Reading excerpt

Text Book of Homoeopathic Materia Medica Vol.1
of Tapan Chandra Mondal
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Key-Points (Pen Picture)

Mind Rage, delusions of imaginary animals etc., worse 3 p.m. until midnight.

- **Head** Confusion, Pains throbbing, pulsating, darting, pressive, boring, burning.
- **Eyes** Heat and burning; heaviness of eyelids; dilated pupils; bloodshot; staring; red.
- **Nose** Fluent coryza of one nostril alternating with stoppage.
- **Throat** Very red and dry. Scrapping and shooting pain, principally on swallowing.
- **Abdomen** Tenderness aggravated by the least jar in walking or stepping.
- **Respiratory** Tenacious mucus in chest; catarrh with cough, coryza, hoarseness. Loss of voice. Great soreness in larynx.
- **Skin** Very red and hot; burns the hand that touches it; sweats on covered parts.

- **Worse** Worse in the afternoon; 3 p.m., 11 p.m. and after midnight, touch, motion, noise, draughts, cold applications.
- **Better** Sitting still and upright, warm applications and wraps.

**Belladonna**
**Belladonna**

**History and Authority**

Atropa belladonna derives its name from Atropus, the Greek Fate who cuts the thread of life. The plant was formerly widely used as a poison. Italian women used it in drops to dilate the pupils of their eyes more attractive, and it was used as a wash to remove pimples. Either of these uses might account for the name belladonna, or beautiful lady. The drug was in use in Hahhemann's time for a variety of conditions. Even before Hahhemann published his provings in 1805, he had been interested in the potential of Belladonna as a cure for scarlet fever, a commonly fatal children's disease, since the symptoms he had observed in accidental poisonings resembled those of the disease. Deadly nightshade was allegedly used in witchcraft and magic during the Middle Ages.

The Belladonna alkaloids atropine and hyoscine have many applications in contemporary allopathic practice. As eye drops, they are used to dilate the pupil and paralyze visual accommodation in eye examination and in treating eye diseases. Atropine like drugs are used in a wide variety of clinical conditions: to inhibit the effects of parasympathetic nervous system activity; in anesthesia; in cold preparations to reduce respiratory secretions; for bronchodilation; after heart attacks; as an antidote in organophosphorous insecticide poisoning and in fast acting mushroom poisoning.

Belladonna or the deadly nightshade, was known to the medical world as early as 1500 A.D. The Venetians named the plant “herba belladonna” from the circumstance that the ladies used it distilled in water as a cosmetic to brighten the eyes and flush the cheeks. The plant especially the leaves, yields the well known alkaloid Atropine. The root, too, contains Atropine, although in variable proportions Belladonna is intensely poisonous to man, though herbivorous animals may eat it with impunity.

Atropa belladonna, although every part of this plant is poisonous, it has been used throughout history for infections and inflammations.

The word “Belladona” is derived from two Latin words—'Bella' means fine, beautiful and 'Donna' means lady. Its generic name 'Atropa' comes from the Greek fate Atropus—who cuts the thread of life.


**Idea**

In human position—the affected part looks nice like a beautiful lady, Local rise of temperature, Redness, Pain at the site of inflammation. Swelling and thereby loss of function. The name of the medicine signifies of beautiful lady, yet a beautiful and an ugly lady alike would react suddenly and violently to any internal or external stimulus, openly or concealed, this medicine can do it also.

**Pharmaceutical Data**

**Botanical name**

ATROPA BELLADONNA.

**Common names**

1. Eng. : Deadly nightshade.

**Synonyms**

2. Lethelis.
3. Hortense
4. B. trichotoma.
5. Solanum fluriosum.

**Family**

Solanaceae.

**Source**

Vegetable Kingdom.

**Habitat**

Common in central and southern Europe. Cultivated in Kashmir and Simla. It is indigenous in Great Britain.

**Parts used**

The whole plant when it begins to flower is used for preparation of the mother tincture.

**Active principles**

1. Atrophine.
2. Hyoscyamine.
4. Scopalamine.
5. Apoatropine.

**Description**

It is a large bushy— perennial herb. The plant is 1-1.6 m high. The leaves are alternate below and in pair above, one bigger than the other. The flowers are axillary, stalked solitary, drooping. They bloom from May to August. The root is thick, juicy, branched and spreading. The leaves and flowers are chopped and pounded to a pulp to make the Homoeopathic remedy.

**Class**

1. Drug power : V.,
**Preparation**

1. *Mother tincture*
   - Belladonna in coarse powder: 100 gm.
   - Purified water: 567 ml.
   - Strong alcohol: 470 ml.
   - To make one litre of the mother tincture.

2. *Potencies*:
   - 2X to contain one part mother tincture, four parts of purified water and 5 parts of strong alcohol.
   - 3X and higher with dispensing alcohol.

**Physiological Actions**

**Central nervous system**
1. Motor and sensory paralysis.
2. Active congestion and inflammation.
3. Delirium.
4. Illusions.
5. Hallucination.

**Circulation**
1. Contracts the capillaries.
2. Stimulates the cardioinhibitory centre.

**Temperature**
Elevated one to three degrees F.

**Brain**
1. Mania.
2. Stupor.
3. Insomnia.
4. Congestion of the medulla and spinal cord.

**Nerve**
1. Sensory: Paralysis the terminals first and then the trunks.
2. Motor: Similar like the sensory.
3. Sympathetic: Excited instead of depression, affects primarily the extremities.

**Gland**
1. Congestion.
2. Inflammation.

**Urinary system**
1. Diuresis.
2. Stasis with diminution of urine.
3. Temporary suppression of urine.
4. Sphincter paralysed.

**Respiratory system**
1. Inflammation.
2. Pneumogastric nerve stimulated.

**Skin**
1. Erysipeltatous inflammation.
2. Copious perspiration.

**Eye**
1. Inflammation.
2. Mydriasis.

**Mucous membranes**
Secretions entirely arrested.

**Pathodynamis**
1. The brain and its membranes are involved in active congestion and inflammation. The sensorium is prominently affected, giving rise to delirium, illusions, hallucinations, mania, stupor and insomnia.

2. Belladonna acts as irritant to the entire nervous system, producing congestion of the medulla and spinal cord, and in consequence general hyperaesthesia of both sensory and motor nerves.

3. The special senses become intensely acute and at the same time perverted in function. In general all disturbances are inflammatory, in essence great irritability and impressionability of all the senses and excitement and perversion of the functions. Nerves (i) sensory—paralysis the terminals first, then the trunks (ii) Motor—similar like the sensory (iii) Sympathetic excited instead of depression affects primarily the extremities.

4. The mucous membranes chiefly affected are those of the eyes, month, throat, and the genitourinary organs. The glandular system is also affected with the characteristic congestion and inflammation suppression of the secretions. The glands of the mouth, throat, and bronchial mucus membrane have their secretion inhibited by a local depression of the terminal sensory and motor nerve fibres.

5. *Urinary system* excites circulation of kidneys causing diuresis or congestion and stasis with diminution or temporary suppression of urine.


   Breathing becomes quicker and deeper and the amount of air inspire per minute is increased.

7. *Circulatory*: (i) Paresis of the inhibitory fibres of the vagus. Heart beat increased both in frequency and force (ii) Stimulation of the sympathetic action on the circular fibres, arteries contracted and blood pressure increased. *CXK may show cardiomegaly.*
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