

## CHALĀKṢARA CODE LETTERS in the KĀṆVA PADAPĀṬHA

Chalākṣara-s are monosyllabic code letters (gīm, chruṁ, śraim, rtau, kṣūṁ, ī, ghromu, bhah2, rdhyoḥ1etc.) which are found at the end of the mantras in the Kāṇva Padapāṭha. They contain the following informations:

1. Number of *itikaraṇa* words (compounds, pragrhya, 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-poṣaḥ, te iti te, svariti svaḥ*

iti	Visarga (ḥ)					
	1	2	3	4	5	0
1	k	kh	g	gh	ñ	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	ḷ (ṃ)	

(rx: +5) (code u: iti + 10) (xr: +5) (code l: ḥ + 10)

k (iti = 1; ḥ = 1); rk (iti = 1 + 5 = 6; ḥ = 1)  
m (iti = 5, ḥ = 5); mr (iti = 5; ḥ = 5 + 5 = 10)  
ry (iti = 1 + 5 = 6; ḥ = 0); kṣ (iti = 5; ḥ = 0)  
s (iti = 0; ḥ = 3); śr (iti = 0; ḥ = 1 + 5 = 6)

(code u: iti + 10): ghromu (iti = 1 + 10 = 11)  
(code l: ḥ + 10): kroml (ḥ = 1 + 5 + 10 = 16)

**n = 1 (xy), n = 2 (xl), n = 3 (xv), n = 4 (xh), n = n + 5 (code 2)**

syurṁ (n = 1); chlaimṁ (n = 2); (code 2): bhah2 (n = 0 + 5 = 5)

### 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); aḥ (20); auḥ (29); ā33 (31); ūm33 (45 = 5 + 10 + 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)

iṣe | tvā | ūrje | tvā | vāyavaḥ | stha |

devaḥ | vaḥ | savitā | pra | arpayatu | śreṣṭhatamāyēti śreṣṭha-tamāya | karmaṇe || gīm ||

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

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

ā | pyāyadhvam | aghnyāḥ | indrāya | bhāgam | prajāvatīriti prajā-vatīḥ | anamīvāḥ | ayakṣmāḥ |

mā | vaḥ | stenaḥ | īsata | mā | aghaśaṁsa ityagha-śaṁsaḥ || ch!ruṁ ||

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

1.3.4 (syuṁ) (iti 0, ḥ 3, n 1, p 14)

dhūḥ | asi | dhūrva | dhūrvantam | dhūrva | tam | yaḥ | asmān | dhūrvati |

dhūrva | tam | yam | vayam | dhūrvāmaḥ || syuṁ ||

*As per code: s (iti = 0; ḥ = 3); n = 1 (s is followed by y); uṁ (p = 4 + 10 = 14)*

1.4.4 (jīm) (iti 2, ḥ 3, n 0, p 12)

daivyāya | karmaṇe | śundhadhvaṁ | devayajyāyā itī deva-yajyāyai |

yat | vaḥ | aśuddhaḥ | parājaghāneti parā-jaghāna | etat | vaḥ | tat | śundhāmi || jīm ||

1.5.1 (ñīm) (iti 2, ḥ 5, n 0, p 13)

śarma | asi | avadhūtamityava-dhūtam | rakṣaḥ | avadhūtā ityava-dhūtāḥ | arāyayaḥ |

adityāḥ | tvak | asi | prati | tvā | adītiḥ | vettu || ñīm ||

1.7.5 (l!uṁ) (iti 0, ḥ 5, n 0, p 14)

vedaḥ | asi | veda | yena | tvam | deva | veda | devebhyaḥ | vedaḥ | abhavaḥ |

tena | mahyam | vedaḥ | bhava || l!uṁ ||

1.9.2 (kaṁ) (iti 1, ḥ 1, n 0, p 10)

pṛthivyai | varma | asi | pṛthivi | devayajanīti deva-yajani |

oṣadhyaḥ | te | mūlam | mā | hiṁsiṣam || kaṁ ||

*As per code: k (iti = 1; ḥ = 1); n = 0 (k is not followed by y, v, l or h); aṁ (p = 0 + 10 = 10)*

2.1.9 (lyuṁ) (iti 3, ḥ 0, n 1, p 14)

