

Common plants of the 6th Cent. A. D. as described in the Bṛhat Samhita of Varāhamihira (505-587 A. D.)

By

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The Bṛhat Samhitā of Varāha Mihira of 6th Century A. D. is regarded as a historical document and as such its contents depict a clear picture of the cultural and social conditions of that period. The work comes under the Post Gupta period which extends upto 7th Cent A.D. taking into its ambit eminent authors like Bāṇa-bhaṭṭa whose works, particularly Harṣacarita, have contributed a lot in reconstruction of the history of that age.

The plant kingdom is an important part of the nature and as such has drawn attention of the authors practically from all fields including Medicine, Poetry, Astrology, Religion etc. It is but natural that encyclopaedic work like Bṛhat Samhitā should contain ample material on plants which shows the condition and extent of the knowledge about them. The astrologers utilised the various qualities of the plants, their flowers and fruits, in making predictions. They have also been made as indicators of the subsoil water. The chapter on Vṛkṣāyurveda clearly shows that there was a definite branch of knowledge dealing with plants and their cultivation.

Some of the important features are as follows :-

1. Important clues have been given regarding habitat of certain plants in the chapter (20) relating to winds. For instance, various palms in South, cardamom and clove in South-west and Punnāga, Aguru and Pārijāta in North-east.
2. The Chapter (29) deals with predictions regarding certain commodities on the basis of fruits and flowers of similar plants. The point of similarity is mostly colour (Raktāśoka with Raktaśāli), shape and size (Hastikarṇa with Hasti), effect (Bhallātaka with Bhaya), habitat (Khadira and Śamī with famine). Thus it is a very good tool for knowing the character of plants in these respects. For instance, the association of Asana with Sarṣapa denotes its yellow colour which confirms the identity of Asana as Bījaka which has got yellow wood as well as flowers. Similarly the white flowers of Tilaka are indicated by its association with whiter articles like conch shell, pearl and silver. On this basis, Kuravaka seems to have white flowers.

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3. Most of the cereals are mentioned in the chapter (41) of Dravyaniścaya. Important among them are Godhūma, Masūra, Mudga, Kalāya and Yava.
4. In the Chapter (43) dealing with Indradhvaja (the religious post), five important plants have been recommended for the same such as Arjuna, Ajakarna, Priyaka, Dhava and Udumbara.
5. The chapter (44) on Nīrājana contains a large number of plants regarded as auspicious for the purpose. The group of herbs to be put in the earthen pot deserves special mention which includes plants like Suvarṇapuṣpī, Trāyamāṇa, Sahadevī, Kaṭambharā etc,
6. Similarly, in the chapter (48) on Puṣya-snāna (Religious bath during Puṣya-nakṣatra) a number of herbs are mentioned as auspicious which include Jyotiṣmati, Aparājitā, śatāvarī, śivā, Brāhmī, Bilva, Vikaṅkata etc.
7. The chapter (49) containing description of sword mentions the typical shape of the leaves and fragrance of the flowers of Karavīra (oleander). It also contains the use of 'Arkakṣīra' and 'Kadalī-Kṣāra'.
8. The Chapter (51) on Aṅgavidyā contains many informations. Pīpalī, Marica and Śuṅṭhī have been associated with males, females and diseased persons respectively. It shows their prevalent use at that time. This list includes Rodhra, Kuṣṭha, Vāsā, Māmsī, śatapuṣpā and Tagara. It also indicates the prevalence of Rice, Barley, Black gram, Sesame and Milk in diet.
9. In the Chapter (53) on 'Vāstuvidyā' (Architecture); land has been said as of four types being auspicious for the four Varnas. They are as follows :-

Sl. No.	Colour	Smell	Taste	Plant	Auspicious for
1.	White	Ghee	Madhura	Kuśa	Brāhmaṇa
2.	Red	Blood	Kaṣāya	Sara	Kṣatriya
3.	Yellow	Food	Amla	Dūrvā	Vaiśya
4.	Black	Urine	Kaṭu	Kāśa	śūdra

Here, the importance of Kuśa among grasses is quite evident. 'Sara' being equivocal indicates arrows as well as other war weapons. Dūrvā, by its growth and expansion, indicates the similar trade and income of Vaiśyas. Kāśa is the most humble and tender grass indicating the humility of the lowest cadre of the community. The Kṣīra vṛkṣas, Dhava, Bibhītaka, Nimba and Araṇi are inauspicious for use in construction of building,

10. The Chapter (54) on sub-soil water is very important which reveals many important facts regarding plants particularly their habitat in relation to water. Vetasa, Jambū, Arjuna, Kampillaka, Saptaparna, Tilaka etc. have been mentioned in this context. śāka, Aśvakarna, Sarja, Dhava etc. are far away from water.

There is mention of a plant Kharjūrī having two trunks.¹ The methods having use of plants for breaking stones deserve special mention. Kulattha, Mokṣaka, Apāmārga, Tila etc. are important plants of the lithontriptic group which are also used for similar purposes in human patients, The plants worth planting along the sides of a swimming pool are mentioned such as Kakubha, Kadamba, Vetasa, Kurabaka, Aśoka, Bakula etc. A formula containing Añjana, Musta, Uśīra, Āmalaka, Kalaka and Rājakośātakī is recommended for purifying well water.

