

BOOK REVIEW

Loota Visha Chikitsa in Kriyakoumudhi – A Book Review

R. Abhiram^{1*}, K. V. Avinash²

¹PG Scholar, Department of Post Graduate Studies, Agadatantra Vyavahara Ayurveda Evum Vidhivaidyaka, K.V.G. Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, India.

²Professor and Head, Department of Post Graduate Studies, Agadatantra Vyavahara Ayurveda Evum Vidhivaidyaka. K.V.G. Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, India.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received on: 11-02-2026

Accepted on: 13-03-2026

Published on: 31-03-2026

Keywords:

Dhupa Prayoga,
Kriya Koumudhi,
Loota Visha

ABSTRACT

Introduction: *Agadatantra* is one of the strongest pillars in Ayurveda sastra, due to its potential possibilities in emergency management. Unfortunately, its fame and practical utility are diminishing day by day. This article aims to revive and analyze a well-known old Malayalam textbook in vishachikitsa, named Kriya koumudhi, authored by V. M. Kuttikrishna Menon. The book gives examples of simple and effective remedies in toxic conditions. Loota visha is analysed closely, and its special mentions, such as visha vega, dhupa prayoga, are described in detail.

Aim: The aim of the study was to review *Loota Damsa Lakshana* and *chikitsa* in the Malayalam text, *Kriyakoumudhi*.

Materials and Methods: This literary review was done by referring the traditional Visha Vaidya Malayalam text named *Kriyakoumudhi*. All the peculiar features mentioned in the context of loota Visha have been analysed and compiled.

Results: The verses were read thoroughly and documented in written and tabular forms.

Discussion and Conclusion: It is essential in the present scenario to bring the precious and unexplored areas of Ayurveda to light. Toxicological research can pave way to discovery of effective remedies in multi-systemic disease and emergency management. Effective internal and external formulations should be revived and made available in the market.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra is the least explored area in *Ayurveda*. Lack of propagation and mishandling has made the branch unpopular. There are many Malayalam textbooks in toxicology which, if explored, can give immense possibility in emergency management and treatment of autoimmune conditions. *Kriya koumudhi* is one such *Vishachikitsa Sangraha* written by V. M. Kuttikrishna Menon. He was born in Thrissur district, Kerala, and was trained in *Ayurveda*, particularly in *Baalachikitsa* and *Visha chikitsa*. He has authored many books, including two commentry on *Ashtanga Hridaya*. *Kriyakoumudhi* is a compilation of all famous and infamous formulation and treatments

in *vishachikitsa*. In this book, treatment pertaining to different poisons is explained stage-wise. Details of 11 *Upavisha* with its treatment are explained in detail. This repository lacks mentioning about *sarpothpathi*, which is very common in other *Agadatantra* books. However, it has many peculiar features like-weekly treatment procedure of snake poisoning, *vishakol*, *vishakallu*, air pollution and water pollution, elephant poison, etc.

Among different animal poisoning, spider poisoning or *loota visha* is quiet commonly seen. In the book *Kriyakoumudhi*, author has given special emphasize on the same. In the context of *keedadhivishaprakarana*, *loota visha* and its *chikitsa* are explained in detail.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This literary review was done by referring the traditional Visha Vaidya Malayalam text named *Kriyakoumudhi*, written by V. M. Kuttikrishna

Corresponding Author:

R. Abhiram, PG Scholar,
Department of Post Graduate Studies, Agadatantra Vyavahara Ayurveda
Evum Vidhivaidyaka. K.V.G. Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital,
Sullia, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, India.
Email: abhiram994@gmail.com

Menon. The book was published in November 1986, by Sahitha Pravarthaka Co-operative Society Ltd., Kottayam, Kerala. All the peculiar features mentioned in the context of loota Visha have been analysed and compiled.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

3.1. Loota Visha

Loota (spider) is known by different names like *Urumanpuli*, *Ettadiman*, *Urampuli*.^[1] The ones from the wild are more poisonous than the one seen in human inhabited region. Among the 24 types, four are *asadhya*. While two variety causes death by its visibility itself, another variety causes death to the ones upon whom its shadow is casted and inhalation of the smell of another variety cause death. So, poisoning by these four is considered *asadhya*. Getting afflicted with poison on days of *pakshasandhi*, *suklapaksha* and *krishnapaksha* are considered *asadhya*. *Loota visha* affects humans in two ways- by affecting the blood and by affecting the *nadi*.^[1] The symptoms of each situation are explained. As per intensity, *loota visha* is classified into *mandham*, *madhyam*, and *ghoram*. After getting poisoned, the person will be asymptomatic for 15 *naazhika* (one *naazhika* is 24 min) or half a day. In this text, 8 sources of poisons are mentioned with symptoms^[2] [Tables 1 and 2].

