

## Medical and magical texts in UET vol. IV

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The intended output of this paper is both the edition and the analysis of medical and magical texts whose hand-copies were published by Figulla seventy years ago in *Ur Excavation Texts* vol. IV.<sup>1</sup> This volume of the series UET includes mainly Neo-, and Late Babylonian administrative tablets excavated by L. Woolley during two seasons (1930-1931 and 1933-1934).<sup>2</sup> They originate from five archives excavated in private houses in the excavation area NH of Ur.<sup>3</sup>

This paper focuses on nine tablets published in UET IV, which have medical and magical content.<sup>4</sup> The texts UET IV nos. 146-148 were identified as ‘lists of drugs’ and nos. 149-152 were designated as ‘chemical goods’ by Figulla, and his identification was supported later by Jursa.<sup>5</sup> In fact, the tablets UET IV 146-148 are medical tablets listing various drugs and liquids (oil and honey) and the tablets UET IV 149-152 belong to the group of the so called ‘inventory tablets’ which comprise stones used for a string of amulet stones (*takṣīru*).<sup>6</sup> However, I. Finkel already determined UET IV nos. 148-153 as a small group of medical tablets<sup>7</sup> and the tablet UET IV 153 was mentioned being comparable to the medical tablet BAM 53 by Köcher.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the tablets UET IV nos. 149-150 were identified recently as lists of amulets by Schuster-Brandis (see below).

The nine tablets have been kept in three different museums: the British Museum (UET IV nos. 146-148), the University of Pennsylvania Museum (UET IV nos. 149 and 178) and the Iraqi National Museum at Baghdad (UET IV nos. 150-153). The distribution of the tablets between the western museums and the Iraqi National Museum can be explained as common practice at that time according to the Antiquities Laws of Iraq implemented in 1924.

The tablets can be linked to different archives: three tablets (UET IV 146-148) belong to the archive of Sîn-uballit that holds 61 clay tablets found in a clay pot excavated in Room 15 of House 7.<sup>9</sup> Three further tablets (UET IV nos. 150-152) originate from the Sîn-ilī archive, they were excavated in a room belonging to House 5.<sup>10</sup> Regarding UET IV 178, according to a

<sup>1</sup> Figulla 1949. Single review that can be connected to the relevant tablets was written by Ebeling who also published the medical text UET IV 178 (Ebeling 1953). Cf. J. Fincke mentioning only a single published LB medical tablet (Fincke 2021, 243).

<sup>2</sup> Figulla 1949, 1. The excavation campaigns made by Woolley in Ur have been collected recently by Zettler who distinguished Woolley’s field numbers between 12 excavation campaigns (Zettler, 2021, 14).

<sup>3</sup> For the discussion of these archives, see Figulla 1949, 1-8, Pedersén 1998, 203-204; Jursa 2005, 133-137 and Beaulieu 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Figulla identified only a single tablet with medical content (UET IV 153, ‘medical recipes’) and in his review E. Ebeling mentioned a further medical tablet (UET IV 178, ‘Anonymous report concerning harvest workmen’) which was identified erroneously by Figulla (Ebeling 1953, 143). Figulla’s interpretation is probably based on Woolley’s field card of the tablet which identifies this tablet as ‘contract of late époque’.

<sup>5</sup> Jursa 2005, 135: 1044 (UET 4 150-152 are ‘list of stones and gems’) or 136:1056 (UET 4 146-148 are ‘list of spices, condiments and aromatics’).

<sup>6</sup> For the discussion of this type of amulet stones, see Schuster-Brandis 2008, 189-191. Three UET IV inventory tablets (UET IV 149, 151 and 152) provide only the names of the stones without any reference to their use.

<sup>7</sup> Finkel 2000, 143.

<sup>8</sup> Köcher 1963 XVIII and later Maul 2019, 292.

<sup>9</sup> For the archive of Sîn-uballit Pedersén 1998, 203-204 (Archive 3); Jursa 2005, 135-136; Cseke 2014, 557-558 and recently Beaulieu 2021, 153-159.

<sup>10</sup> Pedersén 1998, 204 (Archive 5) and Jursa 2005, 135.

field card written by Woolley, the tablet was: “brought in from SE mount of UR.”<sup>11</sup> The archival context of the tablets UET IV nos. 149, 153 remains unknown to me. Both archives mentioned above include mainly administrative texts related to family business activities, and we can only suppose that the medical-magical tablets are also connected to the same family. However, there is no clue whatsoever that any member of the Sîn-uballiṣ or Sîn-ilī families had ever been practicing as a physician (*asû*) or as an incantation priest (*āšipu* or *mašmaššû*) and none of them is known to have worn such a title. On the other hand, the presence of medical and magical tablets among the business documents testify that the owner of the archives had an interest in collecting scholarly texts. This activity can be explained by two reasons. The owners of the archives were trained scribes, and they probably became involved in cuneiform scholarship for a time. In this case the tablets can be interpreted as relics of their former scribal training. We can identify possible scribal mistakes on the tablets which supports this assumption. On the other hand, medical and magical texts seem to be a representation of the traditional Babylonian cuneiform science which enjoyed great prestige among the urban elite. A good example is the archive of the Egibi that also includes several medical tablets.<sup>12</sup>

### Texts

**UET 4, 146** (BM 131199; 1953,0411.34; U.17238,58;

photo <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/image/1612992559>)

Portrait format tablet, length: 1.75 inches (4,45 cm), width: 1.25 inches (3,17 cm), six lines on the obverse and seven lines of the reverse. It includes single prescription listing drugs (lines 1-11) and liquids (lines 12-13). No symptom description or technical instruction. The tablet is a duplicate of UET 4, 147.

obv.

