

## The Itch That Won't Go Away! Two Cured *Culex* Cases

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**Abstract:** A case of *Culex* is reported, with highlights of the proving by Dr. Jayesh Shah. The central theme of the mosquito remedy is intrusiveness – either engaging in same or having the strong feeling of being intruded upon.

**Keywords:** *Culex*.

### An Unforgettable Proving

Throughout the years, during the course of our homeopathic training, we have heard and observed literally thousands of cases and dozens of provings. Some remain indelibly **impressed** on our brains. This was the case after learning about the *Culex musca* (mosquito) proving undertaken by Dr. Jayesh Shah in Bombay sometime in the late 1990's. We filed this fascinating information in our brains waiting for patients who presented just the characteristics and state elucidated in the proving. Fortunately, for us and for this patient, within a few years she came and we recognized the picture of *Culex*. We have another case of the same medicine, which we mention within this article.

We present the case here, followed by material medica from Jayesh's proving, and results of the follow-up visits.

### Tory: A Nine-Year-Old Boy with Mood Swings and Warts

Tory's mom, Arlene, brought her son to consult with us sixteen months ago. Although the chief complaint was recurrent fungal infections, behavioral and attitudinal issues also came into play. Arlene described Tory as quick to anger, easily frustrated, and prone to distractibility when asked to focus on a subject that held little interest for him, such as school work. When a topic did engage him, like sports, however, the youngster demonstrated an intense interest. His reading performance left room for improvement until he found books that tickled his fancy. By the time we met Tory, his reading was almost up to grade level and his vocabulary far more advanced than that of



his peers.

Arlene continued: "This kid has a huge appetite, even after he's just finished a meal. Tory loves meat, sugar, and candy, always wanting more no matter how much he has just eaten."

A gregarious fellow, the youngster had a talent for attracting others. Tory approached anyone to strike up a conversation, be it his peers, strangers, or a schizophrenic on the street. He simply had no inhibition in this area. Arlene added that the weirder the individual, the more attractive Tory found him.

Frequent canker sores on the tongue and inside of the mouth bothered the boy, as well as flaky skin around the eyelashes. Dry skin was a chronic problem, especially in the winter. As a toddler, Tory's body manufactured excessive ear wax, necessitating frequent ear irrigation. He also continued to suffer from recurrent warts on the right big toe. Insomnia was also an issue.

Tory was quite the comedian and enjoyed capturing the attention of those around him. A jokester at the dinner table, the child exhibited a "potty mouth." Even his peers often remarked that Tory's jokes were gross.

Regarding his mood, Arlene described Tory as fol-

lows:

"When he's in a situation he doesn't like, he makes it difficult for everyone else, stomping around almost as if he felt persecuted, as if we had picked the wrong thing just in order to bug him. His degree of frustration is out of proportion to the situation. Tory gets into such a rage that you just have to yell at him. It's almost like you have to shock him to break the pattern. He really enjoys bugging his brother.

"On the other hand, he's so loving. The two extremes. Tory will give away candy if someone wants it and buy stuff to give away to the other kids if they don't have enough money. If he tasted something he thought was really great, he would offer part of it to his mom so she could enjoy it, too."

Despite his generous nature, Tory had a sneaky side, always trying to get away with things or cut corners. It seemed to be a matter of wanting to get to what he considered important rather than wasting his time doing things that others wanted him to do. The boy was kind of a character, enjoying wearing odd hats in weird shapes that would make him stand out. He considered the hats to be his trademark, part of his identity.

Arlene happened to mention that Tory was fascinated by bugs, so much so that his parents had bought him several insect guides as gifts.

Active physically, the youngster loved running on the playground, playing in the bushes, swinging around with his playmates, running around the house, and bouncing on the couch. Quite the busy boy, Tory rarely sat idle.

At this point of the interview, his mom and we noticed that Tory was lying just outside the consultation room door eavesdropping. When we invited him in and I asked Arlene if she had anything else to tell me, he added, "I tend to get mosquito bites really easily. They get really big and itchy!" Sketching an intricate pencil drawing, Tory continued, "The bites are annoying. They keep getting in your way. Like if I'm drawing or doing something else, I have to stop what I'm doing and scratch. They're so annoying!"

We pursued the theme of annoying, and Tory mentioned that his fifty or so warts on his toe were also annoying. The youngster continued to draw as he spoke. When we inquired as to what he was sketching, he appeared irritated and told us that it made him angry when others disturbed him while he was trying to work. The most annoying of all, however, was older, bigger kids calling him names and picking on him because he was smaller, or someone taking his lunch money. Being smaller made Tory feel "puny" as if he were merely half an inch tall.

At this point we engaged in a free association type technique that we learned from Dr. Rajan Sankaran. We asked what it might be like to be that tiny and Tory explained that being so small would allow one to ride on other animals and to make a sandwich last very long. He described a little creature with a "long, poky thing" on its mouth. When we asked, at this point, how he interacted with his brother, he responded that he poked and annoyed him. Going back to the description of the mosquito, he elaborated, "It has a beak that sucks blood. It stabs you with it and sucks your blood. It just pokes you." How interesting that he and the mosquito both poked!

### What's Mine is Mine and What's Yours is Mine

If you remember one word and one word only about the *Culex* proving, let it be **intrusiveness**. The proverbs told larger-than-life accounts of others intruding to implausible extents into their homes and lives. We recall one Indian family who lived in an apartment in Bombay and whose neighbors, on the occasion of a family wedding, asked them to take all of their furniture out of their own apartment so that those neighbors might have more space to receive the wedding guests. Then there was the story of one of the proverbs who returned to her home to find that a neighbor had stolen the sole propane cartridge from the family kitchen without asking, simply because "she needed it." Yet another proverb recounted how a family friend

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asked her to alter her own wedding dress so that the friend's daughter could wear it to her wedding.