3.2. Lootavibhaga Chikitsa^[4]

- *Murupuli* – Pain all over the body, fever, headache are its poisoning symptoms. Milk, *peya* added with milk, sugar, butter, dried coconut, and application of milk added with *vyaghri*.
 - *Kapila* – Patients develop reddish eruptions, heaviness of head, exudation of lymphatic from hair follicles, pyrexia, and burning sensation all over the body. *Paana*, *anjana*, *nasya*, *lepa*, *dhaara* with *kushta*, *patimukha*, *haridra*, *ela*, *karskara twak*, *karanja twak*, parched rice, root of *arka*, *apamarga*, *saaliparni*, *brahmi*, *chitraka* is indicated.
 - *Agnimukhya* – severe pain, eruptions, severe hyperpyrexia (similar to flames of fire), thirst, suppuration of muscle, tremor, and fainting are developed by its poisoning. Use of *fyashti*, *kushta*, *ushira*, and *kanaka* added with honey, drugs of *seethavirya*, *talisapatra*, *sariva* are indicated.
 - *Peetha* – Yellow urine, pus point in ulcer, fainting, vomiting, abdominal pain, anorexia, headache are symptoms of poisoning. *Seetharmudipullu*, *trivrit*, *sireesha*, *usheera*, *haridra*, *kusha*, *skadambha twak*, *asoka*, *kusha*, *karaskaratwak*, and *padmaka* are indicated.
 - *Padhma* – eruptions similar to lotus, (lesions combine and split), quick suppurating, warm exudations, and tenderness are features of its poisoning. *Kumuda*, *padma*, *bhumi champa*, *Amburuha*, *padmakanda* and *vanjula* added with sugar, honey, and ghee is indicated for the condition.
 - *Mutravishakhya* – In this poisoning, blackish blood exudates associated with foul smell, pulmonary diseases, pyrexia, vomiting, cough, fainting, suppuration, and giddiness are seen. *Paana* and *lepa* prepared with *usheera*, *chandana*, and *kushta* are advised.
 - *Swetha* – Severe itching, white eruptions, pain, suppuration, pyrexia, and giddiness are seen in this poisoning. *Pana* and *lepa* prepared with *amburuha*, *karimbaratha* (variety of *rasna*), *Renuka*, *ushira*, *Chandana*, *kushta*, *jatamanmsi*, *mayurasikha*, *sthulaila*, *thakara* are useful.
 - *Krishna* – Blackish discoloration of the body, stinking feces, exudation of pus, dark bloody diarrhea are the symptoms of its poisoning. Drugs such as *Ela*, *Rasana*, *Peraratha* (a variety of *Rasna*), and *Takara* are indicated.
 - *Pandurakhya* – Its poisoning causes stomatitis, swelling, blackish shade of face, yawning, and headache. *Paana* and *lepa* using juice of cow dung, juice of *varuni*, and *gorochanam* can be used for the condition.
 - *Rakthapaadhan* – Edema, pale eruptions, exudation of blood are its symptoms of poisoning. *Chandana*, *hribera*, *jatamamsi*, *ushira*, can be used for *paana* and *lepa*.
 - *Bhringa* – Color of honey bee, suppuration, pain, cystic eruptions are produced by its poisoning. *Satapushpa*, heartwood of *ankola*, *priyanku*, and *gorochana* can be used.
 - *Pinga* – Bite mark look like burns, eruptions, exudate fluid and symptoms like edema, thirst, fever, suppuration, pain in cardiac region are observed. *Parisha*, *Malathi*, sugar, *rapullu*, *nyagrodha*, *udumbara*, *aswatha*, *bhumi champa*, *chandana*, *rakthachandana*, *jeeraka*, *nagakesar* can be used for *pana* and *lepa*.
 - *Trimandala* – Hardness at bite site, exudation of blackish blood, redness and burning sensation of eyes, anorexia, eruptions all over the body- these are the symptoms of its poisoning. Root of *arka*, *haridra*, *rasna*, *sarjarasam*, *salaparni*, *lavanga* (*vlaankai* in Malayalam), *brahmi*, and *gyotishmati* are indicated for the condition.
 - *Pootigandha* – It presents with symptoms such as Herpes like blisters, joint pain, suppuration, *srotorodha*. *Brihati*, *nimba*, *vasa*, *durva*, *nirgundi*, *haridra*, *daruharidra*, *patala* and *bharngi* can be used for its poisoning.
 - *Veera* – Round skin lesions of different colors, eruptions, pain in center of scalp, low grade fever are the symptoms of poisoning. It can be treated with *ela*, flower of *tulasi*, *kushtam*, sugarcane, *haridra*, *daruharidra*, *takara* triturated in bile of cow.
 - *Kumudha* – It causes suppuration, pain, cystic eruptions, enlargement of lymphs in neck, and it may suppurate and cause exudation. It is difficult to treat, and common treatment line of *loota visha* is to be adopted.
 - *Ala* – Round skin lesions in red or yellow color, dryness of palate, fever, pain, vomiting, pain and tremor of head at its symptoms of poisoning. *Pippali*, *vatasungam*, *hribera*, and *ushira* added with ghee is to be taken in this condition.
 - *Raktha* – Reddish eruptions, fever, diarrhea with white fecal matter, pulmonary discomforts, and burning sensation are its symptoms. Condition is to be treated with *bhallathaka*, root of *nirgundi*, *aamrathaka* (a drug *naruvarithol* is not identified).
 - *Chitra* – Reddish immovable wider eruptions which break on its own and then produced blackish eruptions, exuding yellow fluid, headache, pain in flanks are its symptoms.
- Paana* and *lepa* with equal quantities of *kushta*, *sireeshatwak*, *renuka*, *ushira*, *naaykarimbu* (*Malayalam name*) are indicated.
- *Santhanika* – Pain epiphora, convulsions, and leucorrhoea are caused by its poisoning. *Pashanabheda*, root of *nirgundi*, *nalpamaratwak*, root of *aamra*, and *nagakesara* can be used in the poisoning.
 - *Mechaka* – Fever, eruptions at the center of bite site are produced, and it can be treated by *paana*
 - and *lepa* with root of *varuni*, *gorochana*, *daruharidra*, and *haridra*.
 - *Kasana* – Headache, cough, pulmonary difficulties, lines on the body, and exudation, which is cold and thick, is produced. It can be treated with drugs which are *rakthaloota vishahara*.

