

A Bug's Life

By Divya Chhabra



Praying mantis, *Mantis religiosa*

Bugged and irritated, one man exclaimed: "Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes!" A patient once said to me: "Why did God ever make insects? They are dirty, ugly, irritating and serve no useful purpose at all!" This article explores the inner state, themes and usefulness of the insect remedies.

Homeopathic remedy states are not just a mathematical sum of symptoms. They express the inner states and spirit of the substance itself, which reflects conflicts generated by evolution, adaptations for survival and the place the substance has in human civilization. Thus these feelings and reactions towards the insect family are mirrored in the homeopathic provings and clinically collected data of these remedies.

At the level of the outer circle of *expressions*, "irritated, horrible, bugged, mean and nasty," are words the patients needing these remedies often express. We spiral deeper through the case, receiving the deepest *feeling*, or state, or delusion of the patient. As in other animal remedies; this can be best expressed as: how they view or feel about themselves; their perception of the world around and what it does to them, and their reaction therefore to this world (keeping in mind that action and reaction are equal and opposite). See figure 1.0

To sum it up: they feel small, dirty, helpless, handicapped, cheap, low and repulsive. Crushed by insults and their own feeling of powerlessness, they have a violent, vindictive desire to exact revenge, in the same sadistic unfeeling way that they feel they are treated, remaining within them: constricting, oppressing and suffocating them.

In a lot of the patients needing this group of remedies, rather than appearing as feeling low, crushed and cheap, they are highly *compensated* and appear very ELEGANT, SOPHISTICATED, POLISHED and ARISTOCRATIC, depending on the specific insect remedy they need.

In addition to the other general animal themes: competitiveness, one-upmanship, jealousy, survival, being looked down on, trying to attract attention (by loquacity, dancing, ACTIVITY), being used, manipulated, taken advantage of – they express some Generalities, which time and experience have corroborated.

GENERALITIES

- Excitement
- Activity increased
- Alternation of moods
- Weariness with heaviness
- Constriction/Oppression
- Open air ameliorates
- Flushes of heat
- Desires juices

Keynotes Of Selected Insects

In an attempt to not be greedy (like *Blatta*) and invade journal space (like *Culex*), I will briefly describe the specific peculiarities of some remedies to help differentiate them from each other.

Blatta Orientalis, Indian Cockroach

The feeling of *Blatta orientalis* is one of being CHEAP, CRUDE, vulgar and blunt, in addition to the other mandatory themes already mentioned. Their desire is to be sophisticated, polished, COOL, systematic, organised and gain appreciation and be noticed as good human beings, (not nasty and mean). The feeling is of being belittled by jealous people who are GREEDY for money and property. But these unexpressed feelings suffocate

Inner Feelings	Injured By Surroundings	Reaction
Powerless Helpless Handicapped Unnoticed	Ugly, Horrible Creepy, Repulsive, Disgusting, Cheap, Low	Irritable Annoyed Impatient Anger Bugged Vindictive Violent Rude Sarcasm Taunt
	Insult, Humiliation, Crushed, Stamped on, Trampled, Cornered, Trapped, Cheated, Torture, Deliberate, Sadistic, Unfeeling, Inhuman	Desire to kill 'in cold blood', but unable due to feeling small and helpless.
	Slave, Domination, Mean, Nasty Greedy, Selfish, Materialistic, Taken advantage of, Provoke, Used, Sexual exploitation.	Restricted Constricted Oppression Suffocated

Figure 1.0

them and thus the use of *Blatta-o* for asthmatics. They love travelling and being pampered, and they crave juices and pastries. They appear sentimental, emotional or COLD, numb and indifferent. (Refer also to proving of *Blatta orientalis* by Dr Munjal Thakkar).

Mantis Religiosa, Praying Mantis

The coldness is even more emphasised in this remedy, which belongs to the same sub-group as the *Blatta* remedies. In *Mantis religiosa* the feeling is of being small, weak, powerless; others are trying to DOMINATE, HUMILIATE and CONTROL them. They feel they are being deliberately, sadistically being tortured (slow torture) in an inhuman, merciless way. They feel they are being laughed at, joked about and belittled; treated without honour and respect. Their reaction is one of tremendous hatred and anger, which is suppressed because of a feeling of powerlessness, a desire to maintain DIGNITY, and not come down to that low level. So they become, in reaction, UNEMOTIONAL AND COLD. The need to be treated with honour and respect, and the anger, which is suppressed in order to maintain DIGNITY, is characteristic of this remedy. It could seem like *Staphysagria*, which might be mistakenly prescribed in some of these cases. A patient said: "You may insult me and I feel anger enough to kill, but will maintain a dignified, controlled COLD WAR."