The polar opposite attitude, also experienced by some of the proverbs, to being intruded upon, was an indignant feeling of "Mind your own business!" or "How dare you?" Proverbs found themselves getting into arguments with others over trivial matters, and becoming rude and critical. There was a sentiment of being persecuted and exploited and a response of retaliation.

This theme of intruding upon and being intruded upon is clearly the hallmark of the proving. Other minor features include:

- a feeling of superiority and competitiveness – each prover wanted to be the best
- crude sexuality, voyeurism, eunuchs
- a feeling of danger to one's life
- a general feeling of being bothered
- a feeling of being pursued
- a sensation of an insect in the ear
- persistent catarrh

- irritating rash
- dreams of cockroaches, dirtiness, and stools
- a strong craving for milkshakes and mangoes (interesting because mosquitoes are strongly attracted to ripe mangoes)
- preference for brown or jute-colored clothing

*Culex* would be placed in the malarial miasm due to the feelings of persecution, annoyance, and bother. The feeling of an individual in the malarial miasm is like that of being stuck in a swamp and plagued by mosquitoes.

Tory exhibited the attractiveness of those needing homeopathic animal medicines, and a general feeling of being annoyed, as well as the feeling of being tiny, which is classic for those needing insect medicines, and a very strong predisposition to mosquito bites. It is curious that his mother, Arlene, kept using the word "bugged" in describing Tory. *Culex* was the first and only homeopathic medicine given, in a 200C potency.

We are treating another thirteen-year-old girl with a chief complaint of allergies and stomach pain. She is also responding quite well to *Culex*. Since we are only six months into her case, it is preliminary to present as a cured case. Nevertheless, the following excerpts give a flavor for the intrusiveness that came up during the *Culex* proving:

"I just start yelling at my mother. Then other people come in the room and I tell them to shut up. I'm like a different person when I get really mad. When I'm like that, I keep saying whatever is on my mind and I don't feel bad for other people. I don't care what that person says or feels. I lash out and I'm just not nice. People don't like me when I'm like that."

"I just get annoyed, like a big pet peeve, about something that a person does, like bite their nails or snap their fingers or say certain words are really annoying, or when my brother comes into my room and uses my computer and leaves his clothes all over, or when he purposely tries to annoy me so I'll get mad and punch him. He came in and wrecked one of my puzzles."

"I'm really territorial over my food. I'd rather pay for someone else's fries than have them eat mine. I'm afraid I won't have enough. If I'm eating and someone else wants it, they should just wait till I'm done. It's annoying. Or when people make stupid comments. My cousin borrowed this really cute shirt and I never got it back. Then she bought me another one for my birthday that she really likes and I know she'll want to borrow it back from me. I have another friend who takes my clothes and never gives them back. I hate when people mess up things I'm trying to do or put my clothes in the wrong drawer. Or when my sister sleeps in my bed and I have to

remake it. Or when my mom gives my brother more money than me, after I did twenty-five chores in a month and he only did sixteen, but he got forty dollars more than I did. Or when people talk behind each other's backs. I have a lot of pet peeves."

### **Tory: Follow-ups**

#### *Seven weeks*

The warts on the right big toe were totally gone. His mood was much improved - not as cranky. After drinking coffee (a substance which can potentially interrupt the action of homeopathic medicines in some individuals), he vomited, became more irritating, messed again with the printer after Arlene asked him not to do so, and suffered from one canker sore. The *Culex* 200C was repeated and a dose of 1M was given to hold, to take if needed.

#### *Four and a half months*

The mother had given the 1M dose of *Culex*. His attitude was much better. The mother reported that he was a lot easier to deal with and his behavior was less irritating. Overall eighty percent improvement. He was on track in school. Prior to homeopathic treatment, he was one year behind grade level in reading; now it is six months within normal. Less hunger. His mother was given another dose of 1M to hold.

#### *Nine months*

His mood swings are much less. His tutor notices he is starting to "flit away" a bit lately. He had been covered with mosquito bites.

**Prescription:** *Culex* 1M to take as needed.

#### *Fourteen months*

*Culex* was repeated twice after exposures to menthol. A couple of warts came back on the same toe, but nothing like before. He was happier. Still flitty (moved around a lot). A couple of patches of ringworm appeared. Tory complained that teachers made him go to classes that were too easy, which "ticked him off" and made him feel stupid in front of his friends.

**Prescription:** *Culex* 10M.

#### *Sixteen months*

Arlene reported that Tory was doing "great." "Such an improvement." A ringworm patch on his scrotum had resolved. There were a few new, small warts on his big toe, but nothing like previously. "He just doesn't have that fidgety, mosquito-like thing like he did before."

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tified in homeopathy. Their books include: "A Drug-Free Approach to Asperger Syndrome and Autism," "Ritalin-Free Kids," "Rage-Free Kids, Prozac Free," "Homeopathic Self-Care: The Quick and Easy Guide for the Whole Family," "Whole Woman Homeopathy, The Patient's Guide to Homeopathic Medicine," and "Mystics, Masters, Saints and Sages-Stories of Enlightenment." They teach and lecture internationally and practice at The Northwest Center for Homeopathic Medicine in Edmonds, WA and Langley, WA. A̅H