

## SANSKRIT NAMES OF PLANTS IN THE KĀŚYAPĪYAKṚṢISŪKTI

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(Szeged)

The paper presents an exhaustive list of plant names in the Kāśyapīyakṛṣisūkti, the most important Sanskrit treatise on agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry dated from the early medieval period. The Sanskrit names are given with full reference to the verses where they appear and together with the up-to-date botanical terms and occasionally with the current English names.

*Key words:* Sanskrit, Kāśyapīyakṛṣisūkti, plant names, agriculture, horticulture.

Kāśyapīyakṛṣisūkti (KKSū) is the single comprehensive treatise on agriculture in Sanskrit that deals with the cultivation of land, horticulture as well as animal husbandry. The work is known only from a single manuscript kept at the Adyar Library, Madras under the signature XXXVIII. 1. 8. 63419. It is composed of 1780 verses divided into four chapters that represent different textual layers the earliest of which can be dated from the post-Gupta times i.e. after the 6th century A.D.; later interpolations might have entered the text. (Wojtilla 1999, pp. 9–11) The work is a rich mine of the Sanskrit names of cultivated plants. It is of unique importance because till now only the relevant vocabularies of the Vṛkṣāyurveda of Sūrapāla (Das 1988 cf. Meulenbeld 1988), the chapters 1–10 of the Mādhavanidāna (Meulenbeld 1974) have systematically been processed while the collection of plant names from the chief *āyurveda* texts (cf. Sharma 1979) is far from complete. Moreover the list of plant names in our work comprises a basic unit of the terminology of agriculture and as such sheds a fresh light on the history of cultivation of plants in late ancient and early medieval India. Last but not least the critical review of these plant names may form an essential contribution to Sanskrit lexicography as a whole. In order to meet such ends we give the Sanskrit items together with the up-to-date botanical equivalents and when it is possible with their common English meaning. The numbers following the names refer to the verse(s) in which the name can be found.

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- AGASTYA 578 'sugarcane', *Sesbania grandiflora* Linn.
- ATIMUKTA 390 'clustered hipitage' = ATIMUKTAKA (1) *Hiptage benghalensis* Kurz; (2) = TINDUKA *Diospyros embryopteris* Pers.; (3) = TINIŠA *Ougeinia oojeinensis* (Roxb.) Hochr. = *O. dalbergioides* Benth. (cf. Meulenbeld 1988, p. 428)
- ARJUNA 396, 742 *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.) Wight et Arn. (cf. Meulenbeld 1988, p. 429)
- AŠOKA 393, 746 *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) De Wilde = *S. indica* auct. non Linn.
- AŠVATTHAKA 91 'peepal, sacred fig', *Ficus religiosa* Linn. = KAPITTHA
- \*ĀḌHAKĪ The manuscript reads āḍhaka in the verses 329, 336, 338, 521, 528, 529, 532, 554, 572, 594, 603 and its variety: bṛhadāḍhaka 538 'big āḍhaka'. Nevertheless, āḍhaka is an unusual form because it is recorded in Sanskrit dictionaries only in the meaning 'measure of grain' (MW p. 134) 'ein best. Hohlmaas' (pw I, p. 165) and because the common form attested in other Sanskrit texts is āḍhakī (cf. Wojtilla 1978, p. 40 cf. MW p. 134) which also occurs in the verses 570, 701, 565, 566 'pigeon pea', *Cajanus indicus* Spreng.
- ĀMALAKA 392 = ĀMALAKĪ 744 'emblic myrobalan, Indian gooseberry', *Embllica officinalis* Gaertn.
- ĀMRA 102, 633, 665 'mango' *Mangifera indica* Linn. = RASĀLA = RASĀLAKA
- ĀRDRA 671 = ĀRDRAKA 646 'ginger', *Zingiber officinale* Rosc.
- ĀVALI 103 'coriander', *Coriandrum sativum* Linn.
- IKṢU 381, 584, 586, 592, 631, 660, 671 'sugarcane', *Saccharum officinarum* Linn. = PUNḌRA
- UDUMBARA 395 'country fig, cluster fig', *Ficus racemosa* Linn.
- ERAṄḌA 383, 742 = ERAṄḌAKA 540 'the castor-oil plant', *Ricinus communis* Linn.
- ELĀ 389, 608, 630, 651, 665, 671 'cardamom', *Elettaria cardamomum* Linn.
- OṢADHI 732 'plant, herb'
- KAṬA 386 'grass', *Saccharum sara* Roxb.
- KADAMBA 92, 742 *Anthocephalus indicus* A. Rich = NĪPA
- KADALĪ 388, 422, 581, 589, 592, 655, 665, 671, 631 'banana', *Musa paradisiaca* Linn. *Musa sapientum* Kuntze = MOCĀ
- KANDA 387 (1) *Amorphophallus campanulatus* (Roxb.) Bl. ex Decne; (2) *Chionachne koenigii* (Spreng.) Thw. = *Coix koenigii* Spreng. = *Polytoca barbara* Stapf
- KAPITTHA 394, 746 'elephant or wood apple', *Feronia limonia* Linn. = AŠVATTHAKA
- KARAÑJA 391 = KARAÑJAKA 742 'Indian beech', *Pongamia pinnata* Pierre. = NAKTAMĀLA
- KARṆIKĀ 747 *Premna integrofolia* Linn., *Premna spinosa* Roxb.
- KARṆIKĀRA 745 *Pterospermum acerifolium* Willd.
- KALAMA 358, 425, 444, 454, 458, 497 'rice', *Oryza sativa* Linn. a sort of rice sown in May and June and ripening in December and January and its subvarieties:

- raktavarṇa<sup>0</sup> 363 ‘red-coloured’, sthūladehaka<sup>0</sup> 363 ‘large’, śveta 356 and śvetavarṇaka<sup>0</sup> 362 ‘white-coloured’, and dīrghākṛti<sup>0</sup> 363 ‘long-shaped’.
- KALĀṬA 386, 646 = KALĀṬAKA 605 problematic. Can it be identical with KALĀYA ‘pea’, *Lathyrus sativus* Linn. the leaves of which are used as potherb (Sharma 1979, p. 104)?
- KAVAKA 784 ‘mushroom’, fungus
- KĀŚA 397, 733 ‘reed’, *Saccharum spontaneum* Linn.
- KUṬAJA 639 *Wrightia zeylanica* R. Br. a small tree with white flowers (Randhawa 1980, p. 507)
- KUNDA 103, 390, 639 ‘jasmine’ *Jasminum multiflorum* or *pubescens* Willd.
- KURAVAKA 747 ‘red amaranth’, *Barleria prionitis* Linn.
- KULATTHA 521 = KULUTTHA 539 = KULASTHA 381 ‘Madras horse-gram’ (Das 1988, p. 306), *Dolichus biflorus* Linn.
- KUŚA 733 ‘grass with long pointed stalks’, *Desmostachya bipinnata* Stapf.
- KUSTUMBU(RU) 605 ‘coriander’, *Coriandrum sativum* Linn.
- KUŚMĀṆḌA 386, 605, 630, 636, 646, 651, 659, 666 ‘pumpkin-gourd’, *Beninkasa hispida* (Thunb.) Cogn = *B. cerifera* Savi (Cf. Meulenbeld 1988, p. 434. Its varieties: *brhatkūsmāṇḍa* 785 ‘big pumpkin-gourd’ and *vanakūsmāṇḍa* 630 ‘wild k’.)
- KRṢṢASĀRI 381 unidentified, it stands in the category of pulses. It can stand for KRṢṢASĀRA (1) *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb.; (2) *Acacia catechu* Willd. or with much less probability for KRṢṢASĀRIVĀ *Echites frutescens* Roxb. = *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br.
- KODRAVA 380, 539, 576, 577 ‘kodo-millet’, *Paspalum scrobiculatum* Linn.
- KOLAKANDĀVALI 91 it is probably identical with KOLAKANDA *Urginea indica* Kunth. (Meulenbeld)
- KOVIDĀRADRUMA 749 the tree *Bauhinia variegata* Linn.
- KRAMUKA 389 ‘red lodhra’, *Areca catechu* Linn.
- KHADIRA 91 *Acacia catechu* Willd.
- KHĀDIRA 91 = VIṬKHADIRA *Acacia farnesiana* Willd. and = ARIMEDA *Acacia leucophloea* Willd. (Meulenbeld)
- GODHŪMA 380, 539, 554, 570, 566 ‘Emmer wheat’ *Triticum dicoccum* Schübl or ‘bread-wheat’, *Triticum aestivum* Linn. emend. Thell.
- GRAÑJANA 784 = GRÑJANA ‘garlic’, *Allium sativum* Linn.
- CANAKA 336, 380, 521, 529, 539, 554, 556, 594, 601, 701 ‘chick-pea’ *Cicer arietinum* Linn.
- CANDANA 730 ‘sandal’, *Santalum album* Linn. = VARṆAJA
- CAMPAKA 103 ‘golden champa’, *Michelia champaca* Linn.
- CALADALA 395 ‘holy figtree’, *Ficus religiosa* Linn.
- CĀMPEYA 390, 639, = CĀMPEYAKA 747 *Mesua ferrea* Linn.
- JATĪKĀ 384, 604, 620, = JATĪLĀ 637 ‘Indian spikenard’, *Nardostachys jatamansi* DC. = NALADA. The copyist of the manuscript curiously identifies it with Tamil avarai (‘field-bean’, *Dolichus lablab* Linn. cf. Vacek), however, this interpretation cannot be proved on the basis of Sanskrit texts or dictionaries.