11. The Chapter (55) on Vṛkṣāyurveda (Horticulture) contains important information on the subject. Preparation of soil, plantation, various categories of plants, disinfectants, treatment of plant diseases are described which show the status of the science at that time. Arjuna, Vetasa, Tilaka etc. have been mentioned as growing in watery places,
12. Various gums, resins, fruits and mucilaginous plants are used in preparation of Vajralepa (plaster) in the Chapter (57). These include Dhanwana, Srīvāsaka, Guggula, Atasī, Kunduru etc.
13. The plants auspicious for the four varṇas have been mentioned in the Chapter (59) as follows :-

Brāhmaṇa	Kṣatriya	Vaiśya	śūdra
Devadāru	Ariṣṭa	Jīvaka	Tinduka
Candana	Aśvattha	Khadira	Kesara
śamī	Khadira	Sindhuka	Sarja
Madhūka	Bilva	Syandana	Arjuna
			Āmra
			Sāla

1. In National Botanical Garden, Calcutta, such a Palm tree can be seen.

14. In the Chapter (76) on Kāndarpika (aphrodisiac), some common plants such as Kapikacchu, Vidārikā, Tila, Māṣa, Aśvagandhā, Gokṣura etc. have been mentioned. It also contains the formula having mercury and iron which is also seen in *Rasa Hṛdaya Tantra* and in Vāgbhaṭa's works.
15. The Chapter (77) on perfumery deals with preparations of various formulae of perfumes by combinations of plant and other products. Here one can find a complete list of Gandha Dravyas prevalent at that time. At the end there is description of perfumed tooth brushes and betel-chewing.
16. The Chapter (79) on furniture contains a number of timber plants used for the purpose such as Asana, Siṅśapā, Kāśmarī, Sāla etc.
17. Similarly, the Chapter (85) on tooth brushes contains a long list of plants which were used for the purpose.

A list of Plants is given below :

1. Akṣa - (*Terminalia belerica* Roxb.) 48.4
Bibhītaka - 53.120; 54.24; 102.
This plant is beset with infamy since long. It is said that the place for Puṣya-snāna (ceremonial bath during the Puṣya Nakṣatra) should be free from Bibhītaka tree. Again its wood is prohibited for use in construction of houses.
2. Aguru - (*Aquilaria agallocha* Roxb.) 16.30; 27.8; 69.16; 77.13, 23. 29; 87.11.
It grows abundantly in North-Eastern region of the country. Its wood is fragrant and is used in various perfumes.
3. Agnimantha - (*Premna latifolia* Roxb. Var. *mucronata* clarke). 44.9
It is regarded as auspicious plant.
4. Arani - (*Clerodendrum phlomidis* Linn .f.) 53.120
Its wood is inauspicious for house construction.
5. Aṅkola - (*Alangium salvifolium* (Linn. f.) Wang) 54.50, 55.27, 29.
It is used in horticulture. Its fruit pulp or seed oil stimulates growth of plants.
6. Ajakarṇa - (*Terminalia tomentosa* W. & A.) 43.15.
Its wood is recommended for making religious post.
7. Ajamoda - (*Trachyspermum roxburghianum* (DC) Sprague) 76.11.
It is one of the ingredients in a formula for stimulating appetite.

8. *Ajā* (*Saussurea gossipifolia* Don.) 48.41
Used in Puṣya snāna alongwith Brāhmi, śivā etc.
9. *Añjana* - (*Hardwickia binata* Roxb.) 44.9; 54.21, 50; 77.32; 79.2
Timber used for furniture.
10. *Atasī* - (*Linum Usitatissimum* Linn.) 10.21; 29.6; 41.5; 57.3; 58.32; 81.7
Kṣumā - 26.6
It has got bluish flowers. Garments were made of its fibres.
11. *Atibalā* - (*Abutilon indicum* (Linn.) SW.) 54.50
12. *Atimuktaka* - (*Hiptage benghalensis* Kurz.) 29.5; 55.4; 22; 77.7; 85.5
It has got white flowers. It is grown by grafting. Synthetic perfume simulating fragrance of *Atimuktaka* flowers is prepared by the combination of *Jātiphala* (Nutmeg), Cinnamon bark and coriander. Tooth brushes were also made of the twigs of this plant.
13. *Aparājitā* - (*Clitoria ternatea* Linn.) 48.39
Recommended for use in religious bath.
14. *Apāmārga* - (*Achyranthes aspera* Linn.) 54.115; 85.7
Tooth brushes of this plant have been recommended.
15. *Abja* - (*Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn.) 43.33; 88.20
Ambuja - 30.20; 70.10
Kamala - 48.10; 54.28; 61.15
Nīraja - 70.7
Pañkaja - 28.14
Padma - 19.5; 46.87; 54.100; 68.45; 70.11; 79.2,13; 89.10; 105.11.
Śatapatra - 54.101; 68.23
Saroja - 95.23; 105.10
Salilaja - 86.76
Saugandhika - 29.10
Nalini - 48.10
This has been used mainly in simile.
16. *Abhayā* - (*Terminalia chebula* Retz.) - 48.39
17. *Amṛtā* - (*Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers.) 44.9
18. *Amba* - (?) 79.17.18.
Its wood was used for making furniture.