*As per code: l (iti = 3; ḥ = 0); n = 1 (l is followed by y); uṁ (p = 4 + 10 = 14)*

2.6.2 (yūṁ) (iti 1, ḥ 0, n 0, p 15)

*As per code: (a) y (iti = 1; ḥ = 0); n = 0 (y is not followed by y, v, l or h); ūṁ (p = 5 + 10 = 15)*

(b) (iti = 0; h = 0); n = 1 (y); ūm (p = 5 + 10 = 15)

3.4.1 (braṁ) (iti 5, h 8, n 0, p 10)

bhūh | bhuvaḥ | svariti svaḥ | suprajā iti su-prajāḥ | prajayeti pra-jayā | bhūyāsam |  
suvīra iti su-vīraḥ | vīraiḥ | supoṣa iti su-poṣaḥ | poṣaiḥ || braṁ ||

As per code: br (iti = 5; h = 3 + 5 = 8); n = 0 (br is not followed by y, v, l or h); aṁ (p = 0 + 10 = 10)

3.6.2 (rauṁ) (iti 2, h 0, n 0, p 19)

As per code: r (iti = 2; h = 0); n = 0 (r is not followed by y, v, l or h); aṁ (p = 9 + 10 = 19)

3.8.1 (śraim) (iti 0, h 6, n 0, p 17)

eṣaḥ | te | rudra | bhāgaḥ | saha | svasrā | ambikayā | tam | juṣasva | svāhā |  
eṣaḥ | te | rudra | bhāgaḥ | ākhuḥ | te | paśuḥ || śraim ||

As per code: śr (iti = 0; h = 1 + 5 = 6); n = 0 (śr is not followed by y, v, l or h); aṁ (p = 7 + 10 = 17)

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

rksāmayorityrk-sāmayoḥ | śilpe iti śilpe | sthaḥ | te iti te | vām | ā | rabhe | te iti te | mā | pātam |  
ā | asya | yajñasya | udṛca ityut-ṛcaḥ || bum ||

As per code: b (iti = 5; h = 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 | namaḥ | te | astu | mā | mā | himsīḥ |  
ūrḥ | asi | āṅgirasī | ūrṇamradā ityūrṇa-mradāḥ | ūrjam | me | yaccha || gom ||

As per code: g (iti = 1; h = 3); n = 0 (g is not followed by y, v, l or h); om (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

4.5.1 (lam) (iti 0, h 5, n 0, p 10)

vratam | kṛṇuta | vratam | kṛṇuta | [vratam | kṛṇuta ]  
agniḥ | brahma | agniḥ | yajñāḥ | vanaspatiḥ | yajñīyaḥ || lam ||

As per code: l (iti = 0; h = 5); n = 0 (l is not followed by y, v, l or h); aṁ (p = 0 + 10 = 10)

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

svarāliti sva-rāt | asi | sapatnaheti sapatna-hā | satrarāliti satra-rāt | abhimātihetyabhimāti-hā |  
janarāliti jana-rāt | rakṣoheti rakṣaḥ-hā | sarvarāliti sarva-rāt | amitrahetyamitra-hā || rtau ||

As per code: rṭ (iti = 3 + 5 = 8; h = 1); n = 0 (ṭ is not followed by y, v, l or h); au (p = 9)

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

As per code: ch (iti = 2; h = 2); n = 2 (ch is followed by l); aṁ (p = 7 + 10 = 17)

7.17.1 (ṣim) (iti 0, h 2, n 0, p 13)

As per code: ṣ (iti = 0; h = 2); n = 0 (ṣ is not followed by y, v, l or h); im (p = 3 + 10 = 13)

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

*As per code: Missing consonant (iti = 0; h = 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)

*As per code: s (iti = 0; h = 3); n = 3 (s is followed by v); ā 33 (p = 1 + 30 = 31)*

8.14.1 (ḍ hauḥ) (ḍहौः) (iti 3, h 3, n 4, p 29)

*As per code: ḍ (iti = 3; h = 3); n = 4 (ḍ is followed by h); auḥ (p = 9 + 20 = 29)*

9.6.4 (ñlah) (iti 2, h 5, n 2, p 20)

9.6.4 (lyīm) (ल्यीम्) (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)

*As per code: h (iti = 0; h = 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)

10.6.1 (rgrvai332!) (iti 6, h 8, n8, p37)