- *Kakandya, Enapada, Lajavarna, Vaidehi, Jaalini, Maalaguna, Souvarnika* – These variety of *loota visha* are considered incurable, and hence its treatment is not prescribed in this text.

3.3. *Dhoopa Prayoga*^[5]

The text gives immense importance to *dhoopana* at bite site for remission of *loota visha*.

Peacock feather is the most common ingredient in the formulation. Few of which are

- *Haritala, puliyadi (brihati?), hingu, sahadevi, vacha, kushta, maricha, sarshapa, punarnava, peacock feather*
- Peacock feather, *saindhava lavana, tila*, cock feather, powdered and fumigate after applying ghee
- Hair, leaf of *nimba*, peacock feather, *snuhi patra, tandula churna, taala patra*, added with *ghee*
- Peacock feather, *saindhava lavana*
- *Sahadevi, pulichuvadi (brihati?), hingu, kushta, vacha, maricha, root of punarnava, peacock feather, sarshapa, haritala.*

Common formulations like mahapadmagritham, neelidhaladhi gritham, and kottamramachadi agadam are also explained in the text.

4. CONCLUSION

Loota visha is explained in a very detailed manner in the text. Classification of effect of loota visha as *rakthabhadakara* and *nadibhadakara* reflects the neurovascular complication possibility in spider poisoning. Spider poisoning is a common emergency condition that can be effectively managed by internal and external treatment. Neurological symptoms and bad prognosis of certain variety of poisoning reflect that the conditions should be managed beyond symptomatic relief. The text requires proper translation with correct identification of drugs, as it can be used in other medical conditions of neurotoxicity, hemotoxicity, or hepatotoxicity.

Efforts should be made by enthusiastic researchers to explore the unidentified drugs from the context.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Nil.

6. AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors give equal contribution in making of this manuscript.

7. FUNDING

Nil.

8. ETHICAL STATEMENT

Not required to be a book review.

9. CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

10. DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data analyzed in this review were obtained from publicly available sources, including peer-reviewed articles, observational studies, and surveys accessible through databases.

11. PUBLISHERS NOTE

This journal remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published institutional affiliations.

REFERENCES

1. Kuttikrishna M. KriyaKoumudi: Sthavaravisha prakaranam sahyapavartakasahakarana sangam. Kottayam: ACS Publisher; 1986. p. 604.
2. Kuttikrishna M. KriyaKoumudi: Sthavaravisha prakaranam sahyapavartakasahakarana sangam. Kottayam: ACS Publisher; 1986. p. 606.
3. Kuttikrishna M. KriyaKoumudi: Sthavaravisha prakaranam sahyapavartakasahakarana sangam. Kottayam: ACS Publisher; 1986. p. 608-9.
4. Kuttikrishna M. KriyaKoumudi: Sthavaravisha prakaranam sahyapavartakasahakarana sangam. Kottayam: ACS Publisher; 1986. p. 612-5.
5. Kuttikrishna M. KriyaKoumudi: Sthavaravisha prakaranam sahyapavartakasahakarana sangam. Kottayam: ACS Publisher; 1986. p. 636.