1. 10 <sup>šim</sup>*su-ma-da*

2. 4 <sup>šim</sup>GI.DU<sub>10</sub>.GA

3. 1 GÍN <sup>šim</sup>MUG *sa-pan*

4. ʾ3ʾ GÍN <šī>-*bir-ti* MUNU<sub>5</sub><sup>1</sup>

5. [x G] GÍN <šī>-*bir-ti ki-ba-ʾa-ta*<sup>ʾ</sup>

6. [2ʾ NINDA].ʾHI.A.ʾ.MEŠ<sup>13</sup> <sup>šim</sup>*ku-ʾku-ʾ[urʾ]*

rev.

7. ʾ2ʾ NINDA <sup>šim</sup>*bu-ʾra-[šūʾ]*

8. ʾ1 GÍNʾʾ [ʾNU.LUḪ].ḪA

9. ʾ1 GÍNʾ [mun-du] ʾka-ʾsi-ʾaʾ

10. 5<sup>12</sup> ʾGÍNʾ<sup>14</sup> <sup>ú</sup>*er-ru-ú*

11. 4 ʾGÍNʾ <sup>ú</sup>NUMUN GADA

12. 2 NINDA.ḪI.A. ʾ*diš-pi*

13. 2 NINDA.ḪI.A. ʾ*ḫal-šu*

<sup>1</sup>Ten (shekels?) of *suādu*-plant, <sup>2</sup>four (shekels?) of sweet reed, <sup>3</sup>one shekel of *ballukku*-soap plant, <sup>4</sup>three shekels of lumps of malt, <sup>5</sup>[x] shekel of lumps of *kibtu*-flour, <sup>6</sup>[two? ninda] of

<sup>11</sup> I owe this information to Rosaura Cauchi who also explained me that Woolley used to write “brought in” followed by a region or place, for all the finds that were found outside the city wall and brought in by workers without any archaeological context.

<sup>12</sup> For edition and interpretation of these medical texts, see Simkó-Bácskay 2021.

<sup>13</sup> Similar form on a Maqlû ritual tablet line 103: [ʾ.ḪI.A].MEŠ (AMT 83, 1 obv. ii 17).

<sup>14</sup> This line is mentioned in CAD as ‘4 x’ (CAD I p. 182 sub *irrû* A mng. a)

*kukru*-plant, <sup>7</sup>two ninda of juniper, <sup>8</sup>one shekel of *nuḥurtu*-plant, <sup>9</sup>one shekel of *mundu*-groat of *kasû*-plant, <sup>10</sup>four shekels of *errû*-colocynth, <sup>11</sup>four shekels flax seed, <sup>12</sup>two ninda of oil (or) honey, <sup>13</sup>two ninda of pressed oil.

### Commentary

line 1: *sumādu* is a by-form of *suādu* (CAD S p. 338).

line 3: The term <sup>sim</sup>MUG *sa-pan* drug appears in the list of drugs in further medical prescription preserved on Late Babylonian medical tablets (Finkel 2000, p. 154 Text 3 line 3 and p. 157 Text 5 line 4 and p. 163 Text 10 line 26 and p. 170 Text 16 line obv. 5'). The instance and its duplicate (UET 4 147) are cited in CAD S p. 158 sub *sapannu* mng. c as a plant from flatland but this interpretation seems incorrect. Köcher connects the term *sapannu* with Aramaic loan word *s'pwn* "soap" (Greek *sapōn* and Latin *sapo*) which was taken over by the Babylonian.<sup>15</sup> I followed Köcher's interpretation.

line 4: The term was interpreted in two different ways in CAD. Based on the meaning of the Akkadian term *pirtu* (hair) the CAD translated the term as 'awn' (CAD K p. 341 sub *kibtu*)<sup>16</sup> but an alternate reading BIR-ti (fem. form of *sahpu* means 'scattered') was suggested in CAD S p. 164 sub *saphu*. I assumed there may be a scribal mistake here or a defective writing of the term. The medical term 'lumps of malt' is attested in several medical texts (like BAM 216 obv. 23' or BAM 52 rev. 1).<sup>17</sup>

line 5: For this line, see CAD K p. 341 sub *kibtu*.

line 6: The line was reconstructed based on its duplicate. Similar form for designation of the plural form can be attested on the summary line of a medical prescription against respiratory problem: [Ú.ĤI.A].MEŠ (BAM 555 obv. ii 17). However, the shape of the cuneiform sign MEŠ after ĤI.A seems unconventional and an alternate reading ME DÍLIM = 'one hundred spoon' can also be suggested as a measurement of drugs (I owe this suggestion to H. Stadhouders).

