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## Review Article

### DRUG REVIEW ON PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION OF VISHAGHNA GHANA

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#### ABSTRACT

Agada Tantra is one among 8 branches of Ayurveda, which deal with poisonous effect and its anti-dotes. Wide ranges of herbal drugs have been used from ancient era, for preventive and curative purposes. Many of the Ayurvedic texts explained about different drugs and its mode of action in different disorders. Poison is a substance which is capable of causing the illness or death of a living organism when introduced or absorbed. Drugs which act against toxic substances are called as Vishaghana. Acharya Charaka has listed 10 Vishaghana Ghana Dravyas while describing Vishaghana Mahakashaya in Sutra Sthana 4th chapter Shadvirechana Shatasritiya Adhyaya explaining about different types of Ghanas. This paper highlights about individual Vishaghna Ghana drugs along with its pharmacological actions.

**KEY WORDS:** Vishaghana Ghana, Poison, Shadvirechana, Agada Tantra, Drugs.

#### INTRODUCTION

Agada Tantra is a unique branch of Ayurveda which explains about the different toxicological principles. Any substance which is capable of causing the illness or death of a living organism when introduced or absorbed is known as poison. The effect of poison can occur either through poisonous animal's bites, plants, mixture of harmful chemicals etc. There are many herbal drugs which counter acts the action of poison. Drugs which act against toxic substances are called as Vishaghana. Acharya Charaka has listed 10 Vishaghana Ghana Dravyas while describing Vishaghana Mahakashaya in Sutra Sthana 4th chapter Shadvirechana Shatasritiya Adhyaya explaining about different types of Ghanas.

#### DRUG REVIEW

Haridra, Manjista, Suvaha, Sukshma Ela, Palindi, Chandana, Kathaka, Shirisha, Sindhuvara, Shleshmataka these are 10 drugs which are explained under Vishaghana Ghana Dravya<sup>1</sup>.

#### Pharmacological action

##### Haridra<sup>2</sup>:

**Botanical name:** *Curcuma longa*

**Family:** *Scitaminea (Zingiberaceae)*

**Vernacular name:** English- Turmeric, Kannada- Aabhini, Hindi- Haldi, Tamil- Manzal, Telugu- Pasupu kommulu

**Synonyms:** Nisha, Yoshita Priya, Hattavilasini, Krimighni, Peeta, Kanchini, Gouri, Varavarnini.

##### Classical categorization:

Charaka: Lekhaniya, Kushtaghna, Kandughna, Krimighna, Shirovirechana, Vishanaghana.

Sushruta: Haridradi, Mustadi, Sleshma Samshamaniya,

Vagbhata: Haridradi, Mustadi

**Chemical constituents:** curcumene, curcumenone, curcumerone, curdione, cineole, curzerenone, epiprocurcuminole, eugenol,

camphene, camphor, borneol, procurcumadiol, procurcumenol, curcumins, ukonan A B & D,  $\beta$ -sitosterol etc.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Tikta, Katu, **Guna:** Ruksha, Laghu, **Virya:** Ushna, **Vipaka:** Katu, **Karma:** Kapha-Vatahara, Tvakvikara Hara, Varnya, Visodhana, Visha, Kandughna, Daha, Vedna Sthapna, Raktaprasadana, Vranashodhana.

**Indications:** Prameha, Kushta, Krimi, Kandu, Vrana, Pandu, Kamala

**Parts used:** Rhizome

##### Manjista<sup>3</sup>:

**Botanical name:** *Rubia cordifolia*

**Family:** *Rubiaceae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Indian Maddar, Kannada- Manjushta, Hindi- Manjitha, Telugu- Manjishta, Tamil- Manjetti, Malayalam- Punta.