19. Ambu - (*Coleus vettiveroides* K.C. Jacob.) - 51.15.
Keśa - 77.23
Wāla - 77.7
Bālaka - 77.5, 9, 13, 28
Vana - 77.29
One of the fragrant substances used in perfumery.
20. Ariṣṭa - 53.87; 55.3, 59.5
In all these contexts, the word seems to denote 'Nimba' and not 'Ariṣṭaka'.
(See Nimba).
21. Ariṣṭa (*Grewia populifolia* Vahl.) 54.105
Ariṣṭikā - 48.40
The plant grows in semi-arid zone and is regarded auspicious in religious ceremonies.
22. Arka - (*Calotropis procera* (Ait.) R. Br.) 29.10; 50.25; 54.116; 85.3.
23. (*Terminalia arjuna* W. & A.)-29.11; 43.15; 54.12, 101, 105; 55.10; 59.6; 85.6; 86.80; 95.16.
Indrataru - 54.69
Kakubha - 44.4; 54.76 119; 77.37.
24. Aśoka (*Saraca indica* Linn.) - 6.13; 34.6; 37.2; 43.33; 53.87; 54 119; 55.3, 4; 80.10.
Raktāśoka - 29.2; 43.42.
Nīlāśoka - 29.2.
25. Aśmantaka (*Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb.) 54.43.
26. Aśwakarṇa - (*Dipterocarpus alatus* Roxb.) 29.7; 54.105; 85.7.
27. Aśwagandhā - (*Withania somnifera* Dunal.) - 76.9.
28. Aśwattha - (*Ficus religiosa* Linn) - 29.2; 44.12; 59.5; 60.8 70.3; 85.4.
Pippala - 54.96.
29. Asana - (*Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb.) - 29.5; 79.11, 15, 17
Priyaka - 43.15

It has got yellowish flowers. Its wood was used for making furniture. 'Priyaka' seems to denote 'Asana' in the present context where its wood has been used for making religious post.

30. Āṭarūṣaka -(*Adhatoda varica* Nees.) 85.7
Vāsikā - 55.22
Tooth brushes from this plant have been recommended.
31. Āṣṭra - (*Mangifera indica* Linn) - 29.11; 51.17; 54.119, 59.6
Cūta - 86.80
Sahakāra - 77.27.
32. Āmrātaka (*Spondias pinnata* Kurz.) 54.50; 55.11
33. Āmalaka (*Embllica officinalis* Gaertn.) 54.121; 57.6; 77.3.
Dhātrī - 55.22; 76.6
34. Āsphota - (*Val'aris solanacea* O. Ktze.) 55.22.
35. Ikṣu -(*Saccharum officinarum* Linn.) - 8.30; 15.6, 16; 19.6; 29.13, 41.6.
36. Ikṣurakā (*Astercantha longifolia* Nees.) 54.100
37. Īṅguda (*Balanites aegyptiaca* (Linn.) 29.6. Delib.
38. Ibha - (*Scinadapsus officinalis* Schott.) 54.101.
It is mentioned side by side with 'Nāga' and as such it can not denote Nāgakesara. The word 'Ibra' is used mostly with 'Kanā' which means 'Gajapippalī'.
39. Utpala - (*Nymphae alba* Linn.) 13.1; 19.5; 50.21; 51.15; 77.7, 10.
Kumuda - 4.30, 32; 1.53; 9.45; 11.14, 433; 12.11; 19.5; 29.10; 54.17.
40. Utpala (Nīla) - 29.9; 32.21; 43.33; 50.7; 54.22; 68.66.
Indīvara - 48.9.
Kualaya - 30.20.
41. Utpala (Rakta) - 29.9
42. Uśīra - *Vetiveria zizanioides* (Linn.) 54.100, 121:55.7; 77.12; 77 13, 29.
43. Elā - (*Amomum subulatum* Roxb.) 77.33, 33.
It is used in perfumery.
44. Kaṅgu (*Setaria italica* Beauv.) 8 10; 29.4
45. Caṭambharā (*Albizia procera* Benth.) 44 10
46. Kaṭu (Kā) - *Piper cubeba* (Linn. f.) 77.7,30.

It is used in perfumery and as such it cannot be Kuṭaki (*P. kurroa* Linn.)
This is the same substance as used in Caraka Samhita for mouth-refreshing.

47. Kaṅṭakārika - (*Solanum xanthocarpum* Schrad & Wendle.) 54.57.
48. Kataka - (*Strychnos potatorum* Linn. f.) 54.121.
49. Kadamba - (*Anthocephalus indicus* A. Rich.) 54.38, 78,119; 55.10; 79.16; 85.5.
50. Kadali - (*Musa paradisiaca* Linn.) 29.7; 41.4; 50.26; 54.117; 55.4; 80.8; 83.1; 105.12.
The Kṣāra prepared from this plant is used for sharpening the iron instruments.
51. Kapikacchu - (*Mucuna pruriens*. D. C.) 76.4, 9.
Swaguptā - 44.10.
52. Kapittha - (*Feronia limonia* (Linn.) Swingle.) 29.12; 54.41; 55.22; 57.1, 5, 7.
53. Kampillaka - (*Mallotus philippinensis* Muel - Arg.) - 54.17
54. Karañja - (*Pongamia pinnata* (Linn.) Merr. 54.33; 85.4
Naktamāla - 54.101; 55.11.
55. Karavīra - (*Nerium indicum* Mill.) 50.7, 21; 85.6.
56. Karīra - (*Capparis decidua* Edgew.) 54.67, 74, 76, 106.
57. Karṇikāra - (?) 54.59; 80.9.
58. Karpūra - (*Cinnamomum camphora* Nees & Eberm.) 77.11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27, 33; 81.28.
Used in perfumery.
59. Kalama (A variety of Sāli) - 29.2.
60. Kataya - (*Pisum arvense* Linn.) 41.5
Vātala - 16.34.
61. Kākodumbarikā - (*Ficus hispida* Linn. f.) 54.17.
62. Kārpāsa - (*Gossypium herbaceum* Linn.) - 5.75; 15.9, 14; 29.5; 41.3; 48.72.
63. Kāśā - (*Saccharum spontaneum* Linn.) 53.97; 54.100, 103.
64. Kāśmarī - (*Gmelina arborea* Linn) 44.12, 79.2; 85.3
Śrīparṇa - 79.15