*As per code: rgr (iti = 1 + 6 = 6; h = 3 + 5 = 8; n = 3 (v) + 5 (2) = 8); ai33 (p = 7 + 30 = 37)*

10.6.4 (rphrvūm33) (रुप्रवृ ३३) (iti 10, h 7, n 3, p 45)

*As per code: rphr (iti = 5 + 5 = 10; h = 2 + 5 = 7); n = 3 (rphr is followed by v); ūm33 (p = 5 + 10 + 30 = 45)*

11.1.2 (kromu1!) (iti 11, h 16, n 0, p 18)

*As per code: kr (iti = 1 + 10 (u) = 11; h = 1 + 5 + 10 (1) = 16); 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)

*As per code: ghr (iti = 1 + 10 (u) = 11; h = 4 + 5 = 9); 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 | sampriyā **iti** sam-priyau | rociṣṇū **iti** rociṣṇū | sumanasyā **iti** sumanasyau || iṣam | ūrjam | abhi | samvasānā **iti** sam-vasānau || vām ||

As per code: (a) v (iti =4; ĥ = 0); n = 0 (v is not followed by y, v, l or h); āṁ (p = 1 + 10 = 11)  
(b) (iti =0; ĥ = 0); n = 3 (v); āṁ (p = 1 + 10 = 11)

13.5.10 (kṣūṁ) (iti 5, ĥ 0, n 0, p 15)

As per code: kṣ (iti = 5; ĥ = 0); n = 0 (kṣ is not followed by y, v, l or h); ūṁ (p = 5 + 10 = 15)

15.9.1 (rba331!) (iti 10, ĥ 13, n 0, p 30)

As per code: rb (iti = 5 + 5 = 10; ĥ = 3 + 10 (1) = 13); n = 0 (b is not followed by y, v, l or h); a33 (p = 0 + 30 = 30)

15.9.1 (rḍhyoḥ1!) (iti 8, ĥ 14, n 1, p 28)

As per code: rḍh (iti = 3 + 5 = 8; ĥ = 4 + 10 (1) = 14); n = 1 (ḍh is followed by y); oḥ (p = 8 + 20 = 28)

16.1.1 (bhaḥ2!) (iti 5, ĥ 4, n 5, p 20)

As per code: bh (iti = 5; ĥ =4); n = 0 + 5 (2); aḥ (p = 20)

19.2.1 (thoṁ1!) (iti 4, ĥ 12, n 0, p 18)

As per code: th (iti = 4; ĥ = 2 + 10 (1) = 12); n = 0 (th is not followed by y, v, l or h); oṁ (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

21.3.11 (yaṁ!) (iti 0, ĥ 0, n 1, p 10)

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

As per code: (a) (iti = 0; ĥ = 0); n = 1 (y); aṁ (p = 0 + 10 = 10);  
(b) (iti 1, ĥ 0, n 0, p 10)

26.2.5 (lram) (᳚) (iti 0, ĥ 10, n 0, p 10)

kṛṣṇāḥ | bhaumāḥ | dhūmrāḥ | āntarīkṣāḥ | bṛhantaḥ | divyāḥ |  
śabalāḥ | vaidyutāḥ | sidhmāḥ | tārakāḥ || lram ||

As per code: lr (iti = 0; ĥ = 5 + 5 = 10); n = 0 (lr is not followed by y, v, l or h); aṁ (p = 0 + 10 = 10)

26.4.5 (khum2!) (iti 1, ĥ 2, n 5, p 14)

vasantāya | kapiñjalān | ā | labhate | grīṣmāya | kalaviṅkān | varṣābhyaḥ | tittirīn | śarade | varttikāḥ  
| hemantāya | kakarān | śīśīrāya | vikakarānīti vi-kakarān || khruṁ ||

As per code: kh (iti = 1; ĥ = 2); n = 5 (2); uṁ (p = 4 + 10 = 14)

27.2.1 (rtiḥ) (iti 9, ĥ 1, n 0, p 22)

As per code: rt (iti = 4 + 5 = 9; ĥ = 1); n = 0 (t is not followed by y, v, l or h); iḥ (p = 2 + 20 = 22)

33.1.11 (gryoṁ) (iti 1, ĥ 8, n 1, p 18)