- JAṬILĀ 637 (1) = JAṬIKĀ; (2) 'long pepper', *Piper longum* Linn.; (3) *Acorus calamus* Linn.; (4) 'a kind of *Artemisia*' (MW, p. 409)
- JAMBĪRA 396, 651, 732 'citron tree', *Citrus medica* Linn.
- JAMBU 394, 633, 746 'rose apple', *Eugenia jambolana* Lam.
- JĪRAKA 382, 540 = JĪRA 380, 539, 570 'cumin', *Cuminum cyminum* Linn., *Carum carvi* Linn. or *Nigella sativa* Linn.
- TAMĀLA 393, 747 (1) *Garcinia morella* Desr. (Meulenbeld), for other identifications (cf. Das 1988, pp. 168–169)
- TĀPIÑCHA 747 *Xanthochymus pictorius* Roxb. or if it is identical with TĀPICCHA then it is identical with TAMĀLA (Meulenbeld)
- TĀMBŪLAVALLIKĀ 671 problematic, probably 'areca-nut', *Piper bettle* Linn. = NĀGAVALLĪ = PŪGA = PŪGIKĀ
- TINIŚA 250, 395 = ATIMUKTA = TINDUKA
- TINTRIÑĪ 92, 748 = TINTIḌĪ 'tamarind', *Tamarindus indica* Linn. (Meulenbeld 1988, p. 440)
- TINDUKA 92, 250, 396, 743 = ATIMUKTA (Meulenbeld 1988, p. 440)
- TILA 380, 521, 529, 531, 539, 559, 570 = TILAKA 396 'sesame', *Sesamum indicum* Linn.
- TULASĪ 733 'holy basil', *Ocimum sanctum* Linn.
- TŪLĀ 383, 540 'cotton', *Gossypium arboreum* Linn.
- TŪLĀVR̥KṢA 395 'cotton tree', *Gossypium arboreum* Linn. = PICUVR̥KṢA
- TR̥ṢA 446, 447, 448 'grass'
- DĀDĪMA 393, 746 'pomegranate', *Punica granatum* Linn.
- DEVADĀRU 391, 743 'Indian cedar tree', *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Loud. = BHADRADĀRU
- DRĀKṢĀ 389, 608, 651, 652, 665, 702 'vine', *Vitis vinifera* Linn.
- DHĀNYA 382, 497, 498, 527, 572 'corn, grain'
- DHĀNYAKA 386, 636 'coriander', *Coriandrum sativum* Linn.
- NAKTAMĀLA 391, 742 = KARANJA
- NALADA 608, 630 = JAṬIKĀ
- NĀGAVALLĪ 631 = TĀMBŪLAVALLĪKĀ = PŪGA = PŪGIKĀ
- NĀRIKELA 633, 660, 665 'coconut tree', *Cocos nucifera* Linn.
- NIMBA 92, 392, 745 'neem tree', *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.
- NĪPA 396, 742 = originally (DHĀRĀ)KADAMBA = *Anthocephalus cadamba* Benth. et Hook. f. = *Nauclea cadamba* Roxb. (i.e. *Anthocephalus indicus* A. Rich) and secondarily = KADAMBA etc. *Adina cordifolia* Benth. et Hook f. = *Nauclea cardifolia* Roxb. (Das 1988, p. 123)
- NIVĀRA 366 'wild rice', its two varieties śveta 'white'<sup>0</sup> and kṛṣṇa 'black'<sup>0</sup> are mentioned
- PAṬOLIKĀ 384, 604, 626, 636, 645, 651, 657 = PAṬOLA for PAṬOLĪ 663 'small cucumber', or 'pointed gourd', *Trichosanthes dioica* Roxb.
- PANĀSA 102, 632, 659, 665 'jackfruit', *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.
- PALĀṆDU 608, 784 'onion', *Allium cepa* Linn.
- PALĀŚA 395 'bastard teak', *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Kuntze.

