

Ignatia amara

Introduction

Prof.Dr.K.Senthil Kumaran, a young enthusiastic homoeopath serves as Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine in Government Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital at Thirumangalam, Madurai. Here in this article he illustrates the picture of Ignatia Amara

Prof. Dr.K.Senthil Kumaran

History

Ignatia amara (*Strychnos ignatii*) is a tree in the Loganiaceae family, native to the Philippines, particularly in Catbalogan and parts of China.

The plant was first described by the Czech Jesuite working in the Philippines, brother Georg Kamel who named its fruit as the Bean of St. Ignatius, after the founder of his religious order.

The seeds of Ignatia contain a larger proportion of strychnine than those of *Nux vomica*, yet there is a great difference between the characteristic features of the two drugs. Ign. has been called the "feminine" of the "masculine" *Nux-v*.

The consequences of worry or a worrying state of mind, no less than grief, call for Ign. an introverted state of mind.

Guernsey thus depicts the Ign. state of mind: "Any one suffering from suppressed or deep grief with long-drawn sighs, much sobbing, etc., also much unhappiness, cannot sleep, entirely absorbed in grief, for recent grief at the loss of a friend, disorders of the mind in general, particularly if actuated by grief, sadness, hopelessness, hysterical variableness, fantastic illusions."

A u t h o r

Prof. Dr.K.Senthil Kumaran, M.D(Hom)

HOD, Department of Medicine

Government Homoeopathic Medical College

Thirumangalam,

Madurai- 625706

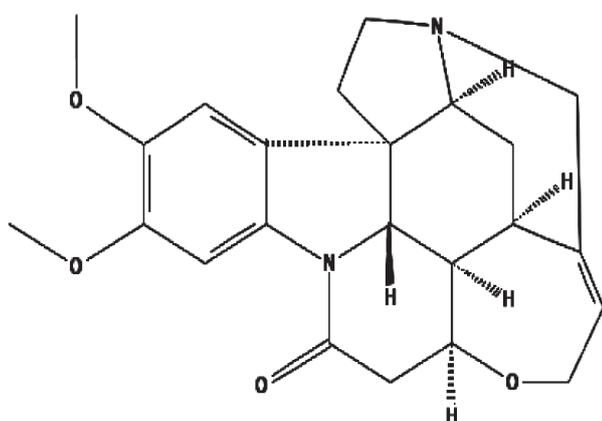
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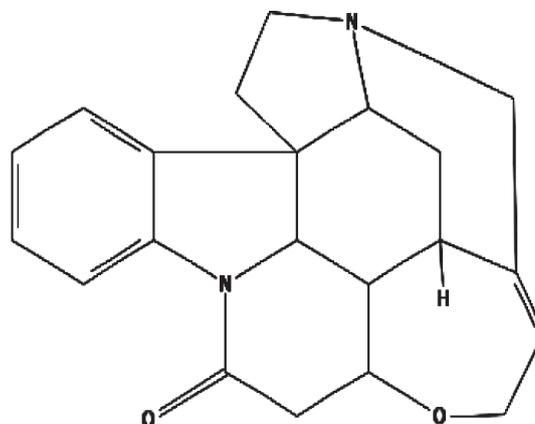
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Natural Order	Kingdom: Plantae	Order: Gentianales
	(unranked): Angiosperms	Family: Loganiaceae
	(unranked): Eudicots	Genus: Strychnos
	(unranked): Asterids	Species: S. ignatia .
Common Names	Ignatia amara Linné filius,	Strychnos ignatii Bergius
	Ignatiana philippinica Loureiro	Strychnos ovalifolia Wallich ex G. Don
	Strychnos hainanensis Merrill & Chun	Strychnos philippensis Blanco
Habitat	Climbing shrub growing in the Philippines, and parts of China.	
Constituents	The beans of the plant contain the alkaloids strychnine and brucine. Strychnine is highly toxic, with an LD50 of 1-2 milligrams per kilogram, and was formerly used in rat poisons. Brucine is also toxic, but less so.	
Preparations	Tincture or trituration from the powdered seeds.	
Proving's	Hahnemann's Materia Medica Pura, Jörg's Provings, Hartlaub Trinks	
Miasm	Psoric Miasm and Cancerous Miasm(H.Chaudhury and Sankaran)	

BRUCINE- $C_{23}H_{26}N_2O_4$



STRICHNINE- $(C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_2)$



Physiological action

Acts upon the medulla oblongata and the spinal nervous system, giving rise primarily to tetanic convulsions and dyspnoea, which may end in death

Mechanism of action

Strychnine and Brucine are neurotoxin which acts as an antagonist of glycine and acetylcholine receptors. It primarily affects the motor nerves in the spinal cord which control muscle contraction, Glycine acts primarily as an agonist of the glycine receptor, which is a ligand-gated chloride channel in neurons located in the spinal cord and in the brain. This chloride channel will allow the negatively charged chloride ions into the neuron, causing a hyperpolarization which pushes the membrane potential further from threshold.

