Patricia Hatherly

The Lacs - A Materia Medica & Repertory

Reading excerpt
The Lacs - A Materia Medica & Repertory
of Patricia Hatherly
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Fun-loving
Relaxed
Communicative
Percipient/ Clairvoyant
Joyful
Self-assured
Sensitive
Fearless
Fearful
Compulsive
Detached
Isolation <
Insecure
Lac Delphinum
Milk of the Bottlenose Dolphin

**Proving**
Nancy Herrick (1993)

**Keynote essence**

*Life’s a Ball of Fun*

**Mind:** activity; desire, for
  amusement; desire, for
  antics, plays
  play; desire to; playful in the water

Having fun is a light-hearted activity, and Herrick's¹ nominated themes of:

- **Laughter**
- **Play**
- **Communication and**
- **Groups**

encapsulate this keynote essence of lac-del.

The tendency for dolphins (while having fun) to flip end over end, nose to genital slit, is reminiscent of the Yin/Yang symbol.

On one level this symbol may be associated with Freud's

- **Coniunctio** . . . perfection in the balance of male and female energy,² while on another, more simply, with the associated themes of:

- **Circles** and
- **Black vs White**

**Circles**, according to Herrick is a key theme and "Patients in need of lac-del often use large gestures of the arms using a circular movement."

Movement in a clockwise direction has emerged as an unusual generality.

Also, according to Herrick, people who need this remedy have a strong tendency to be:

- **Clairvoyant**

When this is associated with their outgoing and fun loving nature, they can appear a lot like Phosphorus.

Interestingly, lac-del, like phos, seems to have a left-sided bias.

There is perhaps also a theme of:

- **Expansiveness**

¹ Herrick N: *Animal Mind. Human Voices*  
² Hatherly P: In danger (wolf at the door) I feel peaceful inside *Am J Horn Med* 2007; 100; Winter: 254-258

The Lacs A Materia Medico & Repertory
which is supported by various dream rubrics such as:

**Dream:** exaggerated colours and proportions
distorting everything
objects appearing larger than normal
surreal

The dream describing being grateful of having a sperm and egg combined and surgically put in the uterus, describes an event with the sure promise of expansion and is suggestive of another associative theme:

- **Pregnancy/Baby**

*Lac lupinum* themes which are similar and therefore consistent with the phylogenic connection between these two mammals, include:

- **Broad/Wide/Huge** and
- **Circles/Spirals**
- **Friends/Loving** is another *lac-lup* type theme

While having fun is a light-hearted activity, where there is **Light** there is also **Shadow**, and this conjures up a deeper perspective on the **Black vs White** theme and cements the link to *lac-lup*.

**Shadow** themes elicited by Herrick, include:

- **Intrusion**
- **Hiding**
- **Fear and**
- **Danger** (also to be found in *lac-lup* cases)

These lie more closely with other **Shadow** themes of:

- **Guilt with Responsibility** and issues concerning
- **Covering up vs Exposure** which were also apparent in the proving diaries.

**Prover 1**

**Dream:** "In house, front door with bevelled glass. One of the pieces was broken. Was told it was too expensive to repair it; told to cover it [the hole] up. Refused to cover it up and wanted it fixed. (Actual event several months later, my son was attacked and the exact bevelled glass door was broken by an attacker.)"

**Prover 2**

**Dream:** "Someone trying to get into my house. I was afraid of them, but it wasn't someone to do me harm but someone coming for a specific purpose to do a survey, but I didn't want them to notice that I was there so I was sneaking around in my house trying to avoid being seen. Didn't want to be noticed. Peeking through the window to see if he was there. Actually had eye contact with the man. A feeling of being exposed and wondering if I was; feeling like a two-way mirror where you can see out. Had eye contact with a man, bushy hair, sleepy-looking like a private detective. Feelings of nervousness. Worry about exposing myself, since pretending not to be there. Mystery."

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Excerpt from Patricia Hatherly: The Lacs
The sonar capacity of the dolphin is long-range and extremely penetrating. It can assess the stomach contents of a shark cruising over a mile away. There's no escape from its *percipience*. So, the additional theme of:

- **In danger (wolf at the door) I feel peaceful inside Mind:** delusion; danger, impression of; yet remains calm

is understandable on several levels.

**Miasm**  
Cancer

**Clinical issues**  
- **Vertigo** (*lac-m*)

Dolphins love to swim round and round and do so especially during sleeping when only one half of their brain shuts down. They stay in a tight-knit group with one eye open and spiral up and down in gentle succession taking an occasional breath.

