

CHALĀKSARA CODE LETTERS in the KĀNVA PADAPĀTHA

Chalāksara-s are monosyllabic code letters (gīṁ, chrum, śraim, r̥tau, kṣūṁ, ī etc.) which are found at the end of the mantras in the Kānva Padapātha. They contain the following informations:

1. Number of *iti*karaṇa words (compounds, pragṛhya, riphita)
2. Number of words with final *visarga*
3. Number of words with final *n*
4. Number of *words* (padas)

Examples for itikaraṇa words: supoṣa iti su-poṣah, te iti te, svariti svah)

iti5 Visarga (ḥ5)

	1	2	3	4	5	0
1	k	kh	g	gh	ṅ	y
2	c	ch	j	jh	ñ	r
3	ṭ	ṭh	ḍ	ḍh	ṇ	l
4	t	th	d	dh	n	v
5	p	ph	b	bh	m	kṣ
0	ś	ṣ	s	h	l (ꝝ)	

(rx: +5) (xr: +5)

(iti5: number of iti in the last group of 5) (iti = 8 = (5) (3) => iti5 = 3)

k (iti5 = 1) (iti = 1, 11 etc.)

rk (iti5 = 1 + 5) (iti = 6, 16 etc.)

(ḥ5: number of ḥ in the last group of 5) (ḥ = 10 = (5) (5) => ḥ5 = 5)

m (ḥ5 = 5) (ḥ = 5, 15 etc.)

mr (ḥ5 = 5 + 5) (ḥ = 10, 20 etc.)

n = 1 (**x****y**), **n** = 2 (**x****l**), **n5** = 3 (**x****v**), **n** = 4 (**x****h**), **n** = 5 (**x****r**)

n5 = 3 (n = 3, 8)

Number of words (p):

a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ai	o	au
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Anusvāra: +10; visarga: +20; code 33: +30

am (10); om (18); ah (20); auh (29); ā33 (31); ūm33 (45 = 15 + 30)

EXAMPLES

After *adhyāya.anuvāka.mantra* the *chalākṣara* code is shown. The numbers *iti*, *ḥ*, *n* and *p* have been counted in the *padapāṭha*.

1.1.1 (gīm) (iti 1, ḥ 3, n 0, p 13)

īṣe | tvā | ūrje | tvā | vāyavaḥ | stha |
devaḥ | vaḥ | savitā | pra | arpayatu | śreṣṭhatamāyeti śreṣṭha-tamāya | karmaṇe || gīm ||

Note: *g* (*iti*5 = 1; *ḥ*5 = 3); *n* = 0 (*g* is not followed by *y*, *v*, *l* or *h*); *īm* (*p* = 3 + 10 = 13)

1.1.2 (ch!rum) (iti 2, ḥ 7, n 0, p 14)

ā | pyāyadhvam | aghnyāḥ | īndrāya | bhāgam | prajāvatīṛiti prajā-vatīḥ | anamīvāḥ | ayakṣmāḥ |
mā | vaḥ | stenāḥ | īśata | mā | aghaśāṁsa ityagha-śāṁsaḥ || ch!rum ||

Note: *ch* (*iti*5 = 2; *ḥ*5 = 2); *chr* (*iti*5 = 2; *ḥ*5 = 2 + 5 = 7); *n* = 0 (*ch* is not followed by *y*, *v*, *l* or *h*); *um* (*p* = 4 + 10 = 14); in the *padapāṭha* *dhrum* is written; this is a printing error corrected to *chrum*.

1.3.4 (syum) (iti 0, ḥ 3, n 1, p 14)

dhūḥ | asi | dhūrvā | dhūrvantam | dhūrvā | tam | yaḥ | asmān | dhūrvati |
dhūrvā | tam | yam | vayam | dhūrvāmaḥ || syum ||

Note: *s* (*iti*5 = 0; *ḥ*5 = 3); *n* = 1 (*s* is followed by *y*); *um* (*p* = 4 + 10 = 14)

1.4.4 (jim) (iti 2, ḥ 3, n 0, p 12)

daivyāya | karmaṇe | śundhadhvam | devayajyāyā iti deva-yajyāyai |
yat | vaḥ | aśuddhaḥ | parājaghāneti parā-jaghāna | etat | vaḥ | tat | śundhāmi || jim ||

1.5.1 (ñīm) (iti 2, ḥ 5, n 0, p 13)

śarma | asi | avadhūtamityava-dhūtam | rakṣaḥ | avadhūtā ityava-dhūtāḥ | arātayaḥ |
adityāḥ | tvak | asi | prati | tvā | aditiḥ | vettu || ñīm ||

