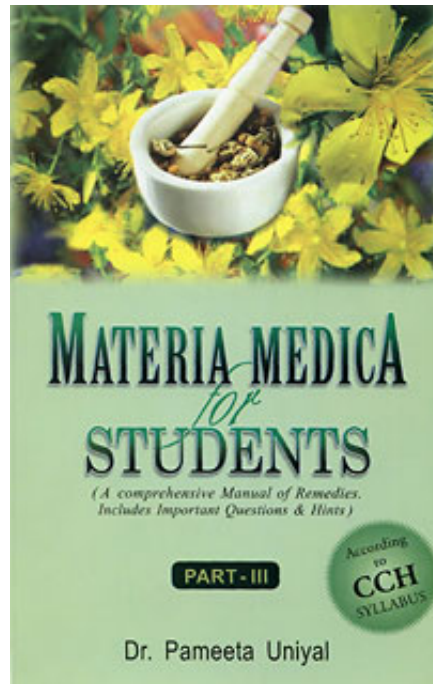


Pameeta Uniyal

Materia Medica for Students Part-III

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1

ACTAEA SPICATA

COMMON NAME

- Baneberry
- Black snakeroot
- Herb Christopher
- Bugbane
- Toad root

PROVER

Petroz

SOURCE

Vegetable kingdom
Family: *Ranunculaceae*
Part used: Roots

INTRODUCTION

- *Actaea spicata* is derived from the word "*Actaea*" which means the elder tree from the resemblance of the leaves and "sp/ca" which means a spike.
- Commonly called "Bugbane" because of its offensive smell which is said to drive away vermin.
- Toads seem to be attracted by the smell of Baneberry which causes it to be termed "Toadroot," the name arising possibly also from its reference for the damp shady situations in which the toad is found.
- It contains an amorphous resinous substance, cimicifugin and a bitter crystalline substance, racemosin.
- It is not a very well proved medicine.
- Only concerned with subacute and *not acute* rheumatism.
- It is a rheumatic remedy like the *Actaea racemosa* but affects more prominently the small joints with a preference for the wrists characterized by tearing and tingling pains.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION

This agent produces congestion of the liver and a rheumatoid inflammation of the small joints.

CONSTITUTION

Best suited to:

Old people especially men.

Note:

[Actaea racemosa = Suits women.]

TEMPERAMENT

Nervous temperament.

THERMAL RELATIONSHIP

Chilly patient.

AILMENTS FROM

1. Fright
2. Fatigue

MIASM

Psora in the background.

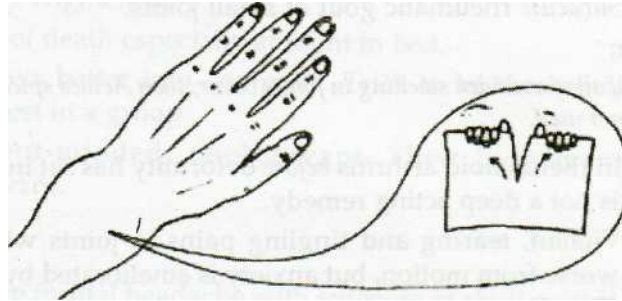
DIATHESIS

Rheumatic diathesis.

KEYNOTES

- Remedy for wrist rheumatism though it affects other small joints like fingers, ankles or toe joints also.

ACTAEA SPICATA



Affects wrist

Violent tearing pain



Suits generally old men

Note:

\ *Actaea mcmosa* = Affects large joints, i.e. rheumatism of the [belly of the muscles or of the lower extremities.

- *Subacute* rheumatic gout of small joints.

Note:

[If all of a sudden swelling in joints occur, then *Actaea spicata* is [not used.

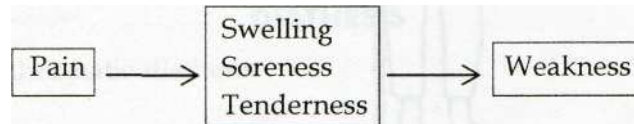
- In rheumatoid arthritis *before* deformity has set in, since it is not a deep acting remedy.
- Violent, tearing and tingling pains in joints which are worse from motion, but anxiety is ameliorated by motion (**Peculiar symptom**).

E.g. After an enjoyable day an *Actaea spicata* patient may go back home to rest, but as soon as he *lies down*, there appears a kind of *anxiety* that forces him to get up and move about in order to be relieved (like *Mag. mur.*) because *motion ameliorates the anxiety*.

- *Swelling of joints after slight fatigue* as in toes from walking, in hands after working (**Peculiar symptom**).

E.g. A man may go out feeling well for a Tennis match and after a comparatively small amount of exertion starts having pain and swelling in the joints. He will then be forced to give up the game and take some rest, because as the swelling progresses any kind of movement is intolerable.

- *Great weakness of joints after the pain subsides..*

Note:

- *Easily fatigued* physically, emotionally and mentally.
- Pulsations over whole body especially liver and renal region.
- Sudden lassitude after eating (Peculiar symptom).

PARTICULARS

MIND

1. Easily frightened.
2. Fear of death especially at night in bed.
3. Always better in a company. Tries to be the center of interest in a group.
4. Absent-minded, unobservant. Their judgement is *perplexed*.

HEAD

1. Severe frontal headache with soreness of skull excited by drinking coffee.
2. Forehead feels empty when stooping.
3. Small pimples with itching of scalp.
4. Warm sweat.
5. Pain from decayed teeth to temples.

