



Menacing, Mischievous & Fearless Agaricus-muscarius

INTRODUCTION:

Agaricus-muscarius or Toad stool or *Amanita* (a term used by Hering) is a poisonous mushroom and its symptoms develop slowly over 12-14 hours. The cerebral excitement caused by the remedy are in four phases:

1. Slight stimulation, shown by increased cheerfulness, courage, loquacity, exalted frenzy.
2. More decided intoxication- great mental excitement, incoherent talking and immoderate gaiety alternating with melancholy. Perception of relative size of objects is lost, takes long steps and jumps over small objects as if they are trunks of trees a small hole appears as a frightful chasm, a spoonful of water, an immense lake. Physical strength is increased, can lift heavy loads; with it there is much twitching.
3. This stage produces a condition of furious rage and delirium, screaming, raving and ranting injuring self.
4. 4th stage with mental depression, languor, indifference, confusion disinclination to work; there is general nervous excitement as is found in delirium tremens and in fevers. Hence, it is an important remedy for delirium tremens and in typhoid fever. (Boericke and Guernsey)

The brain seems to develop slowly and children are late in learning to talk and walk- a combination of *Natrum-mur* and *Calcarea-carb* traits. A delirium state as is produced by alcohol. The child or the patient becomes silly, says foolish things, sings and whistles at inappropriate times, makes verses and prophecies; or lapses into an opposite state, becomes indifferent to surroundings (Dr Kent). In co-ordination between brain and body resulting in clumsy motion of fingers and hands

drops things, like *Apis*. The mental symptoms are worse in the morning

A most striking symptom: twitchings and tremblings of limbs; often very extensive, therefore useful for chorea.

A peculiar sensation: cold sensation as if cold needles; icy coldness after itching and scratching of scalp; pain as if sharp ice touched the head; sensation of icy coldness in the part or back as if cold wind was blowing on it. Urine feels cold on passing. The male genital organs are cold and shrunken.

Some illustrative cases:

CASE 1:

A 3½ years, old son of a cousin of Dr Parinaz Humranwala, A lively child without shyness; greeted the doctor as if he had known her for a long time. He prattled constantly but did not reply to the questions asked, in spite of his mother's intervention (*Loquacity, answers no questions*). He was always on the run, crashing into the furniture, stumbling against the chair etc. He would get hurt but not learn from these experience. (*Fearless, menacing, mischievous, causing him to assail and injure himself, great exertion of power-Hering*) (*Runs about, dangerous places, in most*). His favorite pasttime is to do somersault from one end of the room to the other. (*Mischievous, tumbled out in the most grotesque manner-Allen*). After visiting a circus and seeing a clown walking on a tight rope he attempted the same feat in his flat (*courageous*). He was clumsy and would allow a thing to fall from his hands (*awkwardness, drops things*).

He loves music and learnt his nursery rhymes and can sing loudly with the singer, but was not interested in learning the alphabet or lessons (*Singing; concentration difficult, studying while*). His restlessness nature never improved in spite of punishment at home. When in frenzy he seemed to possess extra-ordinary strength;



Compiled by

TK KASIVISWANATHAN
10/149, Shobha, Road no 9,
Wadala, Mumbai-400 031
Tel: 416 2165



once in his mischievous frenzy he knocked down a 20-inch colour TV from the stand (*Rage, strength increased*). When he was to be operated for a congenital problem he did not fear the presence of doctors, nurses and hospital atmosphere. When he was asked to take a medicine after the operation, he made his mother and nurse close their eyes and then spilled it on the nurse's uniform. (This is also a characteristic of this remedy-*Delirium, know his relatives does not; throws wine and medicine on the nurse*). When the nurse and his parents tried to pin him down, he displayed extra strength, escaped their clutches and ran away and dashed against a trolley, injuring himself (*Delirium, bed, escapes, jumps up suddenly from bed. Delirium, exaltation of strength, with*).

ANALYSIS:

This is a classic illustration of an *Agaricus* child; it is restless, externally and internally, which makes the child mischievous and menacing and run about without realizing the danger of injury. The reportorial rubrics given against the symptoms lead to *Agaricus* as the similimum and also fully confirm the symptoms of mental excitement produced by this drug mentioned at stages 2 and 3. He was initially given a dose in 200 potency; three months later he suffered from respiratory tract infection for which another dose was given; 3 months later the same problem occurred and he was given a dose in 1M potency after which he improved in all areas, including his nature, allergy and general health.

-Dr Parinaz Humranwala-Homoeo Links 3/98

(See also another case of a mischievous boy published in NJH issue dated Jan-Feb 1998).