1.7.5 (l!um) (iti 0, ḥ 5, n 0, p 14)

vedaḥ | asi | veda | yena | tvam | deva | veda | devebhyaḥ | vedaḥ | abhavaḥ |
tena | mahyam | vedāḥ | bhava || l!um ||

1.9.2 (kam) (iti 1, ḥ 1, n 0, p 10)

pr̄thivyai | varma | asi | pr̄thivi | devayajanīti deva-yajani |
oṣadhyāḥ | te | mūlam | mā | hiṁsiṣam || kam ||

Note: *k* (*iti*5 = 1; *ḥ*5 = 1); *n* = 0 (*k* is not followed by *y*, *v*, *l* or *h*); *am* (*p* = 0 + 10 = 10)

2.1.9 (lyum) (iti 3, ḥ 0, n 1, p 14)

Note: *l* (*iti*5 = 3; *ḥ*5 = 0); *n* = 1 (*l* is followed by *y*); *um* (*p* = 4 + 10 = 14)

2.6.2 (yūm) (iti 1, ḥ 0, n 0, p 15)

Note: *y* (*iti*5 = 1; *ḥ*5 = 0); *n* = 0 (*y* is not followed by *y*, *v*, *l* or *h*); *ūm* (*p* = 5 + 10 = 15)

3.4.1 (bram) (iti 5, h 8, n 0, p 10)

bhūḥ | bhuvaḥ | svari_{ti} svah | suprajā _{iti} su-prajāḥ | prajayeti pra-jayā | bhūyāsam | suvīra _{iti} su-vīrah | vīraih | supoṣa _{iti} su-poṣah | poṣaiḥ || braṁ ||

Note: br (iti5 = 5; h5 = 3 + 5 = 8); n = 0 (br is not followed by y, v, l or h); am (p = 0 + 10 = 10)

3.6.2 (raum) (iti 2, h 0, n 0, p 19)

Note: r (iti5 = 2; h5 = 0); n = 0 (r is not followed by y, v, l or h); auṁ (p = 9 + 10 = 19)

3.8.1 (śraim) (iti 0, h 6, n 0, p 17)

eṣah | te | rudra | bhāgah | saha | svasrā | ambikayā | tam | juṣasva | svāhā | eṣah | te | rudra | bhāgah | ākhuḥ | te | paśuh || śraim ||

Note: śr (iti5 = 0; h5 = 1 + 5 = 6); n = 0 (śr is not followed by y, v, l or h); aim (p = 7 + 10 = 17)

4.4.1 (bum) (iti 5, h 3, n 0, p 14)

ṛksāmayorityṛk-sāmayoh | śilpe _{iti} śilpe | sthah | te _{iti} te | vām | ā | rabhe | te _{iti} te | mā | pātam | ā | asya | yajñasya | udṛca ityut-ṛcaḥ || bum ||

Note: b (iti5 = 5; h5 = 3); n = 0 (b is not followed by y, v, l or h); um (p = 4 + 10 = 14)

4.4.2 (gom) (iti 1, h 3, n 0, p 18)

śarma | asi | śarma | me | yaccha | namah | te | astu | mā | mā | hiṁsiḥ | ūrk | asi | āṅgirasi | ūṇamradā _{ity}ūṇa-mradāḥ | ūṇjam | me | yaccha || gom ||

Note: g (iti5 = 1; h5 = 3); n = 0 (g is not followed by y, v, l or h); om (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

4.5.1 (laṁ) (Ṅ) (iti 0, h 5, n 0, p 10)

vratam | kṛṇuta | vratam | kṛṇuta | [vratam | kṛṇuta |] agnih | brahma | agnih | yajñah | vanaspatih | yajñiyah || laṁ ||

Note: l (iti5 = 0; h5 = 5); n = 0 (l is not followed by y, v, l or h); am (p = 0 + 10 = 10)

5.6.3 (ṛtau) (Ṅ) (iti 8, h 1, n 0, p 9)

svarāl_{iti} sva-rāṭ | asi | sapatnaheti sapatna-hā | satrarāl_{iti} satra-rāṭ | abhimātihet_yabhimāti-hā | janarāl_{iti} jana-rāṭ | rakṣoheti rakṣah-hā | sarvarāl_{iti} sarva-rāṭ | amitraheti amitra-hā || ṛtau ||

Note: t (iti5 = 3; h5 = 1); rt (iti5 = 3 + 5 = 8; h5 = 1); n = 0 (t is not followed by y, v, l or h); au (p = 9)

5.9.2 (chaim) (iti 2, h 2, n 2, p 17)