EYES

1. Sharp pain which radiates to head.
2. Everything he looks at seems blue.

Note:

<i>Capsicum</i>	=	<i>Black</i>
<i>Arsenic</i>	=	<i>Green</i>
<i>Camphor</i>	=	<i>Bright and glittering.</i>
<i>Cina</i>	=	<i>Yellow</i>
<i>Hyoscyamus</i>	=	<i>Red spots before eyes.</i>
<i>Ruta</i>	=	<i>Candle light seems surrounded by red halo.</i>

EARS

1. Pain on sneezing or blowing the nose.

FACE

1. Cheek he lies on sweats.

2. Neuralgia
Aggravation: Slightest touch or movement of muscles.

RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS

Nose

1. Fluent coryza.

Throat

1. Soreness when speaking or when breathing cold air.

Lungs

1. Difficult inspiration.
Aggravation: Night, while lying and on exposure to fresh air.

Chest

1. Great oppression.

CIRCULATORY SYMPTOMS

1. Cardiovascular spasms.
2. Urging sensation in heart towards abdomen and region of liver with great anxiety at night.

GIT SYMPTOMS

Mouth

1. Pains of violent, tearing, drawing character running from decayed tooth to temples.
2. Palpitation, throbbing and pulsation of all arteries whenever patient chews food.
3. Increased salivation.
4. Fetor oris.

Stomach

1. Epigastric tenderness with *sour vomiting* and difficult breathing.
2. *Sudden lassitude after eating.*
- 3-. Shuddering after drinking.
4. *Cancer of the stomach* with tearing, drawing pains.

Abdomen

1. Pain and tenderness in liver region.

Rectum

1. Spasmodic contraction of anus.

URINARY SYMPTOMS

Clinical: Renal calculi

1. Throbbing pain and tenderness in kidney region.
2. Urine: Deposition of white sediment.

SEXUAL SYMPTOMS**Male**

1. Establish easy and good contact especially with the opposite sex, are prone to flirt with and go after women, thus becoming womanisers, which soon degenerates to a type of debauch. It is in this state that they may develop *self-deception*, a false esteem about their own self and their abilities and become egocentric and egoistical.

Female

1. Menses suppressed by violent emotions as fright or by cold.

NERVOUS SYMPTOMS

1. Paralytic weakness in hands.

LOCOMOTOR SYMPTOMS

Extremities

1. Violent, tearing and drawing rheumatic pains in small joints especially wrists besides fingers, ankles and toes from slight fatigue.
2. Joints swollen. Touch intolerable, motion impossible, pressure on palm intolerable — it is a permanent feature.
3. Great weakness in affected limbs, especially right arm as if paralyzed.

Note:

<i>Apocyanum</i>	= Joints feel stiff, especially on moving in the morning.
<i>Aurum met.</i>	= Polyarthritis, nightly aggravation.
<i>Caulophyllum</i>	= Phalangeal and metacarpal joints affected, particularly in females.
<i>Guaiacum</i>	= In spoiled cases of arthritis, deformity of small joints and also of large joints.
<i>Ledum pal</i>	= Starting of gout from ball of great toes and troubles ascend.
<i>Sabina</i>	= Rheumatism of the heels in plethoric women. Pains worse in a warm room.

FEVER

1. Shuddering after drinking followed by fever during which vomiting occurs.
2. Furious delirium during heat stage.

SLEEP

1. Obstinate insomnia (*Coffea*).

MODALITIES

AGGRAVATION

- Change of weather or temperature
- Slight exertion
- Touch
- Movement
- Cold air
Night
- Mental exertion

AMELIORATION

- Company

DOSAGE

Mother tincture to 3x.

Note:

[Actaea spicata is also prescribed for the deforming, climacteric arthropathy of the finger joints.]

RELATIONSHIP

<p>FOLLOWS WELL Nux vomica</p>	<p>SIMILAR TO Caulophyllum, Sabina, Colocynth and Sticta in rheumatism</p>
<p>COLLATERAL Actaea racemosa and other Ranunculaceae</p>	<p>COMPARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnica, Bryonia, Caulophyllum (Rheumatism of fingers) • Lycopodium, Rhus tox, Sticta and Salicylic acid (small joints)

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS?

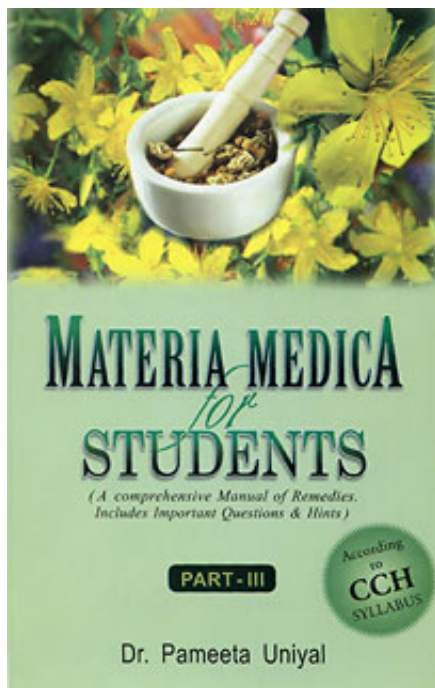
Q 1. Describe the action of Actaea spicata on joints? Q 2. Differentiate between the following remedies in rheumatism:

- (a) Actaea spicata and Actaea racemosa?
- (b) Actaea spicata and Phytolacca?
- (c) Actaea spicata and Bryonia?

Hints:

ACTEA SPICATA	BRYONIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient goes out feeling tolerably comfortable but as he walks for a while or has done some little work or exercise, his joints begin to ache and even swell compelling him to hurry home in disgust. • Pains worse from slight exertion. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local inflammation is violent, the parts are very hot and dark or pale red. • Pains worse from motion. • The bowels are constipated.





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