Śrīparṇī - 54.105, 79.11

Furniture is made of its wood.

65. Kumkumā - (*Crocus sativus* Linn.) - 3.23; 10.11; 24.14; 42.10; 50.21; 54.26; 69.16; 88.13.
66. Kuṭaja - (*Holarrhena antidysenterica* Wall) - 29.12.
67. Kunda - (*Jasminum multiflorum* Andr.) 4.30; 8.53; 11.14; 29.5; 50.21; 70.6.
68. Kunduruka (Gum-resin of Śallakī) 57.3, 5; 77.8, 24
Used in perfumery and plasters.
69. Kuraṅṭaka - (*Bareeria prionities* Linn.) 43.33.
It has got yellow flowers.
70. Kurabaka - (*Rhododendron arboreum* Sw.) 29.8; 54.119.
Its association with diamond indicates white flowers. It is worth planting on the sides of swimming pool.
71. Kulattha - (*Dolichos biflorus* Linn.) 29.5; 41.5; 54.36, 114; 55.16; 87.22; 95.21.
72. Kuśa - (*Demostachya bipinnata* Stapf.) 24.7; 29.13; 44.4; 53.97; 54.77, 100, 103.
73. Kuṣṭha - (*Saussurea lappa* C. B. Clarke) 16.25; 44.59; 51.15; 77.5, 6, 7, 32.
Used in perfumery.
74. Kusumbha - (*Carthamus tinctorius* Linn.) - 10.11; 29.9.
Used in dyeing.
75. Kodrava - (*Paspalum scrobiculatum* Linn.) 29.6; 41.4; 77.2.
76. Kovidāra - (*Bauhinia purpurea* Linn.) 29.13; 54.26.
Its association with fire indicates purple or reddish flowers.
77. Kṣīrikā - (*Mimusops hexandra* Roxb.) 29.2.
78. Kṣemataru - 85.3
It seems to be a synonym of Candana.
79. Kśemā (*Argelica archangelica* Linn.) 48.41.
80. Khadira - (*Acacia catechu* Willd.) 26.9; 29.11; 44.12; 59.5, 6; 85.5; 86.80.
81. Kharjūra - (i) - (*Phoenix humilis* Royle) 54.58, 101.
82. Gandhanāmsī - (*Nardostachys jatamansi* DC.) 51.15; Māmsī-16.25; 77.9.24.

83. Garuḍavegā (Cocculus hirsutus (Linn) Diels ? 54.87
84. Guggulu - (Commiphora mukul)(Hook. ex Stocks) Engl. 57.3,5; 77.9,11.
85. Guñjā - (Abrus precatorius Linn.) - 81.8.
86. Gundrā - (Typha elephantina Roxb.) 54.100
87. Gokṣuraka - (Tribulus terrestris Linn) - 76.10.
88. Gojihvā - (Launaea asplenifoliā Hooook-f.) 50.7
89. Godhūma - (Triticum aestivum Linn.) - 15.6; 19.6; 29.4; 41.2, 5.
90. Caṇaka - (Cicer arietinum Linn.) 15.14; 16.34.
91. Candana - (Santalum album Linn.) 16.30; 44.9; 59.5; 77.9, 30; 79.2, 12, 14, 18; 87.11.
Malaya - 77.7, 8, 14, 24.
92. Campaka - (Michelia champaka Linn.) 29.8; 50.29; 77.6, 7.
93. Cirabilva - (Holoptelia integrifolia Planch.) 29.5.
94. Coca - (Cinnamomum tamala Nees & Eberm.) 16.30; 41.4.
Guḍa - 77.8, 10, 16, 26, 30.
95. Coraka - (Angelica glauca Edgw.) 16.25; 17.14.
96. Chatrā - 54.101
It may be a synonym of Śatapuṣpā.
97. Japā - (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Linn.) 28.14.
98. Jambū - (Syzygium cumini (Linn.) Skeels.) 29.4; 51.17; 54.8, 9, 88, 87, 101, 119; 55.4, 10; 85.7.
99. Jāti - (Jasminum grandiflorum Linn.) 77.7, 26; 85.4.
100. Jātiphala - (Myristica fragrans Houtt.) 16.30; 51.17; 77.27, 33.
101. Jīraka - (Cuminum cyminum Linn.) 51.15.
102. Jīvaka - (Microstylis wallichii Lindl.) 59.6
103. Jīvā - (Leptadena reticulata W. & A.) 48.39.
104. Jyotiṣmatī - (Celastrus paniculatus Willd.) 48.39; 54.87.
105. Tagara - (Valeriana Wallichii DC.) 16.25; 51.15; 77.5, 7, 13, 24, 26.