**Synonyms:** Jingi, Vastra Ranjani, Vikasaa, Mandukaparni, Yojanavalli, Samanga, Lohitalata, Bhandiri, Bhaandi, Rakthanga, Vastra Bhushana, Kalameshi, Lata

##### Classical categorization:

Charaka: Jwarahara, Varnya, Vishaghna

Sushruta: Priyangvadi, Pitta Samshamaniya

Vagbhata: Priyangvadi

**Chemical constituents:** Purpuroxanthin, rubiatriol, rubicomaric acid, rubifolic acid, pseudopurpurin, alizarin, rubiadin, rubimallin, purpurin, Xanthopurpurin, ruberythric acid, anthraquin-ones munjistin, antitumour cyclic hexapeptides RA-V and RA-VII along with RA-I to IV

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Madhura, Tikta, **Guna:** Guru, Ruksha, **Virya:** Ushna, **Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Kapha-Pittahara, Raktaprasadana, Raktashodhak, Varnya, Tvachya, Kushthaghna, Vishaghna.

**Indication:** Jwara, Mutrakricchra, Prameha, Kushta, Visarpa, Vrana, Shotha, Rakthaatisara, Netraroga.

**Parts used:** Moola

**Dosage:** Churna: 1-5gm, Kwatha: 50-100ml

**Suvaha (rasna)<sup>4</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Pluchea lanceolata* / *Alpinia galangal*/  
*A. calcarata*

**Family:** *Pluchea lanceolata*- *Asteraceae*, this is the Rasna of north, Punjab & Gujarat *Alpinia galangal*/ *calcarata*-*Scitamineae*, Vaidyas of south believe this to be the real Rasna

**Vernacular names:** English- Lesser galangal, Kannada- Chitramoolaka, Hindi- Phaar, Telugu- Sannarashtram

**Synonyms:** Elaparni, Yuktha, Yuktha Rasa, Sugandhaa

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Anuvasanopaga Varga, Vayasthapana Varga

Sushruta: Arkadi Ghana

Bhavaprakash Nighantu: Haritakyadi Varga

**Chemical constituents:** Galangin, kaempferide, diaryl-heptanoids

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Tikta, **Guna:** Guru, **Virya:** Ushna,

**Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Kapha-Vatahara, Raktasodhaka, Vishaghna, Raktavikara, Sheetaprashmana, Shitopanayana, Rasayana.

**Indication:** Shothahara, Sheetahara, Vedana shamaka, Amapachana, Shulaprashmana, Rechana, Raktha Shodhaka, Kasahara, Swasahara, Jwaraghna, Vishaghna, Vrishya, Rasayana

**Parts used:** Moola, Kanda, Patra

**Dosage:** Kwatha: 50-100ml

**Sukshma ela<sup>5</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Elettaria cardamomum*

**Family:** *Scitamineae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Cardamom, Kannada- Elakki, Hindi- Ilaychi Telugu- China elakulu Malayalam-Elam Tamil- Yelakka

**Synonyms:** Korangi, Dravidi, Triputa, Truti, Tuttha, Bahula

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Swasahara, Angamarda Prashmana, Katuka Skandha, Shirovirechana

Sushruta: Eladi Ghana

Vagbhata: Eladi, Trijataka, Chaturjataka

**Chemical constituents:** Bornneol, camphene, p-cymene, geraneol, heptanes, D-limonene, linalool, menthone, methylheptene, myrcene, nerol, nerylacetate,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -terpeneols, n-alkanes, ascaridole, camphor, citral, citronellal, farnesol, sitosterol, thujene etc.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Katu, Madhura, **Guna:** Laghu, Ruksha,

**Virya:** Sheeta, **Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Kapha-Vatahara, Dahashamaka, Raktapitta Shamak, Mukhashodhana, Anulomana, Durgandhnashak.

**Indication:** Hridroga, Swasa, Kasa, Mutrakrucra, Chardi, Shirashoola, Arshas

**Parts used:** Beeja

**Dosage:** Powder 0.5-1 gms.

**Palindi (trivrit)<sup>6</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Operculina turpethum*

**Family:** *Convolvulaceae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Indian jalap Hindi- Nisoth kannada- Vilitigada Tamil- Sivada, Telugu- Tegade, Bengali-TeVudi, Malayalam- Chivaka

**Synonyms:** Arthacandra, triputa, tribhandi, palindi, sarala, sarvanubhuti, suvaha, susenika.

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Bhedaniya

Sushruta: Syamadi, adbhogahara

Vagbhata: Syamadi

**Chemical constituents:**  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - turpethins, seopoletin, turpethinic acids A, turpethin, scopoletin, coumarin etc.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Tikta, Katu, **Guna:** Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna, **Virya:** Ushna, **Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Kapha-pitta hara, recana.