**UET 4, 147** (Maqlû; 1953,0411.35; U.17238,57;

photo <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/image/1613118902>)

Landscape format tablet, length: 1.06 inches (2,69 cm), width: 1.5 inches (3,81 cm).<sup>18</sup> The tablet is a duplicate of UET 4, 148.

obv.<sup>1</sup> (identified as rev. in UET 4)

1. 10 <sup>sim</sup>*su-ma-du*

2. 4 GI. DU<sub>10</sub>. GA

3. 1 GÍN <sup>sim</sup>MUG *sa-pa-an*

4. 4 GÍN <š*i*>-*bir-ti* MUNU<sub>5</sub><sup>1</sup>

5. 5 GÍN <š*i*>-*bir-ti ki-ba-a-ta*

rev.<sup>1</sup>

6. 2 NINDA.ĤI.A.MEŠ<sup>?</sup> <sup>sim</sup>*ku-ku-ur*

7. 2 NINDA.ĤI.A <sup>sim</sup>*bu-ra-šú*

8. 1 GÍN <sup>u</sup>NU.LUĤ.ĤA

9. 1 GÍN *mun-du kà-a-<sup>r</sup>si<sup>1</sup>-a<sup>1</sup>*

10. 5 GÍN *er-ru*(copy: KA)<sup>1</sup>-ú<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Finkel 2000, 140 and 154.

<sup>16</sup> The reading *pir-ti* was criticised in in CAD S p. 164 sub *saphu*.

<sup>17</sup> Edited in Bácskay 2018, 202, 208.

<sup>18</sup> The measurement data of the length and width is replaced in the on-line catalogue of the British Museum.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. 5 GÍN *ir-ru*(!)-ú (CAD I p. 182 sub *irru* A mng. a).

## 11. 2 GÍN NUMUN GADA

lower edge

12. 2 NINDA.ĜI.A *diš-pi*

13. 2 NINDA.ĜI.A *šam-ni ḫal'-ṣu'*

<sup>1</sup>Ten (shekels?) of *suādu*-plant, <sup>2</sup>five (shekels?) of sweet reed, <sup>3</sup>one shekel of soap of *abbukat*-plant, <sup>4</sup>four shekels of ... malt, <sup>5</sup>five shekels of ... *kibtu*-flour, <sup>6</sup>two ninda of *kukru*-plant, <sup>7</sup>two ninda of juniper, <sup>8</sup>one shekel of *nuḫurtu*-plant, <sup>9</sup>one shekel of *mundu*-groat of *kasû*-plant, <sup>10</sup>five shekels of *errû*-colocynth, <sup>11</sup>two shekels flax seed, <sup>12</sup>two ninda of honey, <sup>13</sup>two ninda of pressed oil.

### Commentary

Duplicate of UET 4, 146 with minimal orthographical differences (like *su-ma-da* in UET 4, 146 and <sup>sim</sup>*su-ma-du* in UET 4, 147 or *sa-pan* in UET 4, 146 and *sa-pa-an* in UET 4, 147).

line 5: This line was transliterated and translated in CAD K p. 341 sub *kibtu* mng. b1'.

line 6: This line was transliterated in CAD K p. 500 sub *kukru* mng a.

line rev. 6-7: Finkel mentioned these two lines as examples for detailed drug measurements.<sup>20</sup>

**UET 4, 148** (BM 131201; 1953,0411.36; U.17238,47;

photo <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/image/1613118903>)

Landscape format tablet, length: 1.75 inches (4,44 cm), width: 1.25 inches (3,17 cm).<sup>21</sup> It contains a medical prescription inscribed in five lines on the obverse. The reverse remains uninscribed, maybe the text was not finished.

obv.

1. 2 NINDA Ú *a-ši-i*

2. 5 ÚKUŠ.ĜAB<sup>1</sup>

3. 1 NINDA DIDA SIG<sub>5</sub>-*tim*

4. 2 GÍN <sup>sim</sup>ĜAB

5. 1 GÍN<sup>22</sup> ILLU <sup>sim</sup>BULUĜ

rev.

uninscribed

<sup>1</sup>Two ninda of *ašû*-plant, <sup>2</sup>five (shekels?)<sup>23</sup> of *errû*-colocynth, <sup>3</sup>one ninda of 'good *billatu* beer', <sup>4</sup>two shekels of *tūru* plant, <sup>5</sup>one shekel of *baluḫḫu* resin.

### Commentary

line 1: Finkel mentioned this line as example for detailed drug measurement.<sup>24</sup>

**UET 4, 149** (UM 52-30-034, Penn Museum; photo CDLI P414845)

Landscape format inventory tablet listing ingredients of amulets against any evil (lines 1-2), *bennu*-epilepsy (line 3) and the demon Lamaštu (lines 4-7).

<sup>20</sup> Finkel 2000, 147:25.

<sup>21</sup> The measurement data of length and width is mixed up in the online catalogue of the British Museum.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. 2 GÍN (CAD B p. 45 sub *baluḫḫu* mng a2')

<sup>23</sup> The reconstruction is based on a similar phrase in UET IV, 146 line 10 and its duplicate UET IV 147 line 10.