106. Tāmbūla - (Piper betle Linn.) 12.9; 77.35.
107. Tāla - (Borassus flabellifer Linn.) 50.24; 51.14; 54.40, 119
108. Tāli - (A variety of Palm.) 27.3; 86.76.
109. Tintiḍī - (Tamarindus indica Linn.) 55.21.
110. Tinduka (Diospyros tomentosa Roxb.) 29.2; 51.17; 54.50, 112, 115; 57.1, 5; 59.6.
Tindukī - 79-2, 11, 15.
Its wood is used for making furniture.
111. Timira - (?) 55.11
This is a tree growing in damp region.
112. Tila - (Sesamum indicum Linn.) 5.75; 15.14; 16.37; 25.2; 29.4; 41.6; 46.85; 48.30; 35, 77; 51.31; 54.115; 55.2, 7; 16; 17, 21; 65.6; 76.7, 9.
113. Tilaka (Wedlandia exerta DC.) 29.6; 54.87; 50; 55.11; 87.24.
It has got white flowers. It is a plant growing in Ānūpa deśa particularly in North-East region.
114. Turuṣka - (Liquidamber orientalis Miller.) 77.9; 23, 26, 30.
Used in perfumery.
115. Trāyamāna (ā) - (Gentiana kurroa Royle.) 44.10; 48.39.
116. Tripuṭa (Lathyrus sativus Linn.) 80.17; 81.6.
117. Trivrta - (Operculina turpehum (Linn.) Silva Manso 54.48 87.
118. Twak - (Cinnamomum zeylanicum Blume) 77.5-7, 12, 24, 28, 32
Used in perfumery.
119. Danti - (Baliospermum montanum Muell - Arg.) 44.9; 54.48.
120. Damanaka - (Artemesia vulgaris Linn.) 77.13.
121. Darbha - (Imperata cylindrica Beauv.) 95.5.
122. Dāḍima - (Punica granatum Linn.) 55.4, 10, 81.8; 85.7.
123. Dūrvā - (Cynodon dactylon (Linn.) Pers. 5.58; 29.13; 41.4; 53.97; 54.37; 47, 77.
124. Devadāru - (Cedrus deodora (Roxb.) Loud.) 79.15
Bhadradāru - 85.7
Suradāru - 59.5; 79.2.

125. Drākṣā - (*Vitis vinifera* Linn.) 55.4
Mṛdwīkā - 55.10.
126. Dhanvana - (*Grewia tiliaefolia* Vahl.) 57.1 used in making plasters.
127. Dhava - (*Anogeissus latifolia* Wall.) 43.15; 53.120; 55.22; 54.105.
128. Dhānyaka - (*Coriandrum sativum* Linn.) 77.13; 80.6, 17.
Kustumburu - 77.7
Used in perfumery.
129. Dhānyavara - 19.6
It may be a synonym of Dhānyaka or Mudga.
130. Dhyāma - (*Cymbopogon citratus* (DC) Stapf.) 77.7
Used in perfumery.
131. Nandikāvarta (?) 29.8; 79.22
132. Nala - (*Phragmites maxima* Blatter and MC Cann.) 54.100.
133. Nalikā - (?) 54.100; 77.5
It is mentioned along with Kāsa, Kuśa and other grasses which indicates its similar character.
134. Navamālikā - (*Jasminum arborescens* Roxb.) 54.48.
135. Nāgapuṣpa - (*Mesua ferrea* Linn.) 29.12; 44.10; 77.13; 32.
Nāga - 54.101, 57.5; 87.24.
136. Nālikera - (*Cocos nucifera* Linn.) 54.40.
137. Nicula - (*Barringtonia actangula* (Linn.) Gaerth.) 29.12; 48.12; 54.119; 56.5.
138. Nimba - (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss) 53.120; 54.115; 57.5; 7; 81.6.
139. Nirgundī - (*Vitex negundo* Linn.) 54.14
140. Niṣpāva - (*Dolichos lablab* Linn.) 16.34; 41.5; 79.33.
141. Nīpa - (*Myragyna parviflora* Korth.) 54.101; 119; 85.6.
142. Nyagrodha - (*Ficus bengalensis* Linn.) 29.2; 51.7; 54.96; 86.80.
Vaṭa - 53.85; 54.119, 124; 60.8; 85.3.
143. Patra - (*Cinnamomum tamala* Nees & Eberm.) 16.30; 41.40; 69.16; 77.5, 7, 12, 23, 29, 32, 33.
144. Padmaka (*Prunus cerasoides* D. Don.) 79.2, 13.