POLARITY

Agaricus has both the fearful, submissive and dependent side and also the bold, warrior and adventurer side. Dr Bill Mann presented such a case, where both these sides of *Agaricus* personality could be clearly seen in the same patient - one with fears and weaknesses and the other with reckless courage *on different occasions*.

CASE 2:

A 30-year-old male with unconfirmed multiple sclerosis. For 2-3 years, he had twitching of muscle groups of the upper arms, thighs and face, especially in the morning (a keynote of *Agar*) followed by stiffness and fatigue; also had swelling on the lymph nodes mostly below the jaw. He described himself as a sex addict, but experiences enormous guilt and remorse about this addiction. His relations with women were unsuccessful and he considered women as sexual objects to be devoured sexually. His twitching commenced after a woman who he felt passionately about, rejected him. After that, he became very angry wanted to kill the other man in her life. Never well since then. He had a pathological fear of cancer; his fears and sex addiction were worse in fall and in winter months when he was not working.

The other side of his personality came into full bloom in the other seasons. He would lead wilderness excursions in the most extreme environments and terrains in Alaska and Canada. The activity was dangerous and each excursion was more challenging and dangerous than the other; he wanted to be known as a fearless adventurer. He was exhilarated by the challenges such trips provided. His occupation ameliorated his pathological condition. His dreams involved flying and floating with exhilaration and joy and pursued by an ominous being, whose face can only be seen and by whom he felt suffocated, while he was battling it.

The *rubrics* are: Ailments from fright /fear; Anxiety about health; clinging; desire for company when alone; fear of cancer; fear of impending disease; fear of evil; fear of ghosts; fear of suffocation; twitching of muscles; increased sexual desire.

On the other side: Audacity; courageous; talks of his exploits (both sexual and adventures); delirium with exaltation of strength; delirium with rage and raving; delusion that he is a great person; vindictive; destructive; ecstatic; egotism with reciting exploits; exhilaration; fearlessness; grotesque, foolish behaviour; hatred of persons who have offended; frenzy causing injury to



self; desire to kill; loquacity; malicious; revengeful plans; making bold plans; runs in dangerous places; satyriasis.

Agaricus reduced his obsession with health, his fears and sexual addiction became more manageable and his general vitality improved.

-Dr Bill Mann -Edited from a Report in Homoeopathy Today, April 1999; Vol 19-4

CASE 3:

A boy, aged 7 years, presented with visual difficulties; hypermetropia, squint and very tired eyes at the end of the day; accompanied by headaches and difficulty in concentration. His mother reported that besides the above he had learning difficulties; made many *mistakes in reading and writing* and was a *slow learner*, which upset him. On the other hand, his imagination was very advanced for his age and he could talk excitedly on subjects in which he was interested. More recently he showed rapid mood swings- from being very moody to being the life of the party; tending to become obstinate over certain matters and did not participate in activities in which he could not do well. He would become very angry when his sister teased him.

His memory was vivid for events long past, while his short-term memory was very poor relating to school lessons. He was *slow to speak and learning to walk*. He still had a marked tendency of being *awkward with poor coordination*.

Any bout of illness was preceded by marked swelling of his abdominal lymph glands, which would subside after an acute infection developed.

One other important symptom was his allergy to artificial colourings; by eating such foods his mouth swells, begins to salivate, loses control of the bladder and his clumsiness and lack of co-ordination increase. During an extreme attack he feels as if on LSD; he then races around the room, knocks against the walls, bruising himself badly, *yet feels no pain*. He behaves uncontrollably but does not remember his behaviour later. He was, therefore very obstinate about eating certain foods and

did not like mushrooms.

When the doctor talked to the child, he started talking without prompting and was very loquacious jumping from one subject to another as if the doctor was not present at all.

CASE ANALYSIS:

"He was precocious in a way that he was more at ease in the adult world, where he felt comfortable with his advanced verbal skills, chattering about his interests including the knowledge of electronics. But in the company of other children, he felt out of place and lacked confidence. Lacking sufficient concentration for learning and being awkward at physical activities made him shy and uncomfortable with other children. As a result, he was overly sensitive to being teased and had retreated further into his imaginary world. The thing that stood out as peculiar to me was his marked state produced as a reaction to food colourings; under this the wild, carefree and unrestrained side of his state was released." (Dr Jacqueline Dimitriadis) This doctor referred to the following original symptoms from Hahnemann, Hering and Allen for the remedy.

