

REVIEWS AND ABSTRACTS

International press abstracts

Conium maculatum

J Alaerts

Four clinical cases are presented in this article: a 57-year-old woman with chronic rhinitis, a 56-year-old woman with recurrent rhinitis and breast cancer, a 37-year-old woman with chronic laryngitis, and a 50-year-old woman with tinnitus.

The main symptoms of *Conium* are discussed: weakness of body and mind, paralysis, problems from sexual abstinence or excess, induration of glands, breast or prostate cancer, vertigo when lying down or when turning head or eyes.

According to the author, the main theme of *Conium* is a sense of threat and humiliation. The patient may become dictatorial or cheerful, alternating with mental depression.

Revue Belge d'Homoeopathie 2004; 3: 12-25.

Ruta graveolens

EV Eynde

By way of introduction, the plant is described in a very complete way: it is a small evergreen aromatic shrub, which produces a strong foetid aroma. Some typical symptoms are described: discontented with himself, feeling of intense weakness and despair; eye strain from reading or sewing, followed by headache; rectal prolapse; pain in periosteum, tendons and about joints, especially wrists.

Ruta is compared with other medicines: among them, *Rhus tox* is more restless, *Sulphuricum acidum* is more hurried, *Nitricum acidum* may be litigious.

Two other articles deal with *Ruta* in this issue: a clinical case from Dr Ramon Frendo (themes of mistrust and of delusions of guilt), and another clinical case from Dr Simone Fayeton (theme of feeling misled).

Revue Belge d'Homoeopathie 2004; 3: 74-115.

A Tarentula Case

P Godet

A young girl, aged eight, had a chronic cough for 3 years, throughout the year. She coughed while talking, while running, but not from cigarette smoke. She was

talkative and jealous of her sisters. She feared spiders, talked in her sleep, liked to dance and to write little books. She did not like being teased.

According to the author's analysis the medicine must belong to the animal kingdom (competition, sensitivity to mockery), and the spider family (dance, fear of spiders, better from smoking). These symptoms, along with dreams of monsters and of being assaulted led to the prescription of *Tarentula*, which cured the cough.

Les Echos du Centre Liegeois d'Homéopathie 2004; 104: 5 8, 43 46.

Sticta Pulmonaria

EV Eynden

A full account of the biology of this lichen is given. Then, the main psychic symptoms of this medicine are recalled: feels as if floating in the air, desires to talk to someone and does not care whether anyone listens, cannot collect thoughts. There is lack of affectation, lack of constraint, without any ulterior motives. Everything has to be connected.

Other symptoms include: feeling of fullness at the root of the nose, constant need to blow the nose, but no discharge; hay fever, incessant dry, hacking cough which prevents sleep; inflammation of affected joint, chorea-like spasms, restless hands and feet; profuse sweat on hands.

Finally, *Sticta* is compared with *Bismuthum* (no hierarchy with *Sticta*, hierarchy and relationship between mother and child with *Bismuthum*), with *Ruta* and with *Euphorbium*.

Revue Belge d'Homoeopathie 2004; 4: 176-195.

French-Language journals reviewed by Ph.Colin

Low-Field NMR Studies on Silica

Low-field (0.02-4 MHz) proton nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) longitudinal relaxometry was applied to ultrahighly diluted aqueous solutions in order to detect physical modifications induced in the solvent by the dilution process. A mixture of silica-lactose ($1.67 \cdot 10^{-5}$ M silica, $2.92 \cdot 10^{-2}$ lactose) was initially solubilized in water or in saline, then submitted to 18 iterative centesimal dilutions in water or in saline under vigorous vortex agitation and rigorously controlled atmospheric conditions, and compared to similarly

treated pure water and saline as controls. Several independent series of samples were measured according to a blind protocol (total of 140 code-labelled samples). A slight frequency dispersion (about 4%) was found within the 0.02–4 MHz range, centered around 0.55 MHz, and ascribed to combined effects of silica and trace paramagnetic contaminants, both concentrated and in a reduced motion at the borosilicate wall tube interface. The iterative dilution–agitation process in pure water and saline induced no significant effect on relaxivity. Slightly increased relaxivity compared to solvent was found in the initial silica–lactose dilution (especially in saline, about 4%), which vanished unexpectedly slowly upon dilution, as

adjusted to an arbitrary log-linear model. Statistical analysis was applied to succeed in discriminating solutions from their solvents beyond the 10^{-12} level of dilution. No clear explanation emerged, but post-experiment chemical analysis revealed high amounts (6 ppm) of released silica from the glass material used, with excess in silica–lactose samples, and lower amounts of trace paramagnetic contaminants in highly diluted silica–lactose samples, which could provide a clue.

Appl Magn Reson 2004; 26: 465–481.

doi:10.1016/j.homp.2005.02.01, available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>