Strychnine is an antagonist of glycine, which means it binds to the same receptor, preventing the inhibitory effects of glycine on the postsynaptic neuron. Therefore, action potentials are triggered with lower levels of excitatory neurotransmitters. When the inhibitory signals are prevented, the motor neurons are more easily activated and the victim will have spastic muscle contractions, resulting in death by asphyxiation

Ignatia Picture

Causation

Ill effects of disappointed love, grief, fright, worry, jealousy, old spinal injuries.

Constitution

It is adapted to the sensitive, excitable, nervous temperament, women of a sensitive, easily excited nature, dark hair and skin, but mild disposition, quick to perceive, rapid to execute. Romantic, idealistic and overworked. Suitable to persons who had been starving either from want or other causes. Planets: Moon, Mercury.

Modalities

Worse yawning, stooping, walking, standing, at the same

hour and day. Worse in the morning after meals, coffee, smoking, liquids, external warmth.

Better while eating, change of position, lying on affected part, urination, if alone. Better from pressure, deep breathing. Better from swallowing, eating, near a warm stove, sour things

Clinical Conditions

- Amenorrhea.
- Anger, effects.
- Disappointment.
- Dysmenorrhea.
- Epilepsy
- Fright, effects.
- Glands, enlarged.
- Grief, Headaches.
- Heart disorders.
- Hemorrhoids.
- Hiccoughs.
- Hysteria.
- Paralysis.
- Plague.
- Rectum, pain. Rectum, prolapsed.
- Rheumatic fever.
- Throat, sore.
- Tobacco, allergy.
- Toothache.
- Tremors.
- Urine, abnormal.
- Vagina, spasm.
- Voice, lost. Yawning.

Mind

Ailments from grief, fright or shocks, disappointments. Unhappy love. Sighing and sobbing. Inward weeping, enjoys being sad. Perfectionist. Highly emotional and moody.

Capricious. Changeable mood. Idealistic. Romantic. Oversensitive and nervous. Silently brooding. Constantly frustrated. Irritable. Worse from consolation. Not communicative. Desire to be alone. Angry with himself. Internal conflicts with herself.

Generalities

- Sense of Lump, foreign body or sharp pressure.
- Jerks run through the whole body.
- Tendency to start.
- Globus.
- Clavus.
- Hysteria.
- Chorea; after fright, from grief agg. after eating, amel. lying on back.
- Convulsions of children; during dentition; after punishment; after fear or fright; return at the same hour daily.
- Spasms, with cries or involuntary laughter.
- Tonic spasms of single parts, with frothing at the mouth.
- Spasms alternating with oppressed breathing.
- Pain in spot agg. close attention amel.
- Oversensitive to pain.
- Pains change their locality, come gradually, abate suddenly, or come and go suddenly.
- Symptoms pass after profuse urination.

Particulars

Head

- Headache as if a nail were driven out through the sides; end in yawning and vomiting; alternate with backache.
- Headache agg. or amel. by stooping.
- Throws head backwards; from weight at occiput; or during spasms.
- Vertigo, with sparks before the eyes.
- Loud talking agg. headache.

- Headache; from abuse of snuff, tobacco smoke, coffee, from close attention.

Eyes

- Asthenopia; with spasms of the lids, and neuralgic pains around the eyes.
- Flashes of light, from violent coughing.
- Eyelids seem dry.
- Flickering, zigzags before the eyes.

Ears

- Roaring amel. by music.
- One ear red and hot.
- Deafness, except for human voice.

Nose

- Sensitive to inspired air.
- Pain over the root of the nose.
- Sneezing attacks.
- Cold, with hot knees.

Face

- Twitching of the muscles of face and lips.
- Redness and heat of one cheek; red and pale alternately.
- Masseters stiff and hard.
- Emotional trismus.
- Change colour often when at rest.
- Facial muscles distort on attempting to speak.

Mouth

- Spasmodic closing of the jaws; bites inside cheek or tongue when talking or chewing.
- Corners twitch.
- Taste sour.
- Toothache agg. after drinking coffee and smoking.
- Sudden attacks of salivation.

Throat

- Inflamed, hard swollen tonsils, with small ulcers on them.
- Follicular tonsillitis.
- Feeling as of a lump, when not swallowing or that cannot be swallowed; amel. eating solids.
- Tendency to choke - Globus hystericus.
- Stitches extend to ear; between acts of swallowing.
- Submaxillary glands painful when moving the neck.
- Cramps in gullet.
- Goitre.