Note: ch (iti5 = 2; h5 = 2); n = 2 (ch is followed by l); aiṁ (p = 7 + 10 = 17)

7.17.1 (śīṁ) (iti 0, h 2, n 0, p 13)

Note: ṣ (iti5 = 0; h5 = 2); n = 0 (ṣ is not followed by y, v, l or h); īṁ (p = 3 + 10 = 13)

7.19.1 (ī) (iti 0, h 0, n 0, p 3)
marutām | ojase | tvā || ī ||

Note: Missing consonant (iti5 = 0; h5 = 0); n = 0 (missing y, v, l or h); ī (p = 3)

8.12.1 (svā 33) (iti 0, h 3, n 3, p 31)

Note: s (iti5 = 0; h5 = 3); n = 3 (s is followed by v); ā 33 (p = 31)

8.14.1 (d hauh) (ङह॑ः) (iti 3, h 3, n 4, p 29)

Note: d (iti5 = 3; h5 = 3); n = 4 (d is followed by h); auh (p = 9 + 20 = 29)

9.6.4 (ñlah) (iti 2, h 5, n 2, p 20)

9.6.4 (lyīm) (ल्यीं) (iti 0, h 5, n 1, p 13)

10.3.3 (au) (iti 0, h 0, n 0, p 9)

10.4.4 (hem) (iti 0, h 4, n 0, p 16)

Note: h (iti5 = 0; h5 = 4); n = 0 (h is not followed by y, v, l or h); em (p = 6 + 10 = 16)

10.5.7 (ām) (iti 0, h 0, n 0, p 11)

10.6.4 (rphrvūm 33) (रप्रवृं ३३) (iti 10, h 7, n 3, p 45)

Note: rphr (iti5 = 5 + 5 = 10; h5 = 2 + 5 = 7); n = 3 (rphr is followed by v); ūm 33 (p = 15 + 30 = 45)

11.1.2 (kromubhā) (iti 11, h 16, n 0, p 18)

Note: kr (iti5 = 1; h5 = 1 + 5 = 6); if iti5 = 1 then iti could be 1 or 11; if h5 = 6 then h could be 6 or 16; ubhā (“both”) after the code seems to select the numbers > 10 for iti and h.; n = 0 (kr is not followed by y, v, l or h); om (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

11.4.6 (ghromu) (iti 11, h 9, n 0, p 18)

Note: ghr (iti5 = 1; h5 = 4 + 5 = 9); if iti5 = 1 then iti could be 1 or 11; u after the code seems to select the number > 10 for iti.; n = 0 (ghr is not followed by y, v, l or h); om (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

13.1.14 (chrlaum) (iti 2, h 7, n 2, p 19)

13.4.13 (vām) (iti 4, h 0, n 0, p 11)

sam | itam | sam | kalpethām | saṃpriyā **iti** sam-priyau | rociṣṇū **iti** rociṣṇū | sumanasyā **iti** su-manasyau || işam | ūrjam | abhi | saṃvasānā **iti** sam-vasānau || vām ||

Note: v (iti5 = 4; h5 = 0); n = 0 (v is not followed by y, v, l or h); ām (p = 1 + 10 = 11)

13.5.10 (kṣūm) (iti 5, h 0, n 0, p 15)

Note: ks (iti5 = 5; h5 = 0); n = 0 (ks is not followed by y, v, l or h); ūm (p = 5 + 10 = 15)

15.9.1 (rba) (iti 10, h 13, n 0, p 30)

Note: rb (iti₅ = 5 + 5 = 10; h₅ = 3); n = 0 (b is not followed by y, v, l or h); a (p = 30)

15.9.1 (rdhyoh) (iti 8, h 14, n 1, p 28)

Note: rdh (iti₅ = 3 + 5 = 8; h₅ = 4); n = 1 (dh is followed by y); oh (p = 8 + 20 = 28)

19.2.1 (thyom) (iti 4, h 12, n 1, p 18)

Note: th (iti₅ = 4; h₅ = 2); n = 1 (th is followed by y); om (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

21.3.11 (ya!ṁ) (iti 0, h 0, n 1, p 10)

pavitreṇa | punīhi | mā | śukreṇa | deva | dīdyat |
agne | kratvā | kratūn | anu || ya!ṁ ||

Note: Missing consonant (iti₅ = 0; h₅ = 0); n = 1 (Missing consonant is followed by y); am (p = 0 + 10 = 10); Yam would also be the code for (iti 1, h 0, n 0, p 10)