As per code: gr (iti = 1; ĥ = 3 + 5 = 8); n = 1 (g is followed by y); oṁ (p = 8 + 10 = 18)

34.4.2 (rylaum!) (iti 6, h 0, n 2, p 19)

As per code: ry (iti = 1 + 5 = 6; h = 0); n = 2 (y is followed by l); aum (p = 9 + 10 = 19)

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

As per code: Missing consonant (iti = 0; h = 0); n = 0 (missing y, v, l or h); u (p = 4)

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

As per code: t (iti = 3; h = 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 Saṁhita contains 2086 mantras. The total amount of galita mantras is 129.*

## APPENDIX

### PADA-MUṢṬI-LAKṢAṆA(-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 Kaṇva Padapāṭha; only the beginning and end is available to me (written in the year 2018)*

Beginning:

śrīvāgdevipadāravindayugalaṁ vighnādhipaṁ svāminaṁ  
natvā pañkajayonikeśavaśivān śrīmadguruṁ bhaktitaḥ |  
vakṣye vājasanyaśuklayajuṣāṁ saṁkhyāṁ padānāṁ kramād  
ekaṁ varṇaṁ ṛcaś catuṣkagaṇaṁ labhyaprakāśaṁ śubhaṁ ||  
surāsuraśiroratanamarīciracitāṅ?ipe |  
vighnāndhakārasūryāya gaṇādhipataye namaḥ ||  
*padānām āvalir velāvisargānām vidhīyate |*  
*nāntānām vakṣyate lakṣma nikṣipyai kākṣare 'kṣaram ||*  
*vihīnā ṛṣvarṇābhyāṁ navākarādayaḥ svarāḥ |*  
*daśamaṁ bindunā jñeyam visargād vimśatir bhavet ||*

End: (RASB)

pañcanām ca dvīpakṣī ca śukapārśvavatī tu yā |  
gaṇāntanām nijam varṇam samāptam padalakṣaṇam ||  
duścavanaḥ pṛtanāṣālayudhyo 'smākam | juṣantām yajñam adruho 'namīvāḥ | iti padalakṣaṇam  
samāptam | (21098) iti śrīmadvirediva-upanāmaka-raghunāthātmajena mukundaśāstrinā viracitā  
padamuṣṭiprakāśikā samāptimagāt |

Reference:

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

## PADAMUṢṬIKĀRIKĀS

In May 2025 I became aware of the book Padamuṣṭiḥ by Dr. Mrs. Bhagyalata Ashok Pataskar, Adarsha Sanskrit Shoda Samstha, 2020.

The following kārīkās 3-8 are the missing verses in Aithal, No. 805 (credit to Dr. Pataskar):

padānām āvalir velāvisargāṇām vidhīyate |  
nāntānām vakṣyate lakṣma nikṣipyaiakāṣare 'kṣaram ||1||  
vihīnā ṛṣvarṇābhyām navākarādayaḥ svarāḥ |  
daśamaṁ bindunā jñeyam visargād vimśatir bhavet ||2||

*tridaśāṅko 'nkuśāḥ pārśva ukā(ra)ścobhayāṅkuśaḥ |*  
*āsanam tridaśam lakṣma yatra kvacid iha sputam ||3||*

*padānām lakṣaṇam proktam velānām tadantaram |*  
*visargāṇām ca vargāṇām pañca pañcordhvarephayā |*  
*daśobhayāṅkuśam lakṣma vede vājjaneyake ||4||*

*vargāntarākṣaraiḥ pañca visargāṇām nirīkṣaṇam |*  
*adhorephastathā pañca dvipañceti śukas tathā |*  
*savelam savisargāṅko ṛcām caiva halaḥ kramāt ||5||*

*avisargās tathāntasthāḥ kṣakārah padalakṣaṇam |*  
*avelās tadvad ūsmāno las tathaiva krameṇa hi ||6||*

*nāntānām lakṣmaṇi jñeyā antasthā rephavarjitāḥ |*  
*ūsmāṇas ca tathā pārśve śukam syāt saptame kramāt |*  
*nāntānām cādhoyuktānām vargāṇām ca halaḥ kramāt |*  
*ūsmāṇas ca tathāntasthā rephavarjam yathākramam ||8||*

pañcānām ca dvipakṣī ca śukā pārśvavati tu yā |  
gaṇāntānām nijam varṇam samāptam padalakṣaṇam ||9||

## NOTES

(1) Only at the beginning of a code letter are seen the following consonants:

- (a) a consonant belonging to the 5 vargas (iti > 0; ḥ > 0)
- (b) ya, ra, la, va and kṣa (iti > 0; ḥ = 0)
- (c) śa, ṣa, sa, ha and la (iti = 0; ḥ > 0)

To all these consonants in (a), (b) and (c) ya, la, va and ha can be added when n is 1, 2, 3 or 4.

