

Peter Fraser Drug Remedies

Reading excerpt

[Drug Remedies](#)

of [Peter Fraser](#)

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MONOAMINES

Many of the neurotransmitters and their analogues are Monoamines consisting of an Amino (NH₂) connected to a carbon ring by a chain of two carbons. For most of them the basic carbon skeleton is Phenylethylamine. The most basic ones are Catecholamines which include Adrenaline (Epinephrine), Noradrenaline (Norepinephrine) and Dopamine.

MONOAMINE ALKALOIDS

Monoamine Alkaloids have a nitrogen molecule in the carbon ring and an attached amine. They are therefore both Monoamines and Alkaloids. These are conventionally regarded as Monoamines more than Alkaloids but the definitions tend to be fairly blurred. They have some of the qualities of both. As Alkaloids they are more complex in their actions and as Monoamines they tend to be metabolized very quickly.

MONOAMINE OXIDASE

Part of the action of Monoamines is dependent on the fact that they are short lived and do not hang around after acting. This is brought about by their swift breakdown by the enzyme Monoamine Oxidase (MAO). However, this means that many Drugs based on Monoamines are broken down before they have a chance to act. There are a number of substances that inhibit the action of Monoamine Oxidase. These MAO Inhibitors (MAOIs) can have a drug like effect in themselves in that they increase the natural levels of Monoamines. They are also used in combination with Monoamine Drugs, allowing them to survive ingestion and persist in the body.

ALKALOIDS

Alkaloids are the active principle in most plant remedies and many of the properties of plant remedies are related to the alkaloids that they contain. However, the importance of which alkaloids are found in a substance has less obvious importance

to the remedy picture than one might expect. This is partly because there are so many different alkaloids interacting within a substance that often there is not one that dominates. The remedy picture is also made up of so much more than just its chemical constituents. A corollary of this is that there are very few important remedies made from the active alkaloids, as compared to those made from the original substances. For the pharmaceutical industry, the isolation and refinement of the alkaloids is vital and many of these alkaloids are used in pure form as Pharmaceuticals. Though many of them have been at least partially proved, very few of them have become major remedies. One of the exceptions is Diamorphine (Heroin), which does have a wide picture and is more extensively used. One reason is probably that it has been very well proved, whilst another is that it plays such an important role in society both in reality and as metaphor. There are probably a few others that, if well proved, would provide a wider picture - Cocaine springs to mind. However, even Heroin does not have the breadth and depth of symptoms that Opium does and Cocaine is unlikely to match Coca.

The Alkaloids are generally named after the plant in which they are found: Atropine from *Atropa belladonna* etc. They can be grouped by the carbon skeleton on which they are based. There are some strong similarities between related alkaloids. The Tropanes are found in the Solanaceae and are responsible for some of their Deliriant qualities. Many Opiates have an Isoquinoline skeleton; while those with Indole skeletons tend to be Hallucinogens. The endogenous neurotransmitters are often Phenethylamines as are their exogenous analogues. Mescaline is an Hallucinogen, but it is a Phenethylamine rather than an Indole. This helps explain why it has aspects of its picture that are close to MDMA but it also shows that there is more to the effect of a drug, and so of a remedy, than just its chemical structure.