**Indication:** Sotha, Udara, Arsas, Pandu, Kamala, Jwara, Vibandha, Pliharoga, Krimi Etc.

**Parts used:** Root, bark, leaves.

**Dosage:** Powder 1-3g.

**Chandana<sup>7</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Santalum album*

**Family:** *Santalaceae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Sandal wood, Kannada- Srigandha, Hindi- Safed chandan, Telugu- Tella chandanam, Tamil and Malayalam- Chandanam

**Synonyms:** Gandhasara, Malayaja, Srikhanda, Mahaarha, Shweta Chandana, Bhadrapiya

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Daha Prashmana, Angamarda Prashmana, Trishna Nigrahana, Varnya, Vishaghna, Kandughna

Sushruta: Saalaradi, Sarivadi, Patoladi, Priyangwadi, Guduchyadi

Vagbhata: Asanadi, Patoladi, Sarivadi, Priyangwadi, Guduchyadi

**Chemical constituents:** Santalic acid, palmitone,  $\alpha$ -santalol,  $\beta$ -santene & santalenes, santenol.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Tikta, Madhura, **Guna:** Laghu, Ruksha,

**Virya:** Sheeta, **Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Kapha-Pittahara, Dahaprashmana, Varnya, Twagdoshahara, Raktashodhaka, Raktapittashamaka, Kushtaghna, Vishaghna.

**Indication:** Daha, Jwara, Kushta, Visrapa, Kandu, Trishna, Rakthapitta

**Parts used:** Heartwood, volatile oil.

**Dosage:** Churna: 3-5 gms, Kwatha: 50-100ml

**Kataka<sup>8</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Strychnos potatorum*

**Family:** *Loganiaceae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Clearing nut, Hindi- Nirmali, Telugu- Chilla ginjal, Tamil- Tetan kottai

**Synonyms:** Chakshushya, Payaprasadini

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Vishaghna Dashemani

Sushruta: Parushakadi Ghana

Vagbhata: Parushakadi Ghana

**Chemical constituents:** Seeds- Mannogalactan, Rootbark- Diaboline, Antirrhine, Ochrolifuanine, Norharmane etc.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Madhura, Kashaya, Tikta, **Guna:** Laghu, Vishada, **Virya:** Sheeta, **Vipaka:** Madhura

**Karma:** Kapha-Vatahara, Vrana-Sotha-Pachana, Kusthaghna, Vishaghna, Stambhaka.

**Indication:** Netra Roga, Ashmari, Prameha, Kushta, Pratishtaya, Shotha, Pandu, Kamala, Visha Roga.

**Parts used:** Beeja, Moola

**Dosage:** Churna: 5gms.

**Shirisha <sup>9</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Albizia lebbek*

**Family:** *Mimosoideae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Flea tree, Frywood, Hindi- Siris, Kannada- Bagemara, Malayalam- Vaga, Tamil- Vegial, Telugu- Dirisena chettu

**Synonyms:** Kapitancha, Mrudhu Pushpa, Bhandi, Bhandirah, Shukataru, Shuka Priya, Shuka Pushpa.

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Vishaghna, Vedhana Sthapana, Shirovirechana, Kashaya Skandha

Sushruta: Saalaradi

Vagbhata: Asanadi

**Chemical constituents:** Albigenin, Albiziagenin, Albigenic Acid, Saponins-Lebbekianins A-H

Bark: Tannins, lebbecacidin, friedelin,  $\beta$ -sitosterol

Seeds: proteins, amino acids

Flowers: benzyl alcohol, benzoic acid, p-nitro benzoate etc.

Leaf: caffeic acid, kaempferol, myricitrin, reynoutrin etc.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Kashaya, Tikta, Madhura, **Guna:** Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna, **Virya:** Ushna (Anushna), **Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Tridosahara, Vishghna, Varnya, Raktasodhaka, Sothahara, Kusthaghna.