145. Panasa - (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.) 53.87; 55.4, 11.
146. Parūṣaka - (*Grewia asiatica* Linn.) 54.50.
147. Palāśa - (*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Kuntz. 29.6; 44.12; 54.17; 59. 96, 112; 84.63; 93.4.
Kimśuka - 6,13; 24.14.
148. Palāśini - (*Butea superba* Roxb.) 55.22.
149. Pāṭala - (*Stereospermum suaveolens* DC.) 5.58.
Pāṭalā - 29.7
150. Pāṭhā - (*Cissampelos parieira* Linn.) 48.39
151. Pāṇḍuka - (A variety of Śāli)29.2
152. Pārijāta - (*Erythrina indica* Lam.)27.8; 77.37.
153. Pālīvāta - (?) 55.4
It is one of the fruit trees.
154. Piṇḍāra - (*Randia uliginosa* DC) 54.50.
155. Pippalī - (*Piper longum* Linn.) 16.30; 51.15; 76.11
156. Pīlu - (*Salvadora persica* Linn.) 29.11; 54.63, 65, 75.
157. Punnāga - (*Calophyllum inophyllum* Linn.) 27.8; 53.87; 55.3; 87.24.
It grows abundantly in North-Eastern region. It is one of the auspicious trees to be planted first in the garden.
158. Pūga - (*Areca catechu* Linn.) - 77.36, 37; 87.2.
159. Pūrṇakośā - (*Luffa acutangula* Roxb.) 44.10; 48.40.
160. Priyaṅgu - (*Callicarpa macrophylla* Vahl.) 44.9; 55.3; 77.8 23, 29; 85.7.
161. Plakṣa - (*Ficus lacor* Buch-Ham.) 51.17; 53.85; 54.119; 60.8; 85.4.
162. Bakula - (*Mimusops elengi* Linn.) 53.87; 54.119; 77.7.
Kesara - 59.6; 77.5, 30.
163. Badari - (*Zizyphus jujuba* Lam.) 51.17; 54.114; 63.2.
Badarī - 29.5; 54.16, 17, 43, 72, 74, 75; 85.5.
164. Bandhujīvaka - (*Pentapetes phoenicea* Linn.) 11.11; 29.8; 70.6.
Bandhūka - 80.15.
165. Bāṇa - (*Barleria strigosa* Linn.) 10.21; 12.7.
It has got blue flowers.

166. Bimba - (*Coccinia indica* W. & A.) 86.51; 70.6.
167. Bilwa - (*Aegle marmelos* Corr.) 48.42; 54.17, 50, 76, 105; 57.3; 5; 59.5; 85.5; 86.80.
Śrīphala - 85.3.
Śrīvṛkṣa - 33.10; 50.2; 70.10; 79.21.
168. Bījapūra (ka) - (*Citrus medica* Linn.) 55.4, 10.
169. Bṛhatī - (*Solanum indicum* Linn.) 85.5.
170. Brāhmī - (*Bacopa monnieri* Linn.) Pennell 48.41.
171. Bhaṅgā - (*Cannabis sativa* Linn.) 54.107.
172. Bhallātaka - (*Semecarpus anacardium* Linn. f.) 29.11; 44.5; 54.50; 57.3.
173. Bhadrā - 48.40.
Perhaps it is a synonym of Śamī.
174. Bhāṅdīra - (*Clerodendrum infortunatum* Linn.) 85.6.
175. Bhāṅgī - (*Clerodendrum serratum* (Linn.) Mon.) 54.48.
176. Bhūrja - (*Betula utilis* D. Don.) 51.14.
Its bark was used as paper for writing.
177. Mañjiṣṭhā (*Rubia cordifolia* Linn.) 10.11; 12.20; 30.12, 14; 43.44; 57.5; 77.6
Samaṅgā - 44.9; 48.89.
178. Madanaphala - (*Randia dumetorum* Lam.) 57.5.
179. Madayantikā - 54.102
Perhaps it is a synonym of Mallikā.
180. Madhu (ka) - *Glycyrrhiza glabra* Linn.) 51.17; 77.32.
181. Madhūka - (*Madhuca indica* J. F. Grue). 29.4; 54.35, 119; 57.5; 59.5; 85.3.
182. Marica (*Piper nigrum* Linn.) 51.15; 77.32
183. Mallikā - (*Jasminum sambac* Ait.) 61.14; 62.2.
184. Māsūra - (*Lens culinaris* Medic.) 41.2.
185. Māṣa - (*Phaseolus mungo* Linn.) 15.14; 16.37; 25.2; 29.4; 51.31. 55.16, 21; 76.8; 79.33; 87.22; 95.21.
186. Māṣaparnī - (*Teramnus labialis* Spreng.) 54.83.