ARSENICUM

An Stm ADD

As_2O_3

Von Bibra includes Arsenic in his *Plant Intoxicants*, though much as an afterword, and it is undoubtedly worth a mention here. Arsenic is known as a violent poison and was the mainstay of the Victorian poisoner. Yet it has been used by a number of peoples as what could be described as a very physical intoxicant. The human body has a remarkable ability to become acclimatized to increasing doses of the poison, and if this acclimatization takes place it is possible for someone to take many times the usual fatal dose without ill effect. In fact they feel considerably better for it. It was used by people in the Austrian Alps in much the same way that Coca is used in the Andes. Eating Arsenic allows the mountain people to climb more easily, to breathe better in the thin air and to carry-greater loads. A secondary use of the drug is to create a certain robustness and an appearance of good health. "Taking Arsenic (especially while the Moon is waxing) creates a ruddy plumpness and the appearance of excellent health and strength/" How much of this is illusionary is hard to tell from the literature. Arsenic is also given to livestock to make them appear plump and healthy. Butchers were very wary of such animals because their meat never lived up to expectations, so any appearance of health is probably not entirely real. Horses react particularly well to doses of Arsenic. Itinerant horse dealers were known to dose horses with Arsenic before putting them up for sale so they would appear healthier and stronger than they actually were. The Austrian aristocracy also used to feed Arsenic to their horses so they appeared exceptionally healthy and expensive. It is said **that** Thomas Maugham likened the Arsenicum picture to that of a well bred Arabian horse and regarded it as the most superior of disease states, second only to health.

It is a remedy in which jealousy is very strong and comes out of a misperception of what is happening. There is paranoia. They feel vulnerable and fragile and that they have been judged, criticized and humiliated. She feels stupid and embarrassed.

The dreams are also pushed to an extreme but this makes them very difficult to interpret or classify. All that can really be said about them are that they are vivid, confused, complex and often fearful or erotic.

The physical symptoms include dryness, itching and heaviness but also a sense of energy moving through the body, trembling, tingling and throbbing. The senses are all acute, especially vision and hearing. There is great hunger and thirst with a particular desire for sweets, apples and alcohol and an aversion to tobacco smoke. Nausea is a strong feature as is bloating of the abdomen.

Not only is the taste in the mouth metallic but pains are also described as metallic.

The head and eyes are the major affinities but so is the respiration, which is tight and restricted. There is a lot of coughing.

MESCALINE

Mescaline is an hallucinogenic alkaloid found in several cactus species and some other plants including some of the Fabaceae. It is used in a number of South and Central American shamanistic and religious rituals. Chemically it is a phenethylamine and so it is structurally related to the endogenous neurotransmitters such as Dopamine and Adrenaline (Epinephrine) and the exogenous drugs such as the Amphetamines and MDMA.

Its effects are in some ways a bridge between the Amphetamines, especially MDMA, and the Hallucinogens, such as LSD.

Of the major Entheogens and Hallucinogens, it is perhaps the most human and most gentle. It does not have the harshness of LSD and does not go to quite the depths that Ayahuasca and Ibogaine do.

It is credited as being a doorway that opens the mind. Hence Huxley uses a quotation from Blake "*The Doors of Perception*" as the title for his book on Peyote. The San Pedro cactus is so called because, like the Apostle, it has the key that opens the Gates to Heaven.

The alkaloid itself does not seem to have been made into a remedy. But its effects are seen in Peyote and San Pedro cactus.

ANHALONIUM LEWINII

Ang, Sed, An, Hal, Psy, En, Emp, Aph

PhthmethyUunines QAescaline, Hordenine, Anhaloninine, Anhaline).

Cactaceae 663.14.17

The cactus itself is now called *Lophophora williamsii* but the remedy is still referred to as Anhalonium. The drug and the remedy are made from the button-like tubercle from which the flower grows. These are called mescal buttons, peyote buttons or just peyote. Much of the plant's body is underground.

Peyote has been used as a recreational drug for at least a century, but also has profound religious aspects and has been a tool of self development and for increasing self consciousness. It is the Hallucinogen that has the longest and most significant history of use in homoeopathy.

The principal effect of Anhalonium is depersonalization. The personal world expands and seems to permeate the entire universe. There is a loss of ego. There is a sense of connection to the cosmos, the divine, to nature and to history. Strong imagery of time and space stretching endlessly in every direction. There is also a human and sympathetic connection to other people or to particular animals. This sympathy can lead to the taking on of the emotions and anxieties of other people. The remedy has an undertone of sadness and melancholy that can be attached to these connections with a cosmic sadness for the world or a sad compassion for others.

The understanding, particularly awareness, is greatly expanded while the will is much reduced and restricted. Volition becomes



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