Fearless, menacing, mischievous frenzy; causing him to assail and injure himself, great exertion of power.(Hering)

Silly merriness; Great loquacity, merry, incoherent talk, followed by malaise (Hering)

He talks incoherently; passes very rapidly from one subject to another, and soon enters a state of cheerful delirium with great loquacity (TF Allen)

Indifferent, self- absorbed mood with aversion to all occupation; (Hahnemann)

Disgust for all work which occupies the mind;

Forgetful; he finds it difficult to recall what he has heard before or thought (Hahnemann)

Takes offence easily. Morose, self-willed, stubborn, slow in learning to talk and walk; on trying to walk stumbled singularly often (Hering).

The patient retains no recollection of his serious sickness; next day the patient did not remember having been indisposed (T F Allen).



Agaricus emerges as the remedy; it also produces all sorts of eye and visual problems; it is also significant to note that the patient had an absolute loathing for mushrooms.

(Dr Grauvogl says that mushrooms are the articles of diet forbidden for persons of hydrogenoid constitution) He was given *Agaricus* 0/1 potency, once a day. After initial aggravation of his eye symptoms and irritability, the boy's performance improved in school. There was steady progress and after 4 weeks he was given 0/2 once a day. With that his eye twitching and visual difficulties showed improvement; his reaction to food colourings also reduced. His excitable state also was considerably less; his appetite improved etc

-Dr Jacqueline Demitriadis, Australian Journal of Homoeopathy, April 1993

CASE 4:

A 4 ½ year old girl used to get recurrent attacks of fever with swelling and rigidity of her neck with tilting of the head to the right due to swelling on the right-torticollis with acute tonsillitis. Her neck rigidity was associated with severe stomachache and throat infection with fetid odour from the mouth.

In the clinic, the child was observed to be dancing and was told that she was fond of music and dancing; she was talkative, good at imitation, playful with great imagination and was found to be talking with an imaginary person, even if her neck was tender and painful, she remained cheerful and she was not affected much unless the fever was high. She was bold and courageous; not scared of injections and if she falls down she immediately gets up and starts running without crying or complaining. Once in a party on the terrace she was without fear walking on the parapet. She liked to play boys' games and even bullied them. She was very restless, could not pay attention in school and was mischievous; she made funny noises but it was part of her involuntary behaviour. She did not answer the doctor's questions and looked confused and her answers were unrelated to the questions. In school her teacher said

that her speech was not clear. She would threaten to vomit if forced to eat or when her wish was not fulfilled. She would break things and become aggressive and at that time almost three people are required to calm her down.

Dr Sunil Anand selected the following rubrics: Runs about in most dangerous places; Answer, aversion to; sings, talks but will not answer questions; loquacity during which answers no questions; mistakes in speaking; Delirium, romping with children; chaotic; concentration difficult; confusion of mind; Courageous; delusion, sees people, converses with absent people; destructiveness; agg from mental exertion; work, mental, aversion to; foolish behaviour; weakness of memory; speech incoherent.

Agaricus comes out prominently and she was given 1M one dose; the frequency and intensity of the attacks became less and her torticollis disappeared; her performance in school improved. She needed repetition of *Agaricus* 1M on 6 more occasions when her fever was high; after a final dose of 10M she became well and needed no further repetition.

-Dr Sunil Anand, Homoeopathic Links 2/92

CASE 5. Cure of a beginning MS

A 46-year-old woman consulted for complaints of back pain, stomach and abdominal pains; vertigo and nausea, palpitations; dim vision, loss of memory, fibroma of uterus, cysts in left ovary and left kidney.

Based on a history of abuse by her husband and other factors she was given *Sepia*, which held for a long time. After 11 months her condition deteriorated and *Sepia* and other remedies did not relieve her. Since the beginning she was complaining of vertigo and dim vision; she now talked of cold feeling in the left hand and leg; with her left hand she mis-reaches for objects. The vision is dim and sees lines. She is unsteady while standing; and has the impression of stepping into holes when walking (confusion of mind while walking) She could not find words to express her feelings.

Based on the symptoms/rubrics—coldness of hand left;



coldness, lower limbs left; awkwardness lower limbs; vertigo turning on; loquacious; fear of cancer; sighing she was given *Agaricus* 200 K. Shortly thereafter she felt better and there was a relapse after 5 days when she was advised to take *Agaricus* 30 for 5 days. Her numbness and cold feeling had disappeared; no vertigo and her vision became better; no sensation of stepping into a hole; she took *Agaricus* 30 whenever there was relapse and her headache and stomach pains were gone. After 2 years of follow-up she was given one dose in 1M whereafter she was quite well.