- PĀRIBHADRA 749 = PĀRIBHADRAKA 395 *Erythrina indica* Lam.  
 PICUVṚKṢA 595 = TŪLĀVṚKṢA  
 PIṆḌĪTAKA 392 *Vangueria spinosa* Roxb.  
 PIPPALĪ 672, 732 'the long pepper plant', *Piper longum* Linn.  
 PĪLUVṚKṢA 396, 749 the tree *Salvadora persica* Linn.  
 PUNḌRA 381, 581 = IKṢU  
 PUNNĀGA 396, 665 'nutmeg', *Calophyllum inophyllum* Linn.  
 PŪGA 665, 671 = PŪGIKĀ 631 = TĀMBULAVALLIKĀ = NĀGAVALLI  
 PRASAVAKA 98 *Buchanania latifolia* Roxb.  
 PRIYAṄGU 392, 744 'millet', *Setaria italica* Linn.  
 PLAKṢA 91, 395, 743 *Ficus lacor* Buch.-Ham.  
 BADARA 396 'Indian jujube', *Zizyphus jujuba* or *mauritiana* Lam.  
 BILVAKA 733 'Bengal quince', *Aegle marmelos* Correa ex Roxb.  
 BHADRAKA 746 *Gmelina arborea* Linn.  
 BHADRADĀRU 744 = DEVADĀRU  
 BHŪRJAKĀ 92 (wrongly: bhūrjara), 391, 742 'birch tree', *Betula utilis* Don.  
 MADHUKA 395 = MADHŪKA 749 *Bassia latifolia* Roxb. (as to other meanings cf. Meulenbeld 1974, p. 587)  
 MARĪCI 382, 522 (marīca), 540, 572, 620 'pepper shrub', *Piper nigrum* Linn.  
 MARUVAKA 743 'common marjoram', *Origanum majorana* Linn.  
 MALLIKĀ 390 'Arabian jasmine', *Jasminum sambac* (Linn.) Ait. (Meulenbeld 1988, p. 447)  
 MĀTULAṄGA 397, 732 = JAMBĪRA  
 MĀLATĪ 103, 639, 665, 637 'jasmine' (1) *Aganosma calycina* A.DC.; (2) *A. dichotoma* (Roth) K. Schum.= *A. caryophyllata* G. Don; (3) *Jasminum angustifolium* Vahl; (4) *J. officinale* Linn. forma *grandiflorum* (Linn.) Kobuski; (5) *Hiptage benghalensis* (Linn.) Kurz (Meulenbeld 1988, p. 448)  
 MĀṢA 379, 521, 526, 528, 529, 538, 552, 554, 566, 570, 702 'bean marked with black and grey spots', *Phaseolus mungo* Linn.  
 MUṆJA 448 'rush or segde-like grass', *Saccharum sara* or *munja* Roxb., *Saccharum bengalense* Retz.  
 MUDGA 380, 521, 528, 539, 570, 594 'bean', *Phaseolus mungo* Linn.  
 MOCĀ 632, 732 = KADALĪ  
 YAVA 367, 577 'barley', *Hordeum vulgare* Linn. emend. Bourden. It has three varieties: kṛṣṇa<sup>0</sup> 'black<sup>0</sup>', śveta<sup>0</sup> 'white<sup>0</sup>', and sthūla<sup>0</sup> 'large<sup>0</sup>'.  
 YAVARA 381, 540, 576, 577 'millet', *Sorghum bicolor* (Linn.) Moench.  
 RATHADRUMA 749 (wrongly: rabhadruma) *Dalbergia ougeinensis* Roxb.  
 RAMBHĀ 632, 732 = KADALĪ = MOCĀ  
 RASĀLA 660 = RASĀLAKA 102, 395, 653, 659 = ĀMRA  
 RĀŚIJATĪKĀ 384, 604 The name is not recorded in any Sanskrit dictionary. According to the copyist of the manuscript it is identical with Tamil kottavarai 'cluster bean', *Cyamopsis psoralioides* (Vacek), however this identification based on the interpretation of jatīkā cannot be proved.  
 LAVANĜA 671 'the clove tree', *Syzygium aromaticum* Linn.