Apis Mellifica, Honeybee

The feeling of *Apis mellifica* is based on the natural history of bees, where the young queen bee has to prove and take her royal position by killing the older queen. It appears that the delusional situation of *Apis* is that of a young, childish, awkward person who has to prove that she is great, and compete with an older mature rival for the position of the queen. Hence the *Apis mellifica* feeling is of being childish, foolish, immature, awkward and dirty. They feel others are laughing at them and criticising them and they feel left out. They feel jealous of the more mature rivals and, competing in a childish way, want to be great (Dreams of flying, scientific inventions).

Formica Rufa, Red Ant

It never fails to amaze me, how beautifully the homeopathic symptomatology expresses the conflicts of the substance in nature. So it is also in *Formica rufa*, the ant. Researchers have described how an army of red ants invades a colony of black ants, captures some of their babies and carries them off as SLAVES to their own colonies. Here they are fed and groomed as SLAVES, to wait on the 'red masters'; they have to work very hard to justify their existence. It is not surprising, therefore, that the key feeling in the 'remedy state' of *Formica rufa* is that of a SLAVE captured in war. He feels weak, defenceless, inadequate and dependent on the mercy of the powerful owner to whom he has to justify his rights to exist, or be CRUSHED by him. Thus they persevere and work very hard to prove their worth, for fear of coming to want, and being crushed or abandoned. Thus the polarity of *Formica* extends from feeling useless, like a SLAVE, on one side, and ARISTOCRACY, special, important on the other side: thus demonstrating both the feeling of the slave and of the master.

Cimex, Bed Bug

Another interesting insect remedy whose symptom I have seen corroborated in practice is the bed bug or *Cimex*. Vermeulen describes these as a small family of vampire insects, whose love for the close society of human beings during the hours of darkness, is not required. During the day, bed bugs hide under mattresses, behind loosened wallpaper and baseboards and in other dark crevices. Clarke describes, 'Sensation as if he would creep into himself and on that account could not sufficiently CROUCH together.' There is a desire to STRETCH out the parts. This is often the confluence point of the *Cimex* cases. In their chief complaint, they crouch together, e.g. abdominal pains, migraine, and in their delusional state they come to a point of crouching or HIDING, to prevent being seen, attacked and crushed by their enemies.



Ladybird in flight,
ant, housefly,
praying mantis

Illustration
by Susan Slaggett

Trombidium, Red Acarus Parasite On Housefly's Wings

A parasite on an insect needs the host for its survival and then feels humiliated and crushed by this very dependency. A patient described it beautifully: "When you put out a hand for help and someone puts his hand on your palm to help, the very weight of his help crushes and humiliates you."

Musca Domestica, Housefly

The common housefly has also been proved by Robert Stewart and Susan Sonz. I have not yet used it, so, rather than comment on it, would refer you to read it in Reference works or at www.nyhomeopathy.com/provings, where the full proving is available free of charge, in pdf format.

Culex Musca, Mosquito

Completing the spiral, we have returned to our starting point, that is, at the remedy *Culex musca*, the much-maligned mosquito; the only one who hits back. Horribly irritated, they RETALIATE QUICKLY and immediately, especially when they feel their PRIVACY HAS BEEN INVADED. A proving by Dr Jayesh Shah and Dr Sunil Anand (Reference works) was full of fights and retaliating. When the blood cleared, the state emerged.

The world of the Arthropods is diverse, and, to a large extent, as yet unexplored. The lice (*pediculus*), *Coccus cacti* (*coccinella*) to mention only a couple more, are some other homeopathic remedies from the insect family. I leave you to explore the rest for yourself and experience the rewards, as when the state is lifted, the patient then lives his own life, free of compulsions. As for me, I understand the cockroach in my kitchen a little better.