

A Comparative Review of Vishaghna Dravya in Ayurveda and Folk Medicine: Traditional Perspectives on Poison Management

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Abstract: *Poisoning has remained a major medical and public health concern since antiquity, arising from animal envenomation, toxic plants, mineral substances, and artificially prepared poisons. Ayurveda, the traditional medical system of India, addresses toxicology comprehensively through the specialized branch of Agadatantra, which describes the classification, pathogenesis, clinical features, and management of various forms of Visha. Central to Ayurvedic poison management is the use of Vishaghna Dravya—substances capable of neutralizing toxins, preventing systemic spread, and restoring physiological balance. Parallel to this classical system, Indian folk medicine has developed region-specific antidotal practices based on empirical experience and locally available flora. The present review critically analyzes and compares Ayurvedic and folk medicinal approaches to poison management, with emphasis on commonly used Vishaghna Dravya, modes of administration, pharmacological basis, safety aspects, and contemporary relevance. Integration of validated traditional practices may contribute to improved and accessible poison management strategies, particularly in rural and resource-limited settings*

Keywords: Vishaghna Dravya; Agadatantra; Ayurveda; Folk medicine; Poison management; Ethnomedicine