- LAŚUNA 784 'garlic', *Allium sativum* Linn.  
 LIKUCA 392, 632, 651, 660, 745 *Artocarpus lakoocha* Roxb.  
 VAMŚA 397, 748 'bamboo', *Bambusa arundinacea* Willd. = VEṆUKA  
 VAṬA 91, 95, 395, 743 'banyan, Indian fig tree', *Ficus bengaliensis* Linn.  
 VANAVALLIKĀ 384, 604 (1) a wild variety of VALLIKĀ; (2) According to the copyist of the manuscript it is identical with Tamil kātuppākal 'prickly carolah' (cf. Vacek)  
 VARṆAJA 747 = CANDANA  
 VALLĪ 620, 636, 645, 666, 732 = VALLIKĀ 384, 604, 626, 627, 671 'a creeper' (a class of medical plants and various other plants) (Meulenbeld 1988, pp. 451–452.)  
 VĀTAPOTA 98 the tree *Butea frondosa* Koen ex Roxb.  
 VĀRTĀKA 384, 604, 620, 621, 626, 639, 641, 645, 651, 657, 666 'egg-plant', *Solanum melongena* Linn. Its varieties: śubha<sup>0</sup> 'auspicious<sup>0</sup>' and śveta<sup>0</sup> 'white<sup>0</sup>'.  
 VIBHĪTAKA 392, 744 *Terminalia bellerica* Roxb.  
 VEṆUKA 92 = VAMŚA  
 VETASA 91 (1) *Calamus rotang* Linn.; (2) *Salix caprea* Linn.; (3) *S. tetrasperma* Roxb. (Meulenbeld 1988, p. 452 )  
 VRĪHI 363, 497, 560 'rice', *Oryza sativa* Linn. it has several varieties: kala<sup>0</sup> 388, 'pleasant<sup>0</sup>?', kalama<sup>0</sup> 425 = KALAMA, ghana<sup>0</sup> 365 'compact<sup>0</sup>', drākṣā<sup>0</sup> 366? palaśa<sup>0</sup> 365? phala<sup>0</sup> 366 'fructiferous<sup>0</sup>', pītavarṇa<sup>0</sup> 368 'yellowish<sup>0</sup>', śuka<sup>0</sup> 365 'bright<sup>0</sup>', lit. 'parrot-rice?', saṁmara<sup>0</sup>? 367, śita<sup>0</sup> 368 'white<sup>0</sup>', sthūlakāya<sup>0</sup> 365 'large<sup>0</sup>', lit. 'big-bodied<sup>0</sup>', svādu<sup>0</sup> 366 'sweet<sup>0</sup>'  
 ŚAMA 743 *Prosopis spicigera* Linn.  
 ŚAMI 391 *Procopis cineraria* Druce  
 ŚĀKUṬA 387, 605, 628, 646 problematic, perhaps a kind of vegetable, or according to Meulenbeld a plant with a bulb or bulbous rhizome (Meulenbeld)  
 ŚĀLĪ 358, 424, 452, 602 'rice', *Oryza sativa* Linn. Its varieties: dīrgha<sup>0</sup> 362 'long<sup>0</sup>', rakta<sup>0</sup> 362, 454 'red<sup>0</sup>', śveta<sup>0</sup> 362, 451 'white<sup>0</sup>', sthūla<sup>0</sup> 362 'large<sup>0</sup>'  
 ŚIGRU 391, 743, 785 'horse radish' (1) *Moringa pterygosperma* Gaertn.; (2) *Moringa oleifera* Lam.  
 \*ŚIMBA 454 'a kind of kidney bean', *Phaseolus trilobus* Linn. (Wojtilla 1979, p. 44.) The manuscript reads śamba, however, this word has nothing to do with plant names (cf. MW, p. 1055 and pw, VII, pp. 207–208). There are some varieties of it: kapiśaśambaka 364 'ape-coloured<sup>0</sup>', i.e. reddish-brown<sup>0</sup>, kṛṣṇaśambaka 364 'black<sup>0</sup>', raktaśamba 363 'red<sup>0</sup>' and hemaśambaka 363 'golden-coloured<sup>0</sup>'.  
 ŚIRIṢA 393, 747 *Albizzia Lebbeck* Benth.  
 ŚUNṬHĪ 387, 606 'ginger', *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe  
 ŚYĀMA 381 Lit. 'dark-coloured', it is the name of 40 different plants (Meulenbeld 1974, p. 605 ff.) cf. Das 1988, p.240.  
 ŚRĪPARṆA 393 = ŚRĪPARṆAKA 743 'box myrtle', *Myrica esculenta* Buch.-Ha. (Meulenbeld 1988, p. 254: śrīparṇika)