187. Mudga - (*Phaseolus radiatus* Linn.) 5.75; 15.14; 25.2; 29.5; 41.5; 55.16.
188. Mustā - (*Cyperus rotundus* Linn.) 54.21; 77.6-11; 23.29; 54.21.
Ghana - 77.10. 13.
Vārīda - 51.15.
189. Mokṣaka - (*Schrebera swietenoides* Roxb.) 54.113.
190. Maurvī - (*Marsdenia tenacissima* W. & A.) 54.87.
191. Yava - (*Hordeum vulgare* Linn.) 8.30; 15.6; 19.6; 29.4; 41.2, 5; 51.30; 55.16
63.2; 80.10; 87.4.
192. Yavaka - (Inferior variety of rice.) 29.2.
193. Rakta taru (*Pterocarpus santalinus* Linn.f.) 86.80
194. Rasa (*Commiphora myrrha* (Nees.) Engl.) 57.3, 6, 7; 77.5, 6, 23.
195. Rājakośātaka (*Luffa cylindrica* (Linn) M. Roem.) 54.121.
196. Rālaka - (Gum - resin of *Shorea robusta* (Gaertn.) 41.2.
197. Reṇu (Seeds of *Vitex agnus-castus* (Linn.) 77.5.
Used in Perfumery.
198. Rodhra - (*Symplocos racemosa* Roxb.) 16.30; 51.15; 77.29; 86.80.
199. Rohitaka - (*Tecomella undulata* (G. Don.) Seem.) 54.63, 72, 79;
200. Rohitaka (Sweta) - (*Aphonamāxis polystachya* (Wall.) Parker) 54.84.
201. Lakuca - (*Artocarpus lakoocha* Roxb.) 55.4, 10.
202. Lakṣmaṇā - (?) 54.48.
203. Lavaṅga - (*Syzygium aromaticum* (Linn.) Merr. & L. M. Perry) 27.4.
204. Lavalī (?) 27.4; 77.37.
It grows in South-west region along with cardamon and clove. Its fruit (seed?) was used with betel leaves as mouth-refreshing.
205. Lākṣā - (Lāc) - 10.11; 11.11; 43.48; 57.5; 61.15; 77.9; 73.19.
206. Vacā - (*Acoros calamus* Linn.) 16.30; 44.9; 57.1.
207. Vañjulo - (*Salix tatarasperma* Roxb.) 54.50; 96; 55.11, 95.16.
Vañjula, Vānīra and Vetasa have been used side by side which shows their difference in identity.

208. Vatsanābha - 79, 82, 84, 86.
The word is used to denote the shape like that of the Calf's navel. However, it indicates the use of the poisonous substance of that name.
209. Vandāka - (*Loranthus longiflorus* Desr.) 48.18.
210. Vamśa - (*Bambusa arundinacea* Willd.) 44.4; 50.7; 88.1;
Kīcaka - 86.50.
211. Varuṇa - (*Crataeva nurvala* Buch-Ham.) 54.50.
212. Vasana - 51.15.
Mentioned along with other fragrant substances.
213. Vānīva - (*Salix* sp.) 54.10
214. Vārāhī (*Dioscorea bulbifera* Linn.) 54.87.
215. Vāsī (?) 80.16.
Its fruits are said to be elongated.
216. Vikankata (*Flacourtiā indica* Merr.) 48.42; 85.3.
217. Vijayā - 48.89.
It may be a synonym of Bhaṅgā.
218. Vijjala - 55.29
It may be a synonym of Nicula.
219. Viḍaṅga - (*Embelia ribes* Burm.f.) 55.7, 15.
220. Vidala - 86.76.
It may be a synonym of Vetasa.
221. Vidārikā - (*Pueraria tuberosa* DC.) 76.5, 9, 10.
222. Viśveśvarī - (*Sida veronaecifolia* Lam.) 48.89.
It is the same plant which is mentioned as 'Viswadevā' in ancient samhitas.
223. Viṣataru - (*Strychnos nuxvomica* Linn.) 89.1.
224. Vīrudhaya - (?) 54.87.
225. Vetasa - (*Salix caprea* Linn.) 29.6; 54.6, 86, 101, 119, 124; 55.10, 22.
226. Vyaghrapada - 54.88
227. Vrīhi - (A variety of paddy) 55.21.
228. Śāna - (*Crotalaria juncea* Linn.) 54.105; 79.2, 13, 16.

229. Śatapuspā - (*Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.) 51.15; 77.9, 30.
230. Śatāvarī - (*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.) 44.10; 48.40.
231. Śamī - (*Prosopis specigera* Linn.) 29.11; 53.87; 54.81, 83.85; 59.5; 85.6.
232. Śara - (*Saccharum monja* Roxb.) 53.97; 54.119; 86.76; 95.5
Munja - 54.103.
233. Śallaki - (*Boswellia serrata* Roxb.) 57.1
Naga - 86.80.
234. Śāka - (*Tectona grandis* Linn .f.) 54.105; 79.2, 13, 16.
235. Śāla - (*Shorea robusta* Gaerth.) 29.2; 53.87; 59.6; 79.2, 13, 16; 85.7.
236. Śāli - (*Oriza sativa* Linn.) 8.30; 15.6; 19.6; 16, 29.2; 44.5; 51.30; 95.20,
237. Śālmali - (*Salmalia malabarica* Schott. & Endl.) 57.1.
238. Śimśapā - (*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb.) 54.50, 105; 79.2, 12, 15.
239. Śirīṣa - (*Albizia lebbek* Benth.) 3.28; 29.4; 55.3; 60.8 ; 80.6; 11; 83.1; 85.4,
240. Śivā - 48.40; 54.87.
Perhaps in the present context this denotes Āmalakī because it is read with
Abhayā (Haritaki) in first context and is also suitable for the other context.
241. Śiśumari (?) 51.15.
242. Śunthī - (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe) 51.15.
Śrṅgavera - 76.11.
243. Śrṅgāṭaka - (*Trapa bispinosa* Roxb.) 34.5; 80.9, 17.
244. Śaila - (*Parmelia perlata* Ach.) 77.11.
Śailaka - 77.10
Sāileya - 77.23.
Śaileyaka - 16.25; 77.13
245. Śoṇāka - (*Oroxylum indicum* Vent.) 54.23
246. Śyāmā (*Cryptolepis buchanani* Roem.) and Schult. 29.13; 54.87; 55.22;
85.6.
247. Śrivāsaka - (Gum resin of *Pinus roxburghii* sargent.) 57.3; 77.28.
Śrī 77.11, 16, 24, 28.
248. Śleśmātaka - (*Cordia myxa* Roxb.) 48.4; 55.27; 29.
249. Śwetā - 44.10
It may be denoting white variety of Aparājitā.

