Vaikunthanath Das Kaviraj
Homoeopathy for Farm and Garden

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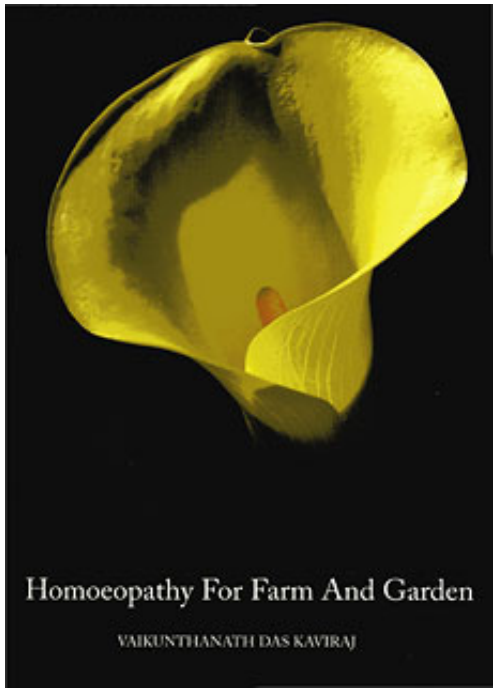
Homoeopathy for Farm and Garden
von Vaikunthanath Das Kaviraj



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Contents

Homoeopathic Foundation 1

The Cause of Disease *1*
The Totality of Symptoms *3*
The Similimum *4*
The Single Remedy *6*
The Minimum Dose *6*

Agriculture 10

The Commercial Method *12*
The Natural Method *13*
The Chemical Method *15*
Genetic Engineering and Biological Control *17*
Modern Farming Methods *19*
A Real Alternative *20*
An Example *21*

Soil Structure and Plant Physiology 24

The Soil *24*
Organic Matter *25*
Insects *25*
Deposition *26*
Nutrients *27*

Plant Structure and Tissues. 37

The Roots *37*
Sterns *38*
Leaves *38*
Photosynthesis *39*
Flowers *39*

How to Use the Remedies 40

Materia Medica **42**

Acetic Acid ***43***
Aconitum Napellus ***44***
Allium Cepa ***46***
Ammonium Carbonicum ***47***
Ammonium Muriaticum ***49***
Aranea Diadema ***51***
Arnica Montana ***52***
Belladonna ***53***
Berberis ***56***
Bombyx ***57***
Borax ***58***
Bovista ***59***
Calcarea Carbonica ***60***
Calcarea Fluorata ***63***
Calcarea Phosphorica ***64***
Calendula ***66***
Camphora ***68***
Cantharis ***70***
Carbo Vegetabilis ***71***
Chamomilla ***73***
Coccinella ***75***
Coccus ***76***
Cochlearia ***77***
Coriandrum Sativum ***78***
Cuprum Metallicum ***79***
Cuprum Sulphuricum ***81***
Delia ***83***
Equisetum ***84***
Ferrum ***85***
Ferrum Phosphoricum ***87***
Ferrum Sulphuricum ***89***
Helix* Tosta** ***91
Hyssop ***92***
Kali Carbonicum ***93***
Kali Muriaticum ***95***
Kali Nitricum ***98***
Kali Permanganicum ***99***

Kali Phosphoricum 100
Kali Sulphuricum 101
Lactic Acid 102
Lapis Albus 103
Magnesia Carbonica 105
Magnesia Muriatica 107
Magnesia Phosphorica 108
Magnesia Sulphurica 110
Manganum 111
Mentha 113
Natrum Carbonicum 115
Natrum Muriaticum 116
Natrum Phosphoricum 118
Natrum Salicylicum 119
Natrum Sulphuricum 120
Nitricum Acidum 121
Ocymum 122
Oxalic Acid 123
Phosphorus 124
Porcellio 128
Ricinus Communis 129
Ruta 130
Salicylic Acid 131
Salvia Officinalis 141
Sambucus Nigra 142
Satureia Hortensis 143
Secale Cornutum 144
Silicea 146
Sulphur 149
Tanacetum Vulgäre 152
Teuer/um /Warum 153
Thuja 154
Trombidium 155
Urea 156
Ustilago 157
Valeriana 159
Viburnum Opulus 160
Zincum 161

Repertory 163
General 164
Roots 165
Sterns 165
Capillary 166
Leaves 166
Flowers 167
Generative 168
Fruits 168
Seed 169
Named Diseases 169
Pests 171
Nutrients 173
Cause 174
Modalities 175

Future Development 176

Bibliography 177
Books 177
Periodicals 178

Photo Credits 180

Index 181

Dedication 191

Plant Structure and Tissues.