<sup>24</sup> Finkel 2000, 147:25.

obv.

at least two lines were erased

1' <sup>na4</sup>SAG.GIL.MUD <sup>na4</sup><muš>-[š]a-ri <sup>25</sup> sa[h-h]u-<sup>r</sup>u  
 2' <sup>na4</sup>KU.BABBAR NA<sub>4</sub> pa-ru-ti <sup>na4</sup>URUDU <sup>na4</sup>[ašpû?]  
 3' <sup>na4</sup>ZÁLAG <sup>na4</sup>HI.LI.BI (or NA<sub>4</sub> hi-li-bi) <sup>na4</sup>EN.G[I.SA<sub>6</sub>]

rev.

4. <sup>na4</sup>su-u <sup>na4</sup>NÍG.BÛR.BÛR <sup>na4</sup>GUG GAZI<sup>sar</sup>  
 5. <sup>na4</sup>GIŠ.NU<sub>11</sub>.GAL <sup>na4</sup>ŠUBA(ZA.MÛŠ) <sup>na4</sup>SAL.LA  
 6. <sup>na4</sup>PA <sup>na4</sup>BABBAR.DILI <sup>na4</sup>PEŠ<sub>4</sub>.ANŠE NA<sub>4</sub> <sup>d</sup>LAMMA  
 7. <sup>na4</sup>ni-bu <sup>na4</sup>ŠU(text: SU) NÍTA u NA<sub>4</sub> MUNUS

Obv.

1' *sangilmud*-amethyst, *muššaru*-agate, *saḥḥurû*-stone, 2' *kaspu*-silver stone, *parûtu*-alabaster, *erû*-copper stone, [ašpû-chalcedony, 3' *zalāqu*-stone, *ḥilibû*-stone (or stone of the underworld?), *engisû*-stone.

Rev.

4 *šû*-stone, *pallišu*-drilling stone, *sāmtu*-carnelian, *kasû*-stone, 5 *ašnugallu*-alabaster, *šubû*-stone, SAL.LA-stone, 6 *ayyartu*-shell, *pappardilû*-one-white stone, *biššûr atāni*-vulva of a donkey shell, *aban lamassi*-rose jasper

### Commentary

lines 1-2: The text was mentioned by Schuster-Brandis as a manuscript of Kette 179 (amulet against *mimma lemnu*).<sup>26</sup> This amulet was also part of a *turru* binding (Schuster-Brandis Text 4, Band 5, lines 72'-73'). The reconstruction of the text in line 1 is based on parallels (we expect <sup>na4</sup>MUŠ.GÍR). Cf. the unusual writing form of <ši>-*bir-ti* in UET IV 146 and 147. Parallels are preserved on several Assyrian and Babylonian tablets (for reference see Schuster-Brandis 2008, 153) but all of them are more-column tablets. The *saḥḥurû*-stone seems to be an equivalent to *saḥḥû*-stone.

line 3: The text was mentioned by Schuster-Brandis as a manuscript of Kette 116 (amulet against *bennu*).<sup>27</sup> Supposedly, the first stone of the amulet list was written at the end of the previous line, but this part of the text is not preserved. Parallels are preserved on several Assyrian and Babylonian tablets (for reference see Schuster-Brandis 2008, 153) but all of them happen to be more-column tablets. One single exception is the Late Babylonian amulet list BM 42445 that also contains three different amulet lists without specifying separate items (line 1-10 = Kette 130, lines 11-14 = Kette 116, lines 15-17 = unknown).

lines 4-7: The text was edited in Farber 1989, 71-72 §16A as Ms. θ. It was also mentioned by Schuster-Brandis as a manuscript of Kette 143 (amulet against Lamaštu).<sup>28</sup> The amulet was used in the 'stone ritual' of the canonical Lam. series (Lam. III. lines 30-32) edited by Farber 2014, 131 and 186-187 (for its duplicates, see Farber 1989, 71-72).

<sup>25</sup> We expect <sup>na4</sup>MUŠ.GÍR.

<sup>26</sup> Schuster-Brandis 2008, 153.

<sup>27</sup> Schuster-Brandis 2008, 131.

<sup>28</sup> Schuster-Brandis 2008, 145.

UET 4, 150 (U.20089.04, National Museum of Iraq)

Portrait format inventory tablet listing ingredients, amulets against hand of ghost and *šimmatu*-paralysis (line 1-10) and any evil and hand of ghost (lines 11-20). The text was already published in Schuster-Brandis 2008, Text 17 Ms. D.

obv.