250. Śaṣṭika - (A variety of paddy) 29.2; 51.30; 76.8, 9.
251. Saptaparṇa - (Alstonia scholaris R. Br.) 29.4; 54.29.
252. Sarja - (Vateria indica Linn.) 44.4; 54.155; 59.6; 77.11.16
253. Sarjarasa - (Gum-resin of sarja) 57.3, 6; 77.28.
254. Sarṣapa (Brassica campestris Var. Sarson. Prain.) 29.5; 41.5; 87.4.
Siddhartha - 44.5.
Sitasarṣapa - 80.12.
255. Sahadevī - (Vernonia cineria less) 44.10; 48.40.
256. Sahā - (Phaseolous trilobus Ait.) 48.40.
257. Sārivā - (Hemidesmus indicus R. Br.) 54.87.
258. Sinduvāra - (Symphorema polyandrum Wight.) 54.101.
Sindhuka - 59.6.
Sindhuvāra - 29.9.
White variety of Nirguṇḍī is also taken as Sinduvāra.
259. Suvarṇa (Cassia fistula Linn.) 54.70.
260. Suvarṇapuṣpī - (Gloriosa superba Linn.) 44.9.
261. Sūkaraka - (A variety of paddy having bluish appearance.) 29.2
Sūkarika - 54.88
262. Sūkarapadī - (?) 54.48
It is mentioned along with vārāhī and as such may be a different species of the same.
263. Sūkṣmailā (Elettaria cardamomum Maton.) 27.4; 77.12.
264. Sūryavallī - 55.22.
It may be either Gynandropsis pentaphylla DC. or Tylophora indica (Burn .f.) Merr.
265. Soma (?) 15.3
Somavallī - 54.108.
266. Somarāji - (Vernonia anthelmintica Willd.) 44.10.
267. Spandana (Ougeinia dalbergiodes Benth) 59.6; 79.2. 17, 182.
268. Sprkkā - (Delphinium zalil Aitch. Hemsl.) 77.5, 13, 24.
269. Haridra - (Adina cordifolia Benth. & Hook .f.) 54.45; 79.2, 16.

270. Haridrā - (*Curcuma longa* Linn.) 5.58; 55.21;
Rajanī - 44.9
Kāñcanī - 48.41.
271. Harītakī (*Terminalia chebula* Retz.) 76.11; 77.10, 81.
Pathyā - 76.8; 77.29.
272. Hastikarṇa - (*Leea macrophylla* Roxb. ex. Hornem.) 29.7.
273. Hīṅgu - (*Ferula foetida* Regel.) 77.7.

Groups of drugs

1. Akāṅṭakī (Vṛkṣa) - 54.53.
Plants having no thorns.
2. Aṣṭamūlī - 55.22
The group of eight roots possibly the Aṣṭavarga of the ancients.
3. Kaṅṭakī (Vṛkṣa) - 48.4; 53.86; 54.53; 79.41 83.60; 89.1; 95.2; 97.40; 96.7
Plants having thorns.
4. Kṣīra Vṛkṣa - 46. 24; 48. 37; 46; 53.86; 120.; 54.101; 94.11; 95.16, 33.
Plants having latex.
5. Triphalā - 16.29
Well known group of three fruits (Harītakī; Bibhītaka and Āmalakī).
6. Phalī (Vṛkṣa) - 53.86.
Plants having fruits.
7. Sarvagandha - 48.42
A group of plant products having prominent smell.
8. Sarvaśadhi - 60.8
The same as above.
9. Sarvabīja - 48.41.
A group of seeds.
10. Sāradāru - 54.118.
The plants of which heart-wood is used.

SUMMARY

The paper based on information collected from Bṛhatsambhita presents a picture of herbal wealth during 6th century A. D. The references cover the details relating to pharmacognostic knowledge of the period, medicinal and other uses of the plants referred therein. The list covers plants yielding resins, aphrodisiac drugs,

drugs useful in preparation of perfumes and plant material used for brushing teeth in addition to the plants considered auspicious. The number of plants enumerated is 273.

सारांश

वराहमिहिर की बृहत्संहिता में उद्धृत कुछ सर्व सामान्य औद्भिज्ज (५०५-५८७ ई०)

लेखक. प्रियव्रतशर्मा

यह निबन्ध, जिसमें बृहत्संहिता के आधार पर वस्तु संग्रह किया गया है, छठीशताब्दि की वानस्पतिक निधियों का वर्णन करता है। इसके संदर्भों में तत्कालीन द्रव्यगुण विषयक ज्ञान का विस्तृत विवेचन हुआ है, जिसमें औद्भिज्जों के औषधीय तथा अन्य प्रयोगों का भी संकेत मिलता है। सूची से पता चलता है कि किन किन औद्भिज्जोंसे निर्यास प्राप्त होता है, कौन वाजीकरण में उपयोगी द्रव्य हैं, कौन से गन्ध-द्रव्य हैं और कौन दन्त धावनार्थ प्रयुक्त हुए हैं, साथ ही कतिपय माङ्गलिक द्रव्यों का भी वर्णन हुआ है। इनकी कुल संख्या २७३ है।