How to cite this article:

Abhiram R, Avinash KV. *Loota Visha Chikitsa in Kriyakoumudhi* - A Book Review. IRJAY. [online] 2026;9(3);26-29.

Available from: <https://irjay.com>

DOI link- <https://doi.org/10.47223/IRJAY.2026.90305>

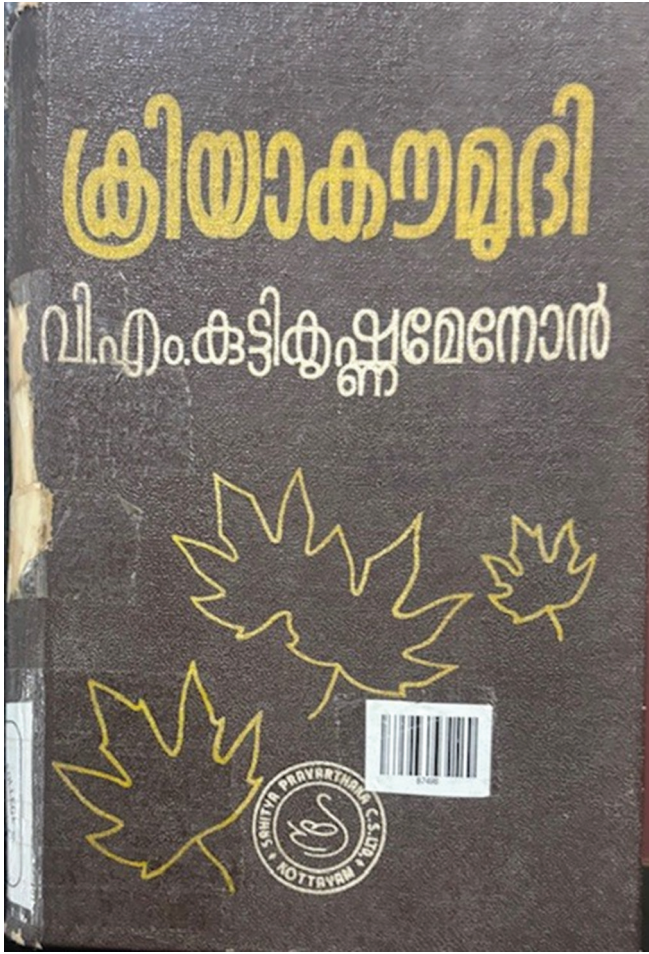


Table 1: Source and symptoms

Source	Symptoms
Saliva	Itching, eruptions, mild pain
Nails	Burning, horripilation, Itching
Urine	Lesions black in the middle-red edges, suppuration, swelling, and bad odor
Feces	Bad smell, itching, crawling sensation, quick suppuration
Breath	Edema
Bite	Fever, suppuration
Semen	Severe pain, tumor
Menstrual blood	Beak-shaped swelling, color similar to <i>palaasha</i>

Table 2: Vishavega adhishtana, lakshana, and chikitsa^[3]

Adhishtana	Lakshana	Chikitsa
<i>Twak</i>	<i>Blackish discoloration of skin, Body pain, Itching</i>	<i>Bloodletting, Lepa with Tulasi, Haridra</i>
<i>Raktha</i>	<i>Tremor, Horripilation</i>	<i>Intake of milk added with paste of Tulasi root</i>
<i>Mamsa</i>	<i>Eruptions, Swelling, Thirst, Breathlessness</i>	<i>Ushira, Yashti, Chandana for Paana, Nasya, Lepa</i>
<i>Medas</i>	<i>Circular cystic eruptions, Fever,</i>	<i>Lepa with Skin of root of Amarivaka added with swarasa of Sireesha</i>
<i>Asthi</i>	<i>Fatigue, Dryness of tongue</i>	<i>Intake of milk added with paste of cherucheera</i>
<i>Majja</i>	<i>Pain in head and palate, Dizziness, Fever</i>	<i>Intake of milk added with Khadirasaara, Nilini, Ushira, Chandana</i>
<i>Sukra</i>	<i>Thirst, Thirst, Dysfunction of sense organs</i>	<i>Intake of milk added with paste of Sariva, root of Amari, and Cherucheera</i>