1. [na<sup>4</sup>ZA.GÌN na<sup>4</sup>GU]G na<sup>4</sup>NÍR na<sup>4</sup>r aš<sup>˘</sup>-pú-u na<sup>4</sup>saḥ<sup>˘</sup>-ḥu-ú
2. [na<sup>4</sup>ŠUBA? na<sup>4</sup>]MUŠ.GÍR na<sup>4</sup>BABBAR.DILI na<sup>4</sup>BABBAR.MIN<sub>5</sub> na<sup>4</sup>ZÚ SIG<sub>7</sub>
3. [na<sup>4</sup>šadānu DA]B na<sup>4</sup>kur-gar-ra-nu na<sup>4</sup>DÚR.MI.NA na<sup>4</sup>MIN(=DÚR.MI.NA).BÀN.DA
4. [na<sup>4</sup>Z]Ú.GE<sub>6</sub> na<sup>4</sup>mu-ša na<sup>4</sup>AN.ZAḤ na<sup>4</sup>MIN(=AN.ZAḤ) BABBAR na<sup>4</sup>MIN(=AN.ZAḤ) GE<sub>6</sub>
5. NA<sub>4</sub> MUŠ<sup>˘</sup> na<sup>4</sup>PA na<sup>4</sup>GÍŠ.NU<sub>11</sub>.GAL na<sup>4</sup>AŠ.GÌ.GÌ na<sup>4</sup>UGU.AŠ.GÌ.GÌ
6. na<sup>4</sup>ŠU.U NÍTA MUNUS na<sup>4</sup>a-lá-lu<sub>4</sub> na<sup>4</sup>ZÁLAG na<sup>4</sup>KÙ.BABBAR na<sup>4</sup>KÙ.GI
7. na<sup>4</sup>URUDU na<sup>4</sup>AN.NA na<sup>4</sup>ALGAMEŠ NA<sub>4</sub> ŠURUN<sup>d</sup>GU<sub>4</sub>
8. KA tam-tim na<sup>4</sup>SAL.LA PEŠ<sub>10</sub>.d<sup>d</sup>ID UŠ<sub>11</sub>.d<sup>d</sup>ID
9. na<sup>4</sup>IM.MA.NA na<sup>4</sup>NÍG.BÙR.BÙR na<sup>4</sup>sa-a-bu
- 10 41 NA<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ ŠU GEDIM.MA šim-mat ŠU<sup>II</sup> GÌR<sup>II</sup>

rev.

11. na<sup>4</sup>GUG na<sup>4</sup>ZA.GÌN na<sup>4</sup>BABBAR.DILI na<sup>4</sup>BABBAR.MIN<sub>5</sub> na<sup>4</sup>saḥ<sup>˘</sup>-ḥu-ú
12. na<sup>4</sup>aš<sup>˘</sup>-pú-u na<sup>4</sup>mu-ša na<sup>4</sup>ZÁLAG na<sup>4</sup>KUR-nu DAB 'NA<sub>4</sub>' [ḤI.?LI.?BI?]
13. na<sup>4</sup>EN.GI.SA<sub>6</sub> na<sup>4</sup>ŠIM.BI.ZI.DA<sup>˘</sup> na<sup>4</sup>IGI<sup>˘</sup>.ZÀG.GÁ
14. na<sup>4</sup>KÙ.BABBAR na<sup>4</sup>KÙ.GI na<sup>4</sup>NÍR na<sup>4</sup>an-nu na<sup>4</sup>NÍR.ZIZ
15. na<sup>4</sup>AN.ZAḤ na<sup>4</sup>MIN(=AN.ZAḤ) BABBAR na<sup>4</sup>MIN(=AN.ZAḤ) GE<sub>6</sub> NA<sub>4</sub> MUŠ.GÍR
16. NA<sub>4</sub> dLAMMA na<sup>4</sup>ZÚ.LUM na<sup>4</sup>ŠUBA na<sup>4</sup>àb-aš-mu
17. na<sup>4</sup>GÍŠ.NU<sub>11</sub>.GAL na<sup>4</sup>PA na<sup>4</sup>ni-ba na<sup>4</sup>URUDU ša NÍTA
18. na<sup>4</sup>SAG.DU na<sup>4</sup>DÚR.MI.NA na<sup>4</sup>MIN(=DÚR.MI.NA).BÀN.DA na<sup>4</sup>AŠ.GÌ.GÌ
19. [na<sup>4</sup>ŠUBA SIG<sub>7</sub> 3]4 NA<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ<sup>˘</sup> mim<sup>˘</sup>-ma lem-nu u ŠU GEDIM.MA
20. [...] x<sup>˘</sup>-šú GAR-an

21. [...]

Obv.

<sup>1</sup> [uqnû-lapis lazuli], sām̄tu-carnelian, ḥulālu-glass, ašpû-chalcedony, saḥḥû-stone, <sup>2</sup> šubû-stone, muššaru-agate, pappardilû-one-white stone, papparmīnu-stone, šurru arqu-yellow obsidian, <sup>3</sup> [šadānu šābitu-magnetite], kurgarrānu-stone, turminû-breccia, turminabandû-breccia, <sup>4</sup> šurru šalmu-black obsidian, mūšu-stone (gravel?), anzahḥu-frit-like glass, ḥuluḥḥu-light coloured frit, kutpû-black frit <sup>5</sup> aban šerri-snake stone, ayyartu-shell, ašnugallu-alabaster, ašgigû-green stone, agusīgu-green stone,<sup>29</sup> <sup>6</sup> šû zikar u sinniṣ-male and female šû-stone, alallu-stone,<sup>30</sup> zalāqu-stone, kaspu-silver stone, ḥurāšu-gold stone, <sup>7</sup> erû-copper stone, annaku-tin stone, algamešu-steatite, kabūt Šēriš-ox-dung stone, <sup>8</sup> imbu<sup>˘</sup> tâmti-mineral, SAL.LA-stone, kibritu-sulphur, <sup>9</sup> immanakku-mineral (stone or sand), palliṣu-drilling stone, sābu-red stone <sup>10</sup> 41 stones for hand of ghost, paralysis-numbness of hands (and) feet.

Rev.