**Sleep**: restless sleep . . . in small broken blocks . . . turning a lot; like a rotisserie all night

- Anxiety regarding birthing safely
- Achieving balance between the feminine and masculine principles which allows one to move beyond *needing* the group

**Modalities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worse for</th>
<th>Better for</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>night</td>
<td>snorkelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>morning</td>
<td>swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>exertion</td>
<td>exertion</td>
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<tr>
<td>eating</td>
<td>eating</td>
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<tr>
<td>wine</td>
<td>cognac (sore throat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>coffee</td>
<td>ice; cold drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>touch</td>
<td>pressure; rubbing; massage</td>
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<tr>
<td>heat</td>
<td>warm applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>draft of cold</td>
<td>air</td>
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<tr>
<td>lying down</td>
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<td>left side</td>
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</tbody>
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**Generalities**

Exertion; desires  
Swimming; enjoys every opportunity; enjoys night diving Snorkelling > *Lac-lup*, on the other hand, perceives water as dangerous.  
vs Awkward; stumbles; drops things

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3 Hatherly P: *ibid*  
5 Hatherly P: In danger (wolf at the door) I feel peaceful inside *Am J Horn Med* 2007; 100; Winter; 254-258
Exertion, (physical) aversion to; heaviness of body and lethargy, with Swelling; extremities, of (hands; legs; ankles; feet) Sharp localised pains; (here and there) body, in; < heat

**DIRECTION**

Left side *(phos)*
Right to left (circular rotation in a clockwise direction)

**ENERGETIC FLUCTUATIONS**

Pulse: frequent; accelerated; elevated; exalted; fast; innumerable; rapid; convulsions, during
vs Weakness;
enervation
afternoon (3—4 pm)
exertion, from
heat from; sun, of

**DIGESTIVE IMBALANCE**

Eating for pleasure instead of health
Alcohol (wine) < *(phos)*
Bloating; with eructations and flatus

**Mind**

**FUN-LOVING**
Activity; desire for
Amusement; desire for
Antics plays
Pleasure in food; loss of self-control
Play; desire to
Playful; water, in

**RELAXED**
Calm
Relaxed feeling; letting go
Tranquillity; serenity; calmness
Trifles; unimportant, seem

Being aggravated by trifles is the more usual rubric and *lac-del* is in the repertory under that rubric. That the opposite symptom emerged in two provers [9 and 17] is farther evidence of the tendency of *lac-del* to remain calm in the midst of chaos.

**COMMUNICATIVE**
Amorous disposition
Affectionate Touch people;
desire to Desires people
Love; animals, for
Communicative; expansive
Company; desire for
Attention, demands
PERCIPIENT
Clairvoyant
Mind: delusion; visions, has; closing eyes, on

JOYFUL
Jesting
Jovial
Laughing; s/if: spontaneous joy

SELF-ASSURED
Self-assured; feelings of; reliability, with
Creative

FEARLESS
Fearlessness; danger menaced him, as if; but without fear
Mind: delusion; danger, surrounded by; yet calm

Prover 10
Dream: "We were walking in a circle clockwise, around the perimeter of a crowded mezzanine in a mall. I asked why was she walking in a circle, and she said enemies were coming to get her, and she has to keep going so enemies wouldn't catch up to her . . . There was a languid swimming feeling as we were walking."
This is the state of the dolphin during sleep.
Mind: delusion; danger, impression of; yet remains calm

Prover 2
Dream: "Felt I am a strong influence. Solid. My friends would benefit from my strength . . . overall feeling of solidity, very strong, stable (like a big rock in a harbour)."
Fearlessness; snorkelling, during
Fearlessness; ocean, in
Whirlpool; desires to go in, daily

SENSITIVE
Irritability
Sensitive, oversensitive; noise; sleep; on falling asleep
Bored; intolerant of others
Capricious

Prover 7
(Female child): "5.30 pm in the car . . . complained too warm even though air conditioning was on and skin not warm to touch, and then too cold. Nothing OK . . . woke 4.30 am and asked me to read her a story. She is very insistent . . . we had an argument. Then demanding all kinds of things. Curtains open, another pillow, another sheet, drink water. Wanted to get dressed. This shirt, that shirt. Persistent, pulling at me."

COMPULSIVE
Touch things; impelled to
Colours; charmed by (light lavender; magenta associated with toxins)
Colours; desires bright
Mind: delusion; beautiful; things look

These rubrics, along with the desire for circular movement, put one in mind of the activities of an autistic individual. Interaction with dolphins is known to have a beneficial effect on brain-injured individuals.

**DETACHED**
Spaced-out feeling; s/if: fog between self and others
Spaced-out feeling; transient; s/if: I am a detached observer
Spaced-out feeling; s/if: a fog between self and another like looking through a wet window or a pane of glass with rain on it
Disorientation; sensation of; waking, on
Detached
Delerium; chill, during

**ISOLATED**
Alone; feels, he is
Alone; desire to be; feelings of disassociation, with
Introverted
Sentimental; music, with; past Hawaiian experience, for
Weep; desire to
Isolation; sensation of
Outcast
Mind: delusion; separated from the group, that he is
Mind: delusion; separated from the world, that he is

Prover 6
"Wanted to be with people but I felt shunned. Like outside a window, looking in. Like standing OUTSIDE a circle."

**FEARFUL**
A/f: fright or fear
Fear; of accidents
Mind: delusion: vehicle coming at me in the wrong lane
Fear: in a crowd
of impending danger
of robbers (lac-lup dreams of robbers/intruders)
Anxiety; eating, after Anxiety; children; (family); about, his Mind: delusion; enemies, surrounded, by
Mind: delusion; safe, she is not Anxiety regarding a safe situation to birth in

**INSECURE**
Insecurity; mental; sense of
Lacks self-confidence

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4 Hatherly P. Lac delphinum. the homopathic midwife Similia 2008: 20(2): 27-30
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