26.3.5 (lram) (ꝝ) (iti 0, h 10, n 0, p 10)

krṣṇāḥ | bhaumāḥ | dhūmrāḥ | ātariksāḥ | bṛhantāḥ | divyāḥ |
śabalāḥ | vaidyutāḥ | sidhmāḥ | tārakāḥ || lram ||

Note: lr (iti₅ = 0; h₅ = 5 + 5 = 10); n = 0 (lr is not followed by y, v, l or h); am (p = 0 + 10 = 10)

26.4.5 (khrum) (iti 1, h 2, n 5, p 14)

vasantāya | kapiñjalān | ā | labhate | grīsmāya | kalaviṅkān | varṣābhyah | tittirīn | śarade | varttikāḥ | hemantāya | kakarān | śisirāya | vikakarānīti vi-kakarān || khrum ||

Note: khr (iti₅ = 1; h₅ = 2; n = 5 (kh is followed by r); um (p = 4 + 10 = 14)

27.2.1 (rtih) (iti 9, h 1, n 0, p 22)

Note: rt (iti₅ = 4 + 5 = 9; h₅ = 1); n = 0 (t is not followed by y, v, l or h); ih (p = 2 + 20 = 22)

33.1.11 (gyrom) (iti 1, h 8, n 1, p 18)

Note: gr (iti₅ = 1; h₅ = 3 + 5 = 8); n = 1 (g is followed by y); om (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

39.2.1 (u) (iti 0, h 0, n 0, p 4)

Note: Missing consonant (iti₅ = 0; h₅ = 0); n = 0 (missing y, v, l or h); u (p = 4)

40.1.17 (terṁ) (iti 3, h 1, n 0, p 16)

Note: t (iti₅ = 3; h₅ = 1); n = 0 (t is not followed by y, v, l or h); em (p = 6 + 10 = 16)

40.1.18 (a) (p 0)
agne naya || a ||

Note: Mantra 40.1.18 is dropped in the padapāṭha because it is a repetition of 5.9.2; mantras dropped in the padapāṭha are called galita mantras. The Kāṇva Saṃhitā contains 2086 mantras. The total amount of galita mantras is 129.

APPENDIX

PADA-MUṢTI-LAKṢANA(-PRAKĀŚIKĀ) (805)

of Mukunda-bhaṭṭa (or -śāstrin). Also called Pada-lakṣaṇa.

(This text explains the code letters found at the end of the mantras in the Kāṇva Padapāṭha; only the beginning and end is available to me)

Beginning:

śrīvāgdevipadāravindayugalam vighnādhipam svāminam
natvā pañkajayonikeśavaśivān śrīmadgurum bhaktitah |
vakṣye vājasaneyasuklayajuṣām saṃkhyām padānām kramād
ekām varṇām ṛcaś catuṣkaganānām labhyaprakāśām śubham ||
surāsuraśiroratnamarīcīracitān?ipe |
vīgnāndhakārasūryāya gaṇādhipataye namah ||
padānām āvalir velāvisargāṇām vidhīyate |
nāntānām vakṣyate lakṣma nikṣipyai kākṣare 'kṣaram ||
vihīnā ṛlvarṇābhyaṁ navākarādayah svarāḥ |
daśāmaṁ bindunā jñeyam visargād viṁśatir bhavet ||

End: (RASB)

pañcanām ca dvipakṣī ca śukapārśvavatī tu yā |
gaṇāntanām nijām varṇām samāptām padalakṣaṇam ||
duścavānah pṛtanāśālayudhyo 'smākam | juṣantām yajñam adruho 'namīvāḥ | iti padalakṣaṇām
samāptam | (21098) iti śrīmadvirediva-upanāmaka-raghunāthātmajena mukundaśāstrinā viracitā
padamuṣṭiprakāśikā samāptimagāt |

Reference:

Aithal, K. Parameswara, *Veda-Lakṣaṇa: Vedic Ancillary Literature: A Descriptive Bibliography*, Motilal Banarsi Dass: Delhi, 1993, No. 805

REFERENCES

Sharma B.R. (Ed), *Kāṇva Saṃhitā*, Vaidika Saṃśodhana Maṇḍala, 1988, 92, 99
(together with Padapāṭha)

Pataskar, Bhagyalata, *Ekākṣarī Baiṭhaparibhāṣā*, Adarsha Sanskrit Shoda Samstha, 2014
(Introduction, pages v-xii)

Śikṣās / Vedalakṣaṇa texts:

http://vedicreserve.mum.edu/shiksha/shiksha_vedicreserve.html

<https://sites.google.com/view/vedalakshana>

Last update by [Detlef Eichler](#) : 5 November 2024