<sup>11</sup> sām̄tu-carnelian, uqnû-lapis lazuli, pappardilû-one-white stone, papparmīnu-stone, saḥḥû-stone,<sup>12</sup> ašpû-chalcedony, mūšu-stone (gravel?), zalāqu-stone, šadānu šābitu-magnetite,

<sup>29</sup> CAD A I 163b also in Schuster-Brandis 2008, 450.

<sup>30</sup> George 2016 60 slab, made of a stone thought to have the property of improving communication between god and man and thus making prayer more effective.

[*hilibû*-stone]<sup>13</sup> *engisû*-stone, *guhlu*-kohl stone, *egizangû*-stone, <sup>14</sup> *kaspu*-silver stone, *hurāšu*-gold stone, an-nu-stone, *sāsu*-stone <sup>15</sup> *anzahhu*-frit-like glass, *huluhhu*-light coloured frit, *kutpû*-black frit, *muššaru*-agate <sup>16</sup> *aban lamassi*-rose jasper, *aban suluppī*-date stone, *šubû*-stone, *abašmû*-stone <sup>17</sup> *ašnugallu*-alabaster, *ayyartu*-shell, *nibu*-shell or snail, *erû ša zikari*-male copper stone, <sup>18</sup> *qaqqadu*-head stone, *turminû*-breccia, *turminabandû*-breccia, *ašnugallu*-alabaster, *šubû arqu*-yellow stone, 34 stones for any evil and hand of ghost.

### Commentary

lines 1-10: The text was mentioned by Schuster-Brandis as a manuscript of Kette 138.<sup>31</sup>

lines 11-20: The text was mentioned by Schuster-Brandis as a manuscript of Kette 137.<sup>32</sup>

**UET 4, 151** (U.20089.06 National Museum of Iraq)

Portrait format inventory tablet listing ingredients of amulets, but sequences and related diseases remain unknown to me.

obv.

1. <sup>na4</sup>DÚR.MI.NA
2. <sup>na4</sup>*mu-ša*
3. <sup>na4</sup>ZÚ.BABBAR
4. 2 <sup>na4</sup>URUDU.NÍTA
5. 2 <sup>na4</sup>AN.BAR
6. <sup>na4</sup>IGI.ZÀG.GÁ
7. <sup>na4</sup>EN.GI.SA<sub>6</sub>
8. 2 <sup>na4</sup>BABBAR<sup>1</sup>.DILI
9. <sup>na4</sup>IGI.ʽKU<sub>6</sub>ʽ
10. NA<sub>4</sub> GÍR.TAB
11. NA<sub>4</sub> MUD

rev.

12. <sup>na4</sup>AN.NA
13. <sup>na4</sup>ZA.GÌN
14. <sup>na4</sup>KÙ.BABBAR
15. <sup>na4</sup>KÙ.GI
16. <sup>na4</sup>GUG

Obv.

<sup>1</sup> *turminû*-breccia, <sup>2</sup> *mūšu*-stone <sup>3</sup> *šurru pešû*-white obsidian, <sup>4</sup> 2 *erû zikkaru*-male copper stones, <sup>5</sup> 2 *parzillu*-iron stones <sup>6</sup> *egizangû*-stone, <sup>7</sup> *engisû*-stone, <sup>8</sup> 2 *pappardilû*-one-white stones, <sup>9</sup> *īn nūni*-fish eye stone <sup>10</sup> *aban zuqaqīpi*-scorpion stone <sup>11</sup> *aban dāmi* blood stone

Rev.

<sup>12</sup> *annaku*-tin stone, <sup>13</sup> *uqnû*-lapis lazuli, <sup>14</sup> *kaspu*-silver stone, <sup>15</sup> *hurāšu*-gold stone, <sup>16</sup> *sāmtu*-carnelian.

### Commentary

Finkel mentioned this tablet as a comparable parallel to the amulet list BM 42445 (Finkel Lambert 200, 183-184, Text 25).

<sup>31</sup> Schuster-Brandis 2008, 142.

<sup>32</sup> Schuster-Brandis 2008, 142.

**UET 4, 152** (U.2089.07 National Museum of Iraq)

Portrait format inventory tablet listing ingredients of amulets, but sequences and related diseases remain unknown to me.

obv.

1. 3 <sup>na4</sup>MUŠ.GÍR
2. 2 <sup>na4</sup>SAG.GIL.MUD
3. 3 <sup>na4r</sup>ZA.GÌN
4. 3 <sup>na4</sup>GUG
5. 4 <sup>na4</sup>BABBAR.DILI
6. 1 NA<sub>4</sub> TU
7. 1 <sup>na4</sup>PEŠ<sub>4</sub><sup>1</sup>(copy: ŠÀ) A.AB.BA
8. 2 <sup>na4</sup>ŠU.U NÍTA
9. 2 <sup>na4</sup>ŠU.U MUNUS
10. 1 <sup>na4r</sup>ZÁLAG<sup>1</sup>

lower edge

11. <sup>r</sup>1<sup>?</sup> <sup>na4r</sup>GIŠ<sup>1</sup>. [NU<sub>11</sub>.GAL]

rev.

12. 1 <sup>na4</sup>àb-<sup>r</sup>aš<sup>1</sup>-[mu]
13. 1 <sup>r</sup>na<sub>4</sub>KUR<sup>1</sup>-nu DAB
14. 3 <sup>na4r</sup>x<sup>1</sup> [x x?]
15. 1 <sup>na4r</sup>Z[U? x x?]