If n is 0 then ya, la, va and ha will not be added.

In the case of (iti = 0; ḥ = 0) the code letter is

(a) a vowel (āṁ, āḥ, iṁ, ī, īṁ, u, ū, ūṁ, ai, aiṁ, o, oṁ)

(b) yāṁ (18.1.9), yaṁ (21.3.11). Here ya is the code for n = 1.

**(2)** The Kāṇva Padapāṭha contains 11 mantras with n = 5, two with n = 6 and two with n = 8. For n = 1, 2, 3 and 4 the code is ya, la, va and ha. What is the code for n > 4? The author of the book Padamuṣṭiḥ does not give an answer to this question.

In the Appendix I (Tables of Padamuṣṭi-s in KS) (pages 106 - 255) three code letters are mentioned for each mantra (kaṇḍikā). The first is the code letter seen in the printed Kāṇva Saṁhitā (together with Padapāṭha) which was available to me when I uploaded this article to Academia.edu in the year 2018. The second code letter (Xerox 106 – Dr. Manjul collection) is new for me.

In 16.1.1 the first code letter is bhaḥ (𑀧𑀸) and the second code letter is bhaḥ2 (𑀧𑀸𑀓). In five mantras with n = 5 (9.7.9, 12.7.13, 16.1.1, 26.6.1 and 27.8.2) the second code letter shows the number 2 at the end. For this reason I have written on page 1  $n = n + 5$  (code 2). In the case of bhaḥ2  $n = 0 + 5$ . Why 0? bh is not followed by ya, la va or ha. In 10.6.1 rgrvai332!  $n = 3$  (v) + 5 = 8. Here the missing 2 has been added (!).

Is this code 2 mentioned in the kārikās? Yes, the first line of kārikā 9 (pañcānām ca dvipakṣī ca śukā pārśvavatī tu yā) contains the word dvipakṣī.

**(3)** For iti > 10 the sign u (𑀇) is added to the code letter. The numerical value of u is 10.

Example: 11.4.6 ghromu (iti = 1 + 10 = 11). The Kāṇva Padapāṭha contains 19 mantras with iti > 10 (9 for iti 11; 4 for iti 12; 3 for iti 13; 2 for iti 15; 1 for iti 18). In the printed Padapāṭha the u is seen in two code letters only (11.4.6 ghromu; 11.1.2 kromubhā). In the code letters (Xerox 106; see Tables in the book Padamuṣṭiḥ) four code letters show the u (11.1.1, 11.1.2, 11.4.6, 11.7.4).

**(4)** For ḥ > 10 the sign 1 (𑀇) is added to the code letter. The numerical value of 1 is 10. Example: 38.1.5 paḥ1 (ḥ = 1 + 10 = 11). The Kāṇva Padapāṭha contains about 80 mantras with ḥ > 10. In the printed Padapāṭha the 1 is seen in one code letter only (38.1.5). In the Xerox 106 code letters 33 code letters show the sign 1.

## REFERENCES

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

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

*Pataskar, Bhagyalata, Padamuṣṭiḥ with the Commentary Padamuṣṭiśiromaniḥ, Adarsha Sanskrit Shoda Samstha, 2020*

[Padmamustih by Krushna B Mali](#) (It is kind of book review article of the book named पदमुष्टिः)

[https://www.academia.edu/128397574/Shukla\\_Yajurveda\\_Kānva\\_Samhitā](https://www.academia.edu/128397574/Shukla_Yajurveda_Kānva_Samhitā)

Śikṣās / Vedalakṣaṇa texts:

[https://vedicreserve.miu.edu/shiksha/shiksha\\_vedicreserve.html](https://vedicreserve.miu.edu/shiksha/shiksha_vedicreserve.html)

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

Last update by [Detlef Eichler](#) : 24 May 2025; 30 October 2018