Agaricus has coldness of hand and sensation as if touched with ice or ice cold needles; weakness and confusion of vision as if mist before the eyes

The *Agaricus* patient has fears of impending disease of cancer, of having a fit or losing his reason etc.

JOHN DE GEEST, Belgium, Homoeo Links 3/98

Dr Jonathan Hardy, England presented in the Homoeopathic Links issue no3/98 three cases of *Agaricus* in which the patients were *inquisitive* particularly about death, near death experiences and re-incarnation. In one case the patient was interested in watching horror films. "The book or film must be really gory to be enjoyable." The common mentals in these cases were: Cheerful in the evening; cheerfulness alternating with sadness; childish behaviour; excitement in the evening; *inquisitiveness*; mood alternating; restlessness, in the evening. One patient expressed fear of mould (fungi) and roots and hairy plants.

Agaricus is useful in

- 1) hard working people, who have exhausted their nervous system due to long hours of study over a long period of time;
- 2) People who have become alcoholics;
- 3) persons who have been involved in sexual abuses;
- 4) people who suffer from bipolar disorder after great anger or after having been reprimanded in their working area or after being frightened and
- 5) people who suffer from vermis anolosis of the cerebellum after a vascular problem has occurred after

having been treated for hyperthyroidism with radio-active loading etc as also people who suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

Agaricus is one of the remedies for mania: See rubrics: Audacity; Battles, talks of war; cheerful and foolish; dancing grotesque; Delusion, is a great person; Delusion he is an officer; Delusion converses with absent people; Delusion things grow smaller; Delusion, under superhuman control; insanity with superhuman strength; mania with rage; recognizes, does not his relatives. Here is an illustrative case.

CASE 6:

MS, 67 years old, a retired general, came for treatment for bronchitis, asthma and insomnia from which he was suffering for the past 3 years. He was thin and found to be nervous and restless with shaking and shivering muscles. Though he presented a facade of being a firm and proud person, he actually was *clumsy* and his movements were *ungraceful*.

Having been in Military service he had a pompous manner and his speech was as if he was ordering his subordinates. During consultation he was tapping on the table rhythmically singing but not answering. The doctor had to repeat the questions two or three times. He was talkative but avoided the subject by diverting to his war adventures, which were imaginary and not actual.

The history revealed that immediately after retirement he had bad nights full of nervous tension and irritability and would recount the events in his military career. He experienced tiredness and fatigue mainly in the *morning* and there were shaking of hands and some *palpitation*. Subsequently it was noticed that he *could not hold on* to the objects and they fell from his hands. After consulting a neurologist his neurological symptoms seemed to recede but he developed bronchitis and later asthma, which did not respond to other treatment.

His asthma was < by psycho-intellectual stimulation, change of weather but relieved by slow physical work



and a stroll.

Based on the above symptoms, doctor prescribed *Agaricus* 200 one dose on 22-10-87 and advised to stop all allopathic medicines. There was a very good improvement in next 10 days and by 8-11-87 the patient suffered a crisis of bronchitis with a sensation of constriction in his chest. The same remedy also covered these symptoms and *Agaricus* 200 was prescribed and he was better in half an hour. Till 10-2-88 he was well and then he started dropping objects and playing war game. He was given *Agaricus* 1M and he was better and one more dose of the same remedy was repeated after 7 months, where after he continued to do well.

Peculiar rubrics:

1. Confusion of mind, when carrying heavy loads;
2. Delusion, a small hole appears like a frightful chasm
3. Delusion, a spoonful of water appears like a lake.
4. Delusion, distances /objects are enlarged

This confusion and delusions represent the fact that the slightest difficulties, which come up in the external environment, seem very big for the person and he loses his control.

George Vithoulkas writes in his *Essences* that *Agaricus* patients find something to suffer about; become anxious about some little thing, then it builds up and they become pessimistic. The doctor's suggestions are blown out of proportion. If doctor suggests mammography they will have a fear of cancer for the rest of their lives.

This situation is often encountered in persons who have degeneration of the vermis of the cerebellum. In such cases *Agaricus* may be very serviceable, says George Lukas. The following case substantiates this point.

CASE 7: Degeneration of vermis of cerebellum

A 55 year old married lady consulted George Lucas for her chronic sinusitis and dryness of nose, strong mouth fetor, tinnitus and failure of memory and unable to find the appropriate words.