Stomach

- Hunger, with nausea.
- Craves raw or indigestible things; sour things, bread esp. rye bread.
- Appetite for various things, but when offered appetite fails.
- Aversion to warm food, meat, alcohol, tobacco.
- Empty sinking or spasmodic ache in stomach not amel. by eating; amel. by taking and deep breath.
- Hiccough; with eructations empty or bitter; after eating, drinking, smoking.
- Nausea or vomiting amel. indigestible things.

Abdomen

- Colicky griping pain in one or both sides of the abdomen.
- Stools - painful, difficult although soft.
- Constrictive sore pain in the rectum, like from blind haemorrhoids, remains one or two hours after stools.
- Obstipation of neurasthenics.
- Pain shoots up in rectum.
- Piles amel. sitting; agg. coughing.
- Prolapsus of rectum; from moderate straining at stools.
- Pressure as of a sharp instrument from within outwards.
- Painless contractions of anus.
- Haemorrhage and pain agg. when stool is loose.
- Constipation; from taking cold; from riding in a carriage; urging

to stool with erection.

Male

- Erection during stool.
- Sweat on scrotum.
- Penis; contracted, becomes small

Female

- Menses; irregular; black, too early, too profuse, or scanty; suppressed from grief.
- Chronic leucorrhoea, with sexual desire.
- Sexual frigidity.

Heart

- Palpitation, during menses.
- Anxious feeling in the region.

Respiratory

- Takes deep Breath; for relief.
- Choking; spasms of glottis.
- Dry, hacking spasmodic cough in quick successive shocks; shutting of the breath; cough; as from dust or sulphur fumes.
- Coughing increases the desire to cough.
- Cough, everytime he stands still during a walk.
- Constriction of the chest, feels as if too small.
- Whispering voice, cannot speak loudly.
- Sleepy after coughing.
- Stitches in nipples on deep inspiration.

Neck and back

- Stiffness of the nape of the neck.
- Convulsive bending backwards of the back.

Extremities

- Jerking in limbs.
- Warm sweat on the palms.
- Cramps in calves.
- Heavy feet.

- Dislocative pain in joints.
- Knees are involuntarily drawn upwards, when walking.
- Trembling of hands when writing in anyone's presence.
- Burning in heels on placing them near one another, when they come in contact they are cold to touch; agg. at night.
- Sciatica agg. in winter; amel. in summer.
- Corns painful as if sore.
- Knees hot with cold nose.
- As if flesh was loose on bones from a blow.

Skin

- Painful amel. Pressure
- Nettle rash over the whole body with violent itching (during fever).

Sleep

- Violent spasmodic yawning, with running from eyes.
- Sleep light; every sound wakes.
- Jerking of limbs on going to sleep.
- Somnambulism from wounded honour.
- Dreams; same horrid dreams over the over again.
- Child awakes from sleep with piercing cries and trembles all over
- Hiccough, chewing motions of mouth in sleep. (children).

Fever

- Chill with red face.
- Shaking chill with thirst.
- Sweat agg. on eating; often on a small spot on the face.
- Heat, with aversion to uncover but no thirst.
- Chill, during pains.
- Feeling as if sweat would break out, but does not.

Relations

- Antidoted by: Puls.(chief antidote), Arn., Camph., Cham., Cocc., Coff.
- It antidotes: Brandy, coffee, chamomile tea tobacco, Sel., Zinc.
- Compatible: Ars., Bell., Calc., Chin., Lyc., Nux-v., Puls., Rhus-t.,

Sep., Sulph., Zinc.

- Incompatible: Coffee, Tabac., Nux-v. (sometimes).

Compare

- 1 Phos-ac. - grief, especially for chronic condition. Disappointed love.
- 2 Difficult swallowing of liquids, Bell., Caust., Cina, Hyos., Lach., Lyc.,
- 3 Globus hystericus, Lach., Lyc., Plb.
- 4 Worry and its effects, Nux-v., Sulph
- 5 Jealousy, Apis, Lach., Hyos
- 6 Sep. - sinking, gone sensation, with Ign. it is attended with sighing.
- 7 Croc. - irresistible fits of laughter, rapidly alternating mental states
- 8 In functional paralysis from fatigue, emotions or worms, Stann., Cocc., Phos.
- 9 In uterine spasms, Cocc., Cham., Mag-m., Cimic.
- 10 Hysteria, Cupr., Plat., Hyos., Asaf., Mosch., Valer., Nux-m.
- 11 Lyc. - sinking sensation at night, preventing sleep, canine hunger at night, also Chin
- 12 Sudden effects of emotions, Staph., Op.

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