

v. Basic concept of bhaiṣajya kalpanā

Table Of Contents

Add a header to begin generating the table of contents

Bhaiṣajya Kalpanā refers to the **pharmaceutical** branch of Āyurveda that deals with (1) the collection and preparation of raw drugs (mainly herbal, but also mineral/metal-based in Rasaśāstra) and (2) the formulation of various dosage forms (kalpanās). These preparations ensure that each medicine is safe, effective, and properly suited for a given ailment.

Kasāya Kalpanā - Five Main Forms

References in Śārṅgadhara Saṃhitā, Caraka, and Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya

Many classical texts describe **five** fundamental *kasāya kalpanās*, i.e., forms of extracting the active principles from dravyas:

“द्रव्यं आर्द्रं शिलापिष्टं शुष्कं वा सजलं भवेत् ।
प्रक्षेप आवाप कल्कास्ते तन्मानं कर्षं सम्मितम् ॥ (शा.सं.)”

This verse indicates the usage of **wet or dry dravya** made into forms like *kalka*, *praksepa*, *āvāpa*, etc. Additionally, as stated:

- **Swarasa (juice), Kalka (paste), Śritha (decoction), Śīta (cold infusion), and Phāṇṭa (hot infusion)** are enumerated, each progressively milder or stronger in potency as per the text:
 - “Swarasa, Kalka, Sritha, Seetha & Phanta — yathā pūrvam balavaha”
 - Means Swarasa is the strongest extract, Phanta is the mildest among them, in descending order of potency.

Number of Kasāya Kalpanā in Different Sources

1. **Arka Prakāśa**
 - Mentions 5 forms: *Kalka*, *Cūrṇa*, *Rasa*, *Taila*, and *Arka* (distilled essence). It notes *yathottara balavaha*, meaning each subsequent form might differ in potency.
2. **Suśruta**
 - Lists 6 types: *Kṣīra*, *Rasa*, *Kalka*, *Śritha*, *Śīta*, and *Phāṇṭa*.
 - Some consider *Cūrṇa* as a *pāda-bheda* of one of these forms, hence possible variations.
 - Suśruta also remarks *yathoharam laghu*, pointing to relative lightness or intensity.
3. **Kāśyapa**
 - Mentions 7 types: *Swarasa*, *Kalka*, *Śritha*, *Śīta*, *Phāṇṭa*, *Kṣīra*, and *Madya* (*Abhiśava*).

Hence, different texts vary on enumerating these forms, but the underlying principle remains using water or other mediums with different intensities of heat or extraction to yield the medicinal essence.

Kasāya Yoni

- **Kasāya Yoni** refers to the fundamental source for these extracts, typically the panca-rasa except lavana (as some references hint).
- *Swarasa* synonyms: *Vinaya*, *Kitta*, *Vista*, *Ambu*, *Neera* in certain contexts.

Two Types: Agni-Siddha & Anagni-Siddha

- **Agni-siddham**: *Śritha* (decoction) & *Putapāka* methods requiring heat application.
- **Anagni-siddham**: *Niṣpeeditam* (expressed juice by pressing) & *Śīta kaṣāya* (cold infusion) made without direct fire.

Examples

1. **4 pala** of medicine with double water, or 1 part medicine in 8 parts water reduced to 1/4, etc., are typical decoction guidelines.
2. *Kalka* synonyms: *Praksepa*, *Āvāpa* with a standard measure of 1 karṣa (~12 g) and specific volumes of water (3 pala in Aṣṭāṅga Saṃgraha).

Additional Kalpanās

Kwātha (Śritha, Kasāya, Nirooha)

- **Samānya Kasāya Vidhi:** 1 pala (~48 g) drug in 16 parts water, reduced to 1/8 (Sarasamgraha, Bhaiṣajya Ratnāvalī references).
- **Śīta Kasāya:** 1 pala dravya in 6 parts water, kept overnight, final yield ~2 pala.
- **Phāṇṭa:** 1 pala drug + 4 pala hot water, steeped, final yield ~2 pala.

Avaleha (Leha)

- *Avaleha* or *Leha* is a **thick confection** produced by cooking decoctions with jaggery or sugar.
- *Sītā (sugar)* is 4 times, *Guḍa* (jaggery) 2 times, *Drava* (liquid medium) 4 times.
- Classified as *agni-siddha* (cooked on fire) or *anagni-siddha* (like Manibhadra avaleha sometimes not requiring direct heat).

Vaṭikā (Pills)

- Synonyms: *Guṭikā*, *Chakrikā*, *Vaṭaka*, *Piṇḍa*, *Modaka*, *Varti*.
- *Praksepa*: *Sītā* 4 times, *Guḍa* 2 times, *Guggulu* & *Madhu* in equal measure, *Drava* 2 times.
- Standard *matra* is 1 karṣa.
- *Guggulu Kalpana* especially used in *vātavyādhi* (as described in *Suśruta*). Various forms:
 - 5 types:
 - *Mahīśākṣa* (for elephant?), *Mahānīla*, *Kumuda*, *Padma*, *Hiraṇya*—some textual references revolve around usage for man or animals.

Sneha Pāka (Ghṛta / Taila Preparations)

- Ratio: **Kalka : Sneha : Drava = 1 : 4 : 16** is a common baseline.
- In *Charaka*, *Sarṅgadhara*, *Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya*, cooking done carefully to ensure correct *mṛdu*, *madhya*, or *khara* pāka depending on the therapy.

Comparative Table of Pāka (Ghṛta/ Taila Pāka)

Pākam	Caraka	Vāgbhaṭa	Śārṅgadhara	Suśruta
Mṛdu	Nasya	Nasya	Nasya	Pānam, Abhyavahāraṇa (some references)
Madhya	Pānam, Vasti	Pānam, Vasti	Sarva-karma	Nasya, Abhyanga
Khara	Abhyanga	Abhyanga	Abhyanga	Vasti, Karnapūraṇa