She had hyperthyroidism earlier and also appendicitis

operation and her family history revealed that her father had duodenal ulcer and grandmother suffered from TB. She was sensitive and worries about her daughter a lot and loses her temper when confronted with slightest difficulty; afraid of thieves, afraid that something bad might happen and anxious about her health. She longs for salty food fish, seafood and sweats. Heat bothers her a lot. She is introverted and does not like to discuss her problems during her examination.

Initially she was prescribed *Kali-iodatum* 1M. There was a thick greenish discharge after taking the medicine and she showed improvement in her sinusitis and tinnitus and bad mouth odour and her memory improved. The improvement lasted for nearly a year when she was given *Ignatia* for a serious family problem. Then after 3 months she complained that she was waking up early morning because of large quantity of foamy expectoration, which made her get up from bed; *Kali-iod* 10M given then was not effective. Some acute remedies were then given which ameliorated her but her basic complaint of losing temper at the slightest difficulty remained and also her anxiety about her health. After 5 years she had a viral fever for which she had antibiotics and after that she said that she had great instability in walking and felt as if walking on a rocking boat and wanted to lean on someone. There was also great weakness in her legs. The neurological examination showed instability in standing and in walking position; CT scan showed deterioration of upper vermis and of metopium lobus. The patient said that she had a similar complaint several years ago for which she had acupuncture.

Because of the peculiar symptoms of uncertain gait and trembling and weakness of lower limbs she was prescribed *Agaricus* 30; five days later she reported that she was better and could walk in a better manner and did not get tired after doing shopping. After 4 months she reported relapse of some symptoms and *Agar* 200 was prescribed and after 9 months 1M for a relapse and thereafter she remained well.

**CASE 8:**

A girl aged 9 years came for the treatment of chorea. At the age of 7 she had a mild attack of scarlatina followed by an attack of articular rheumatism. The chorea started after her discharge from the hospital. Allopathic treatment was of no avail. She had to be supported by two people; she looked idiotic with an open mouth; tongue rapidly moving as also her arms; inarticulate and incomprehensible speech; all the movements are worse on the right. Rt leg slightly shorter than left. The peculiar point was *that there was no movement during sleep (This is characteristic of this remedy)*. There was profuse perspiration.

Agaricus 200, 3 doses at 8 hours interval was given and in two months she was much improved; a curious thing was noticed; *after her treatment both her legs were approximately equal*-**Dr Annie Coste** (Dr Nash says that it is an important remedy for twitchings, from simple twitching in face, eyelids and extremities, to severe cases of chorea)

-Quarterly Homoeopathic Digest-VolXV N0 2/98

CASE 9: Urticaria after coition

A lady aged 40 years came for treatment of urticaria of 20 years duration. The urticaria was symmetrical, shining on the shoulder and back; it developed *after coition*. In the repertory, *Agaricus* is the only remedy under the rubric-Skin, itching, coition after (p1328). *Agaricus 200* was given. After initial aggravation the urticaria reappeared in her forehead and eyelids, where they appeared 20 years ago. After 3 months she had only 3 such episodes and after 5 months she was free.

-Dr Annie Coste.

Kent writes in his lectures that once he prescribed *Tub*, which almost killed a patient and after waiting for symptoms to develop he saw those of *Agaricus* and it cured him. Thus it has a relationship to tuberculous diathesis and is also related to *Tuberculinum* and will cure incipient cases of phthisis where the characteristic chest troubles of this remedy are present.

CASE 10:

An eight-yr-old boy was having high energy and restless but timid; but rarely aggressive and almost does not show anger. During a family vacation to ocean he was exposed to vagaries of temperatures, sunny, windy and quite cold; external parts of his ears began to hurt; became red and inflamed; would have to rub them; this was a case of chilblains from extreme exposure to elements. The boy stutters sometimes when speaking.

Rubrics: ear, discolouration, redness, chilblains; ear pain, burning in external ear, ear itching external ear; mind, speech- stammering, excitement: mind ailments anger suppressed

Agaricus 30 c twice daily for 2 days; the boy relieved of his complaint and became calmer in subsequent weeks. Acute prescription led to removal of chronic difficulties.

CASE 11:

A hard working mother and her husband after buying new property, spent long hours wielding sledge hammer and doing drywall painting to let it out. As a result she experienced a numb burning sensation in her rt third & fourth fingers; woke up between 4 & 5 am. The fingers would tingle and burn at the same time. Her rt eye began twitching and upper lids would twitch for 6-7 seconds at random intervals.

Agaricus is known for such tingling, burning, numbness but the rare peculiar twitching of eyelid as a concomitant clinched it.

Agaricus 30 C in repeated doses cured the case.

Cases 10&11 from Homoeopathy Today, July- Aug 1996