- ŠAVAKA 385, 604, 620, 645, 657 Problematic word, it has not been recorded in any Sanskrit dictionary. The copyist of the manuscript identifies it with Tamil *venṭai* ‘ladyfinger’ *Hibiscus esculentus* = *Abelmoschus esculentus* Linn.
- ŠAṢṬIKA 358 *Oryza sativa* Linn., a kind of rice which is ripe in sixty days.
- SAPTAPARṆA 394 *Alstonia scholaris* (Linn.) R. Br.
- SARJAKA 250, 396, 742 ‘myrobalan’, *Terminalia tomentosa* Bedd.= Wight et Arn.
- SARṢAPA 382, 541, 570, 702 ‘mustard’ *Brassica juncea* Coss.
- SASYA 449, 454, 459 ‘corn, grain’
- SINDUVĀRA 393, 747 ‘East Indian walnut’, *Vitex negundo* Linn.
- SŪRAṆA 387, 605, 628, 636, 646 ‘elephant-foot, yam’ (Randhawa 1980, p. 501) *Amorphophallus campanulatus* (Roxb.) Bl. ex Decne
- HARIDRĀ 387, 606, 629, 646 ‘turmeric’, *Curcuma longa* Linn.
- HAIMAVATĪ 744 (1) *Linum usitatissimum* Linn.; (2) *Hoya viridiflora*; (3) *Terminalia chebula* Retz and the name of some other plants.

### Abbreviations and references

Preliminary note: special abbreviations referring to botanical terms are taken from Das 1988, Meulenbeld 1974 and 1988 and Sharma 1979.

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