Obv.

<sup>1</sup> 3 *muššaru*-agate stones <sup>2</sup> 2 *sangilmud*-amethyst stones, <sup>3</sup> 3 *uqnû*-lapis lazuli stones, <sup>4</sup> 3 *sāmtu*-carnelian stones, <sup>5</sup> 4 *pappardilû*-one-white stones, <sup>6</sup> 1 TU stone,<sup>33</sup> <sup>7</sup> 1 *išqillat tâmti*-seashore pebble, <sup>8</sup> 2 *šû zikar*-male *šû* stones, <sup>9</sup> 2 *šû sinniš*-female *šû* stone, <sup>10</sup> 1 *zalāqu*-stone

Lower edge

- <sup>11</sup> 1 *ašnugallu*-alabaster,

Rev.

- <sup>12</sup> 1 *abašmû*-stone, <sup>13</sup> 1 *šadānu šābitu*-magnetite, <sup>14</sup> 3 X <sup>15</sup> 1 *šurru*<sup>?</sup>-obsidian<sup>?</sup> stone<sup>?</sup>.

*Commentary*

Finkel mentioned this tablet as comparable parallel to the amulet list BM 42445 (Finkel Lambert 200, 183-184 Text 25).

line 12: This line was mentioned in CAD A/1 p. 39 sub *abašmû* mng. b.

**UET 4, 153** (National Museum of Iraq)

Portrait format tablet, list of drugs followed by a prescription against afflictions (like fever, ‘blast of the wind’, paralysis or ‘all diseases’) caused by curse.<sup>34</sup>

obv.

1. <sup>šim</sup>GÚR.GÚR <sup>šim</sup>GAM.MA <sup>šim</sup>GIG
2. PEŠ<sub>10</sub>.<sup>d</sup>ÍD ÚḪ.<sup>d</sup>ÍD
3. A.GAR.GAR MAŠ.DÀ <sup>šim</sup>BULUḪ
4. *qí-lip* ZÚ.LUM.MA

<sup>33</sup> Schuster-Brandis 2008, 449-450.

<sup>34</sup> For medical prescriptions against curse, see Maul 2019, 9, 23 and 277-312. Cf. Bácskay forthcoming.



5. LAGAB<sup>1</sup> MUNU<sup>5</sup> GAZI<sup>sar</sup> 'sah'-le-e SUMUN<sup>1</sup>.DAR<sup>1</sup>  
 6. Ú.KUR.RA úr-nu-'u' 'ú' HUR.SAG úzi-bu-'u'  
 7. ÚHAR.HAR NU.LUH.HA<sup>1</sup> 'sib-bir-ri' DÚR. NU.LUH.HA'  
 lower edge  
 8. ú'kam-ka-du 'x x x x x'  
 9. u? 'x x x' [x x Ú?] šam-ši  
 rev.  
 10. <sup>giš</sup>ŠE.N[Á.A? x x 'IGI-li]m  
 11. 'IGI-20 'úx' [x x x] 'x' 'MAŠ.TAB.BA  
 12. 'LAG.A.ŠÀ 'ZÚ.LUM.MA.DILMUN<sup>ki</sup> MUN

13. PAP 1 ŠU 3 Ú'.[HĪ.A? mar-ḥa-š]u SUMUN šá ḥi-miṭ UD<sup>1</sup>.DA<sup>1</sup>  
 14. ši-[biṭ TU<sub>15</sub> x x šimma/rimū]-tu kal ša<sup>1</sup>  
 15. [mursi x x x ŠU? GEDI]M? MA 'x x?' GIG ša<sup>1</sup> DIB  
 16 [x x x ina A.GEŠT]IN.NA KALAG.GA<sup>1</sup> ŠEG<sub>6</sub> 'x'  
 upper edge  
 17. 'ŠUB tu-kàš'-ša ½ SĪLA Ī.GIŠ  
 18. ana <<ana>> IGI ŠUB-di ana DÚR DUB-ma DIN-uṭ

<sup>1</sup>Kukru-plant, <sup>2</sup>šumlalû plant, <sup>3</sup>kanaktu-plant, <sup>4</sup>kibrîtu-sulphur, <sup>5</sup>ru'tîtu-sulphur, <sup>6</sup>gazelle dung, <sup>7</sup>baluhhu-plant, <sup>8</sup>date peel,

<sup>9</sup>malt, <sup>10</sup>kasû-plant, <sup>11</sup>sahlû-plant, <sup>12</sup>šumuttu-plant. <sup>13</sup>nînu plant, <sup>14</sup>urnû-plant, <sup>15</sup>azupîru-plant, black cumin, <sup>16</sup>ḥašû-plant, <sup>17</sup>nuḥurtu-plant, <sup>18</sup>sibbirru-plant, <sup>19</sup>tîjatu-plant, <sup>20</sup>kamkadu-plant, ...-plant, <sup>21</sup>... [plant] of Shamash, <sup>22</sup>šunû tree, [... imḥur-li]m-plant, <sup>23</sup>imḥur-ešrā-plant, ... plant, [...], <sup>24</sup>māštu plant, <sup>25</sup>field-clod' plant, Dilmun-date, salt.