**Indication:** Shotha, Kasa, Vrana, Visarpa, Kushta, Krimi, Visha Roga

**Parts used:** Kanda Twak, Beeja, Pushpa, Patra

**Dosage:** Churna: 3-6gms, Kwatha: 50-100ml, Swarasa: 10-20ml.

**Sindhuvata (nirgundi)<sup>10</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Vitex negundo*

**Family:** *Verbinaceae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Five leaved chaste, Hindi- Samhalu, kannada- Lekki gida, Tamil- Nochchi, Telugu- Vavili, Bengali- Nishinda

**Synonyms:** Shephalika, Suvaha, Sinduka, Sinduvata, Surasa, Shweta Pushpa, Neela Manjari, Vanaja, Bhutakeshi

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Vishaghna, Krimighna

Sushruta: Surasadi

Vagbhata: Surasadi

**Chemical constituents:** Phenol, dulcitol, alkaloid-vitricine,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, camphene,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -pinenes, angoside, aucubin, casticin, artemetin, orientin etc.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Tikta, Katu, Kashaya, **Guna:** Laghu, Ruksha, **Virya:** Ushna, **Vipaka:** Katu

**Karma:** Vata-Kapha Shamaka, Vednasthapana, Rasayana, Kusthaghna, Kandughana, Jantughna, Vish-Sarpvisa-Musikavisahar.

**Indication:** Shoola, Shotha, Krimi, Vatavyadhi, Kushta, Kandu, Kasa, Keshavikara, Pradara, Adhmana, Sandhivata, Gudavata, Gulma etc.

**Parts used:** Moola and Patra

**Dosage:** Moola Churna: 1-3gms, Swarasa: 10-20 ml, Kwatha: 40-50ml

**Sleshmantaka<sup>11</sup>:**

**Botanical name:** *Cordia dichotoma*

**Family:** *Boraginaceae*

**Vernacular names:** English- Sebesten, Hindi- Lasoda, Tamil- Vidi, Telugu- Nakkera, Malayalam- Badagunda

**Synonyms:** Bahuvara, Shelu, Udaalaka

**Classical categorization:**

Charaka: Vishaghna dashemani

Sushruta: Phala varga

Vagbhata: ----

**Chemical constituents:** Flavones, allantoin and  $\beta$ -sitosterol, palmitic, stearic, oleic and Linolenic acids.

**Rasa panchaka:** **Rasa:** Madhura, Kashaya, **Guna:** Snigdha, Picchila, Guru, **Virya:** Sheeta, **Vipaka:** Madhura

**Karma:** Kapha-Vatahara, Krimighna, Vishaghna, Mutral, Snehan Raktpittasamak, Twakdosahar, Kushtaghana.

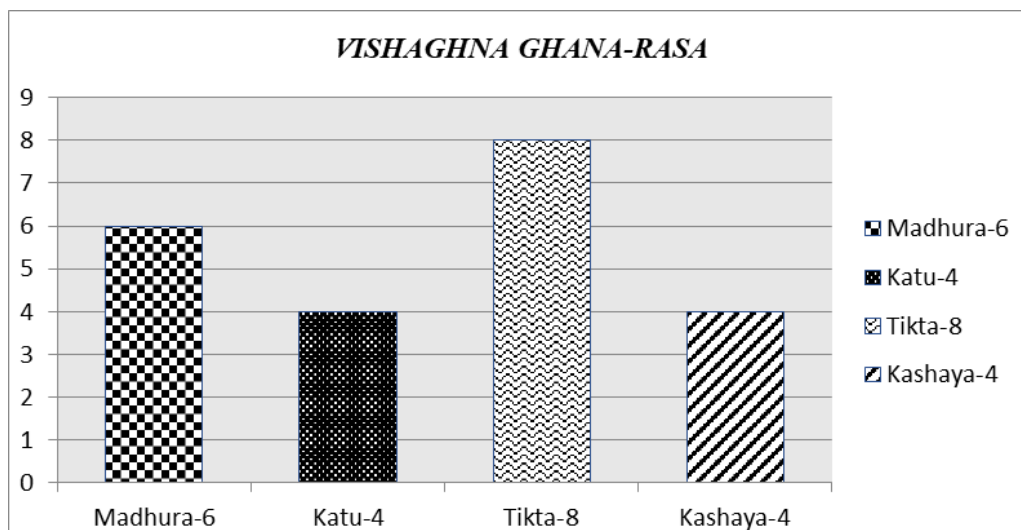
**Indication:** Kushta, Visarpa, Vrana, Indralupta, Palita

