing and pain relief. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Pippali (*Piper longum* Linn.):** It is anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant (which builds immunity against spider toxin), useful in pain management and removing toxins from the blood. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Maricha (*Piper nigrum* Linn.):** As per *Sharangdhara*, *Maricha* has *Pramathi* [55] property to ensure that it scrapes out toxins from subtle channels in body. It is anti-inflammatory and anti-pruritic, which helps to combat the intense and frequent itching occurred at the bite site thereby alleviates the *Kapha Dosh*a, while its drying nature helps in managing the exudative discharge from the lesion. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Shunthi (*Zingiber officinale* Roxb.):** It is anti-inflammatory and analgesic, reducing the inflammation and severe pain occurred due to the bite. ([Table no. 5](#))

The presence of *Trikatu* (*Piper longum* Linn., *Piper nigrum* Linn., *Zingiber officinale* Roxb.) serves a dual purpose. It

corrects the metabolism and acts as a *Yogavahi* [56] (bio-enhancer) at the same time. The Piperine in *Trikatu* enhance the bioavailability [57] of other drugs in the systemic circulation.

- **Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata* Linn Merr.):** It is anti-toxic, anti-inflammatory and analgesic. *Karanja* is specifically used for skin disorders, acts as anti-pruritic, anti-ulcerogenic by virtue of which it helps in minimizing intense itching and ulcer formation, promoting the wound healing process. It also enhances blood quality by its *Rakta-prasadana* property. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Hemavati (*Acorus calamus* Linn):** It is analgesic and anti-inflammatory in nature. The presence of Asarone and Phenylpropanoids are anti-oxidant and contributes in wound-healing process, helping in regeneration of healthy tissues. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Kapitha (*Feronia limonia* Linn.):** Pacify *Vata-Pitta Dosh*a. *Kapitha* acts as anti-toxic and anti-microbial. The presence of Coumarins and Eugenol in it, show great anti-microbial property which prevent spider bite wound from getting infected with secondary infections. ([Table no. 5](#))
- **Kushtha (*Saussurea lappa* C.B. Clarke):** It acts as blood purifier and promote healthy skin colour. The active components present in it, offers evidence of its anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, wound healing and anti-oxidant property which ensures repairing of torn tissues due to poison. ([Table no. 5](#))

4. CONCLUSION

Spider bite is quite common in many areas. Proper management can reverse the symptoms within few days. The *Kapha-Pitta* predominancy can be seen in *Loota Visha* and the ingredients of *Vanshatwakadi Agada* are also having *Kapha-Pitta* pacifying properties along with their anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-toxic, anti-microbial, anti-pruritic, wound cleansing and healing actions which work together to reduce swelling, pain, inflammation, burning

sensation, counteract poison, improve cognitive function, and promote rejuvenation of local degenerative tissue and overall recovery.

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