

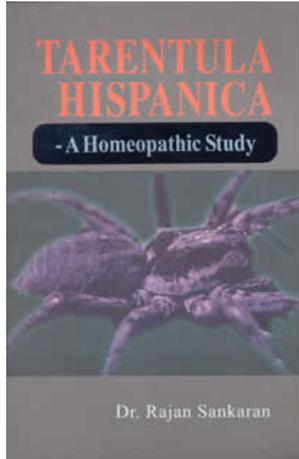
# Rajan Sankaran Tarentula Hispanica

Reading excerpt

[Tarentula Hispanica](#)

of [Rajan Sankaran](#)

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## TARENTULA HISPANICA

*"My brain more busy than the labouring spider,  
Weaves tedious snares to trap mine enemies."*

(Henry VI Shakespeare)

**Tarantula Hispanica** is a large venomous South European *Wolf Spider*, which is found in Italy and Spain. The proving of this drug was carried out by Nunez in 1846 on ten doctors and eight laymen. The main action of this drug is on *Nervous, Heart, Spine, Respiration, Generative sphere* and *Right side*.

*Tarentula* is one of the most interesting of the spider poisons and we can get a better concept of it if we study its habits. Spiders were probably the first kind of animals to come and live on dry land instead of in the water. The name of this class is *Arachnida* and it also includes the scorpions. The name really means "*Children of Arachne*" and according to the story, Arachne was a lady who lived in ancient Greece and was famous for her skill in weaving. She became so conceited and thought her work so wonderful that she had the audacity to challenge the Goddess Athene to a weaving contest. Athene was the Goddess of all weaving and naturally she did the finest work, but Arachne's effort was so good that it aroused the jealousy and wrath and Athene tore Arachne's web to pieces. This all upset Arachne to the extent that she hanged herself, whereupon the Goddess changed her into a spider and condemned her to go on weaving forever. So Arachne's name was borrowed for all spiders and their relations:

Now, we would in brief differentiate between the scorpions and spiders.

**The Scorpions - Scorpionidea**, differs from the spider of first sight because of the long segmented abdomen, also called

the tail. The last segment of abdomen contains a gland, the poison blister, which ends in a curved sting. When the scorpion wants to sting, it grips the victim with its claws, bends the tail forward above the back, and stings several times in quick successions. The purpose of this is to paralyse the victims, which are insects and even other scorpions. These victims serve the purpose of food. Animals and human beings are also stung in self-defence.

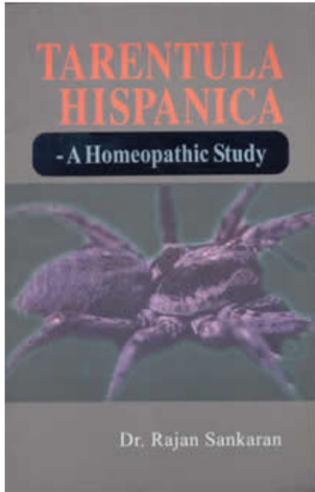
There are 500 different species of scorpions in hot countries all over the world and they vary in size from half-an-inch to seven inches. They also vary in the type of poison they carry and its virulence. The poison is neurotoxic. The symptoms resemble poisoning with strychnine. The first homoeopathic proving of spider poison was carried on by Azam in 1938 on *Buthus Australis* in a 6c potency. The symptoms observed in the proving were typically the ones that follow a scorpion sting. The sting produces a sharp pain followed by numbness of the limb, speech becomes difficult, discharge of saliva is copious, the patient becomes restless and there is a strange feeling of icy coldness\* along with stumbling gait, vertigo and inability to concentrate.

**Spiders - Arachnida** : There are two type of spiders :

1. *Aranomorphae* or *Dipneumones*, with one pair of lungs.
2. *Mygalomorphae* or *Tetrapneumones*, with two pairs of lungs.

Most species belong to the *Aranomorphae* and they are called the true spiders or *Tarentulas* (in the new nomenclature, tarentula is neither a family nor a species). The names *Tarentula Cubensis* and *Tarentula Hispanica* in our medical books require revision, as they do not show the difference between the two species. *Tarentula Hispanica* belongs to the *Lycosidae* family and is called *Lycosa (Honga) Hispanica*. *Tarentula Curensis* belongs to a family of *Mygalomorphae* and is called

\* This is similar to the sensation produced by *Heloderma*, the gila monster.



Rajan Sankaran

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