**Parts used:** Kanda Twak, Phala, Beeja Taila

**Dosage:** Twak Kashaya: 50-100ml, Phala rasa: 10-20ml

## DISCUSSION

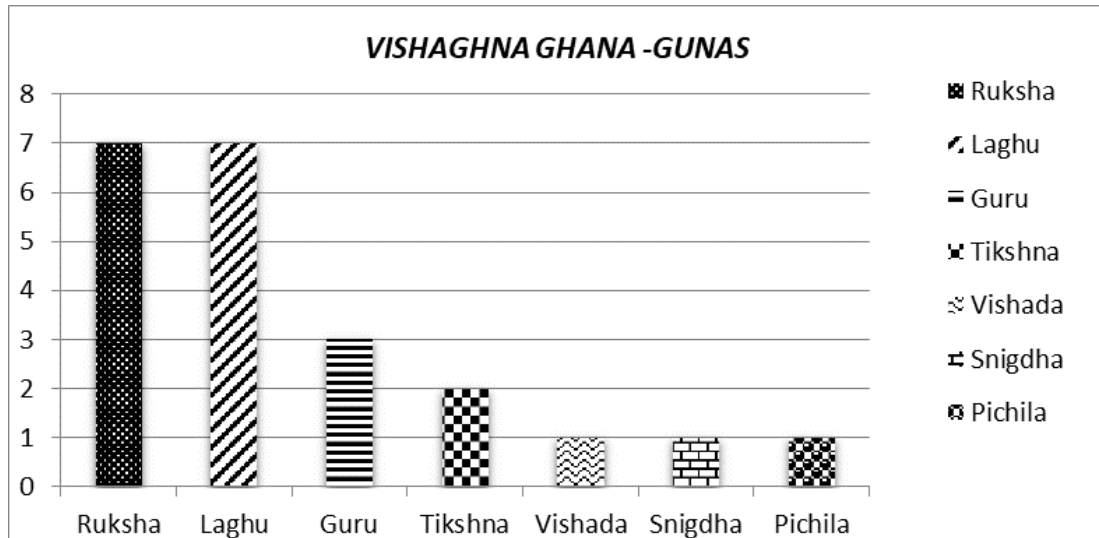
Vishaghna ghana – Rasa:



Graph No. 1. Showing Vishaghna Ghana - Rasa

The above Graph-1 shows Vishaghna Ghana Rasa among 10 drugs 6 drugs have Madhura Rasa, 4 drugs have Katu Rasa, 8 drugs have Tikta Rasa, 4 drugs have Kashaya Rasa.

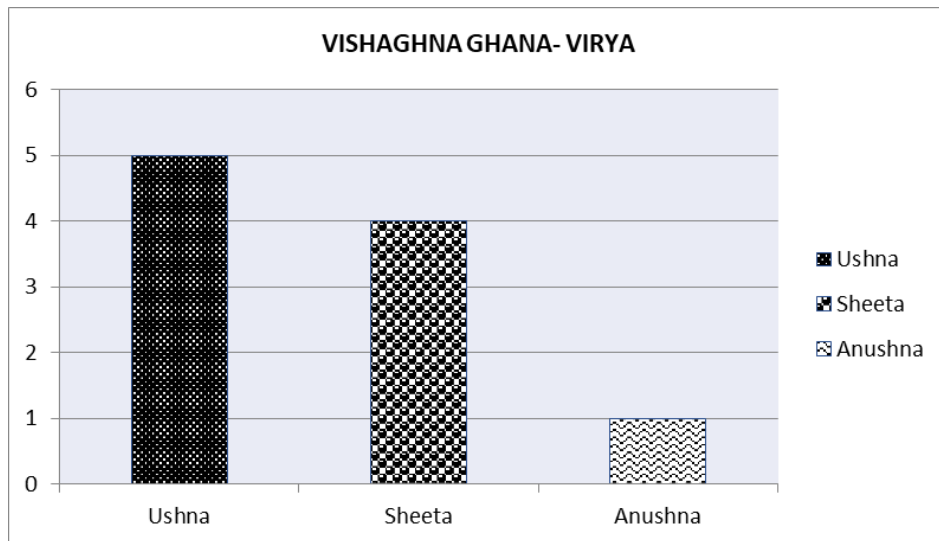
**Vishaghna ghana – Guna:**



Graph No. 2. Showing Vishaghna Ghana - Gunas

The above Graph-2 shows Vishaghna Ghana Gunas among 10 drugs, 7 drugs have Ruksha and Laghu Guna, 3 drugs have Guru Guna, 2 drugs have Vishada, Snigdha, Pichila Gunas.