<sup>13</sup>Together 63 plants. Tested (lit. old) lotion for *ḥimiṭ šēti* disease, <sup>14</sup>'blast of wind', [... paralysis] (and) all <sup>15</sup>[diseases ...hand of gh]ost? ... disease which afflicts (him) <sup>16</sup>[...] ... you boil (it/them) in strong vinegar, <sup>17</sup>put <sup>18</sup>... (into it) <sup>19</sup>cool (it), <sup>20</sup>put <sup>21</sup>half litre of oil <sup>22</sup>onto it (and) pour (it) into (his) anus and he will get better.

### Commentary

The prescription is similar to BAM 168 lines 7-17 and BAM 52 lines 24-38 and BAM 53 lines 1-6.<sup>35</sup>

lines 1-3: Despite the ruling, these lines seem to be a part of the same prescription.

line 7: This line was mentioned in CAD S p. 230 sub *sibbirru*.

line 13: Similar summary line in BAM 52 line 35 (PAP 1 ŠU 3 Ú.HĪ.[A]) and BAM 168 line 16 (PAP 1 šu-ši 3 Ú.HĪ.A) According to the summary in line, the total number of the drugs is 63. In fact, the number of drugs is less (circa 28 or 30). Similar discrepancy of the total number can also be attested in the relevant prescription of BAM 168.<sup>36</sup>

line 15: The reconstruction of the broken and fragmentary parts of this line are quite hypothetical. I would like to suggest that this part of the text belongs to the catalogue of diseases but the signs before GIG remain obscure to me.

<sup>35</sup> Edited in Maul 2019, 293 and 296.

<sup>36</sup> Maul 2019, 298 note to lines 7-17.

UET 4, 178 (U.15049; UM 52-30-044, University of Pennsylvania Museum, photo CDLI P414874)

Landscape format tablet, it contains single medical text that was edited by Ebeling (1953) in OLZ 48 p. 143).

obv.

1. DIŠ NA ú-ru- 'us-su nu-up-pu-uh
2. 1 NINDA saḥ-lé-e 'BÍL'.MEŠ a-na ŠEN.TUR ŠUB<sup>1</sup>-ma
3. ina UGU DÈ GAR 3-šú ib-ba-lak-kit-ma 'x x?
4. ZÍD.GIG ZÍD NUMUN GADA ZÍD<sup>šim</sup>MUG
5. ZÍD<sup>ú</sup>SULLIM<sup>sar</sup> pa-ni-šú ina ŠEN.TUR
6. 'ŠUB<sup>1</sup>-ma Ì.GIŠ ina ŠEN.TUR ana UGU 'ŠUB<sup>1</sup>-ma
7. [ina<sup>2</sup> dikmēni<sup>2</sup> Š]EG<sub>6</sub>-ma ba-aḥ-ra [GU<sub>7</sub><sup>2</sup>]

lower edge

8. [x x? ú-r']u- 'us-su

rev.

9. [x x x] x 'x' EN i-nu-uh-ḥu
10. [ta<sup>2</sup>-ta]r<sup>2</sup> NA [iballuṭ]

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11. 'AL.TIL'

<sup>1</sup>If a man's windpipe is swollen, <sup>2</sup>you put 1 ninda roasted *saḥlû*-plants into a *tangussu*-pot and <sup>3</sup>put it over charcoal, make them interpenetrate three times and .... <sup>5</sup>Previously, <sup>6</sup>you put <sup>4</sup>wheat flour, flour of flax seed, flour of *abukkātu*-plant, <sup>5</sup>*šambaliltu*-plant into a *tangussu*-pot <sup>6</sup>and put oil onto (them) in the *tangussu*-pot and <sup>7</sup>co[ok (it) on charcoal] then [he eats it] hot. <sup>8</sup>[...] his windpipe <sup>9</sup>[is] ... <sup>10</sup>Repeat (it) <sup>9</sup>until he will be appeased (and) a man [will recover].  
End of the section.

### Commentary

line 1: This line is mentioned in CAD N/1 p. 268 sub *napāḥu* mng. 7b and CAD U p. 268 sub *ur'udu* mng. 1a 2'.

line 3: I interpreted this line as a part of description of technical instruction to prepare a concoction (*ina muḥḥi pēnti tašakkan*) but the CAD prefers a different reading (*ina UGU IZI.GAR* = he steps over the torch three times)<sup>37</sup> suggesting that it is a description of a magic ritual using a torch. I would like to suggest that the verb *ibbalakkit* "to interpenetrate (said of parts of a mixture)" (Sg/3 Present form of *nabalkutu*) refers to the boiling procedure of the medicine but I do not know any parallel passage. The fragmentary last sign or signs at the end of the line remain obscure to me.

line 7: The reconstruction of the line is based on the assumption that *baḥra* is adverbially used here, as a predicative complement (see CAD B p. 28 *baḥra*). I suppose that the applying of the medicine was written in the broken part of line.

line 9-10: These lines are mentioned in CAD N/1 p. 147 sub *nāḥu* A mng. 2d. The fragmentary beginning of line 9 remains obscure to me but the CAD U suppose that it is a same medical problem as in line 9.

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<sup>37</sup> CAD N/1 p. 12 sub *nabalkutu* mng. 1a.

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