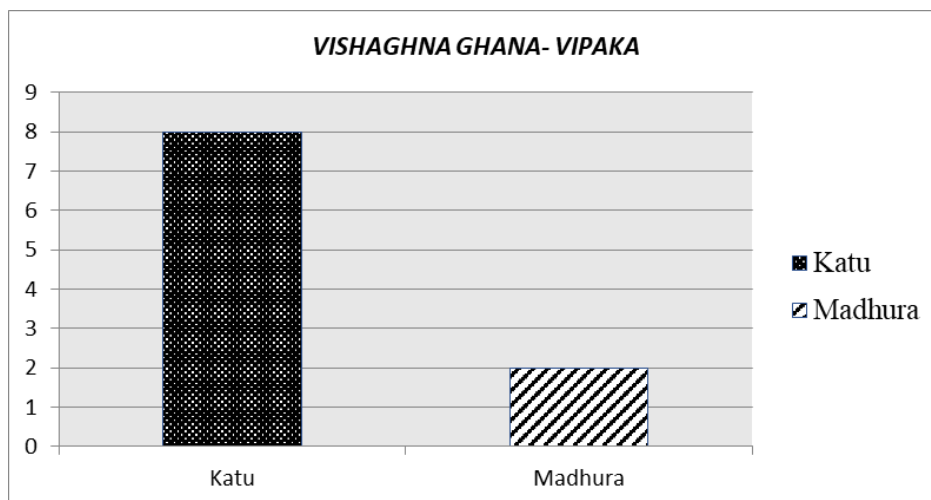
**Vishaghna ghana –Virya**



Graph No. 3. Showing Vishaghna Ghana - Virya

The above Graph-3 shows Vishaghna Ghana Viryas among 10 drugs, 5 drugs have Ushna Virya, 4 drugs have Sheeta Virya, and 1 drug has Anushna Virya.

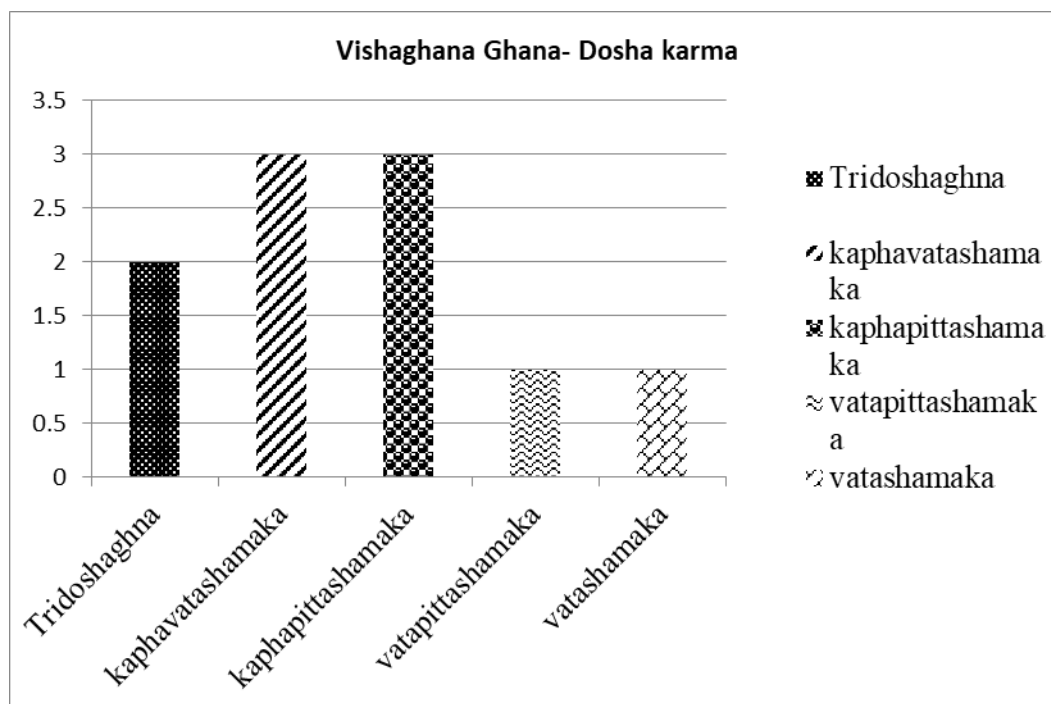
**Vishaghna ghana –Vipaka**



Graph No. 4. Showing Vishaghna Ghana - Vipaka

The above Graph-4 shows vishaghna Ghana Vipaka among 10 drugs, 8 drugs have Katu Vipaka and 2 drugs have Madhura Vipaka.

**Vishaghna ghana – Dosha karma:**



Graph No.5. Showing Vishaghna Ghana – Dosha Karma

The above Graph-5 shows Vishaghna Ghana Vipaka among 10 drugs, 2 drugs have Tridoshahna, 3 drugs have Kaphavata Shamaka and Kaphapitta Shamaka, 1 drug Vatapitta Shamaka and Vata Shamaka.

**Vishaghna ghana dravyas and its pharmacological action<sup>12</sup>:**

- Haridra:** 1. Anti-inflammatory effect, 2. Immunomodulatory effect, 3. Hepato-protective effect, 4. Anti-diabetic effect, 5. Antimicrobial effect, 6. Antioxidant effect, 7. Anti-allergic effect, 8. Anti-carcinogenic property, 9. Cardio-protective, 10. Protective role in skin diseases, 11. Protective role in Alzheimer.
- Manjista:** 1. Blood purifier, 2. Astringent, 3. Antiseptic, 4. Inflammations, 5. Erysipelas, 6. Skin diseases.
- Suvaha:** 1. Anodyne, 2. Skin diseases, 3. allaying the pain caused by the sting of scorpions, 4. Psoriasis, and 5. Inflammations.

- Sukshma ela:** 1. Purgative, 2. Antibacterial, 3. Anti-inflammatory, 4. Antioxidant, 5. Skin disorders.
  - Palindi:** 1. Pruritus, 2. Ulcers, 3. Erysipelas, 4. Anti-inflammatory 5. Antibacterial, 6. Anthelmintic.
  - Chandana:** 1. Disinfectant, 2. Blood purifier, 3. Skin diseases, 4. Tonic, 5. Deodorant.
  - Kataka:** 1. Antimicrobial, 2. Antioxidant, 3. Leprosy.
  - Sirisha:** 1. Skin Diseases, 2. Inflammation, 3. Anti-itching, 4. Allergic disorders, 5. Leucoderma, 6. Treatment of snake bite, 7. Erysipelas.
  - Sinduvara:** 1. Antibacterial, 2. Anti-inflammatory, 3. Healing Wounds, 4. Anti-Ulcers, 5. Antihistaminic, 6. Antioxidant.
  - Sleshmataka:** 1. Astringent, 2. Demulcent, 3. Anti-helmintic, 4. Antiulcer, 5. Wound healing, 6. Anti-inflammatory.
- Drugs in Vishaghna Ghana due to their Rasa panchaka antagonist to Visha and helps in treating diseases.

- Vishaghna Ghana has Madhura, Tiktha, Katu, Kashaya Rasas,
- Ruksha, Laghu, Guru, Tikshna, Vishada, Snigdha, Pichila Gunas,
- Ushna, Sheeta, Anushna Virya,
- Katu, Madhura Vipaka,
- Vata-Pitta Shamaka, Kapha-Vatashamaka, Kapha-Pitta Shamaka, Vata hara, Tridosha Shamaka properties.

## CONCLUSION

This work is to understand the utility and pharmacological actions of Vishaghna Ghana drugs which help in easy understanding of drugs and its mode of action. These drugs contain many pharmacological actions, and which acts against the Visha (poison). Based on the Yukti of physician these drugs can be used either in combination or as single drug according to the Dosh, Prakuthi, Desha, Kala, disease etc., predominant.

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