The plant body is 'upside down', the roots being the equivalent of the mouth, the stem is the backbone, while the leaves form the respiratory, digestive and urinary Systems. Therefore, we begin at the bottom, just as in most materia medicas for humans the division begins at the head.

The Roots

The roots fulfil diverse functions, not the least of which is the anchoring of the plant. They also take up nutrients and water. They also anchor the topsoil, thus reducing erosion. Two other functions are storage and conduction. Most roots are important storage organs. Examples are the potato, the carrot, sugar beet and onion. The foods are manufactured above ground in photosynthesis and are transported through the phloem to the roots where they are stored. Sometimes the roots themselves are the food, but generally it is digested and the products of this process are channelled back through the xylem to the above ground parts to be processed again. The phloem and xylem form the capillary System, comparable to the circulation in humans.

In the biennials - plants that require two years to reach maturity - great quantities of food are stored in the roots in the first year. In the second year these are used to produce flowers and fruits or seeds. Water and nutrients are absorbed by the roots and move through the xylem to the leaves. Some hormones are produced in the roots, such as cytokinins and gibberellins, which are also transported upwards because they are needed for growth and development.

The different root Systems can be classified easily. The primary root comes from the embryo of the seed. In some plants this becomes a taproot, growing vertically downward with lateral roots developing out of it. The older lateral roots are situated near the base of the root, where root and stem meet. The younger ones are found near the tip. This taproot system is found in dicots and gymnosperms. In monocots the primary root is short lived and additional roots form from the stem. These, together with the lateral roots form a fibrous root system. In such a System all roots are equally important. The extent of a root system is dependent on a variety of factors, which include moisture content of the soil, its temperature, and the composition of the soil. Some roots occupy a much larger space Underground than the whole of the plant above ground. Alfalfa roots go to a depth of 6 meters or more. A 4 month old rye plant had roots which covered an area of 639 m^2, or 130 times the area of the above ground shoots. Yet the roots covered only 6 litres of soil.

During the growth cycle of a plant, it maintains a balance between synthesising surface to produce food, and the area needed for absorption of water and nutrients. Many roots grow continuously, only stopping at low temperatures or drought. The root always follows the path of least resistance, seeking spaces that earlier plant roots

have created for it before they died and rotted. This has the further advantage of providing organic matter in which roots grow better. The root tip is covered by a cap, a mass of thimble-like cells which protect the stem behind it and helps to penetrate the soil. As it grows the root cap pushes forward while the cells in its periphery are sloughed off. These cells and the root tip are covered by a slimy sheath, the mucigel, which lubricates the root to provide easy passage. In disease this mucigel may be dry or extend over the whole root.

The most familiar type of root for food storage is probably the tuber as found in the potato. When grown from seed, the tubers form at the end of what is called the stolon. Cuttings of tubers used for propagation give rise to tubers found at the end of rhizomes. A bulb is a large bud with a small stem and many modified leaves around it. These leaves are like scales with thickened bases to store food, such as in the onion. Corms are superficially like bulbs but they consist of thick fleshy stem tissue, much smaller than bulbs. The food is stored within the corms of, for instance, the crocus, gladiolus, and cyclamen. Kohlrabi is an example of a plant using the thick fleshy above ground stem for food storage.

Sterns

The primary tissues of stems have similar growth periods as the roots. The latter grow during the dark half of the moon while the former have their phase of growth during the light half, thus enabling the plant to grow evenly. The stem grows in a different manner than the root. Roots grow through cell division and elongation. The stem grows largely through internodal elongation. The stem grows as a more or less continuous hollow cylinder, as a cylinder of discrete Strands, or as a system of Strands scattered throughout the ground tissue The phloem is generally situated outside the xylem.

Leaves

In dicots the leaves have a blade and petiole; the blade is sometimes divided into leaflets. Stomata (pores) are generally more abundant on the upper surface. The mesophyll is a photosynthetic tissue permeated by airspace and veins. The latter are made by phloem and xylem, surrounded by a sheath called skin. The xylem is situated on the upper side and the phloem on the underside. Most monocots, which include grasses, have leaves made up of a blade and a sheath encircling the stem. The leaves of C3 and C4 grasses have different anatomical properties because they are adapted to the absorption of different carbon compounds. Shoots are a collective of stems and leaves that have physical and developmental associations. The capillary or vascular system will branch off in each node to provide the leaves with a connection through which starch and protein can be transported in either direction.

Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis is the process whereby light energy is converted into chemical energy, enabling carbon to be fixed into organic compounds, like starch and protein. The usual equation runs äs follows: $CO_2 + 2H_2A + light \rightarrow (CH_2O) + H_2O + 2A$.

H_2A represents either water or another substance that can be oxidised (that is, from which electrons can be removed) and (CH_2O) represents carbohydrate.

The pigments that enable photosynthesis are Chlorophyll and carotenoids, grouped in units called photosystems. Absorbed light turns their electrons to a higher energy level. Most of these organisms contain two photosystems. Not all reactions require light. Photosynthesis is a necessary process in plants to produce food and release oxygen, which is needed by nearly all living entities. Without photosynthesis the plant requires a symbiotic relationship with another organism that helps it in this process.

Flowers

The vegetative shoot is directly transformed into a reproductive apex. The flowers are either separated in sex, with male and female characteristics, or are hermaphrodite, meaning that both sexual functions are found in the same flower. The male characteristic is found in the stamen which produces pollen, the plant equivalent of semen. The female characteristic is found in the ovaries, which after pollination produce the seed, nut, orfruit.

How to Use the Remedies

When using homoeopathy, one is giving of a very small dose of a substance, possibly a poison, which in a large dose would cause similar Symptoms to the illness presented for treatment. There is no strength to a homoeopathic preparation other than what is known as 'potency'. As opposed to conventional medicines or agricultural treatments, the potency is not determined by the gross amount of active substance present. Instead it is determined by the number of times it has been ground, diluted and shaken according to the homoeopathic method.

The remedies stimulate the organism's intrinsic defensive mechanism; once the initial dose has acted on the plant, a series of internal responses occur to re-establish the balance of vital forces within it. Homoeopathic treatments act as a trigger and, for this reason, do not usually need frequent re-application. In fact, over-use can counter the benefits achieved and in many cases can worsen the problem.

Application

You must always follow the application guidelines carefully. Homoeopathic remedies are easy to apply on both small plots and in commercial agriculture, but there are some basic rules that must be followed. Any liquid dispensing device can be used: watering can, backpack sprayer, boomspray, etc. It can be injected into reticulation Systems at the tank or the pump. On large areas some calculation of watering rates may be necessary to administer the correct dose.

Do not mix homoeopathic medicine with anything other than water. Do not use commercial herbicides, pesticides, fungicides or fertilisers for at least 10 days after applying homoeopathic remedies. Quite simply this may counteract all the positive effect.

Excessively acidic or alkaline water may affect the remedy's action, usually just slowing it down. Make sure your spraying equipment is not contaminated. Residues of agricultural chemicals may antidote the remedy. If in doubt, rinse well with the hottest water possible, or steam clean.

*Application rates*o

1st: 500ml/500l per hectare or 10ml/10l n small areas
2nd: 250ml/500l per hectare or 5ml/10l
3rd: 125ml/500l per hectare or 1 ml/10l

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Procedure

First put in the remedy, then add the water. This is usually sufficient for mixing evenly, Where this is impractical, for example in large tanks, spend a minute or two stirring it with a large stick.

The most important part: each homoeopathic remedy should be allowed to act before it is repeated. In the event of a worsening of the Symptoms, usually visible within 48 hours, use the antidote as below.

Antidoting

If an adverse reaction is elicited by the remedy, look up the antidotes under the description of the remedy which you have applied, and use a single application. In case you do not have the antidote in your possession, apply the third application rate (see above) of the same remedy which you have used to bring out the effect.

Potency

It is recommended that the 6x potency is used.

Materia Medica

The *materia medica* is presented using the following template: **Name** of

the remedy as known in homoeopathy **Common name** of the

source - plant, mineral, element oranimal **Latin name,** where

appropriate

Natural order (NO) - where the remedy is of plant or animal origin, sometimes including the Family

Symbol of element or chemical formula

Method of preparation of mother tincture (trituration or solution)

Clinical description, i.e. Symptoms and/or pest and disease

General description, i.e. history of its use and indications

Appearance

Relations

It is recommended that after careful observation, relevant plant analysis and soil tests, the appropriate remedy is applied in the 6x potency. Always use a single application, to be repeated only when effects have been observed indicating that curative action has come to an end before completion. Some remedies carry an extra caution about repetition, not to be ignored. No responsibility is taken for wrong or repeated applications against these guidelines. Only trees and shrubs can be given repeated doses, but never more than 2 doses in a year, with intervals indicated by curative actions only.

AceticAcid

Glacial acetic acid. CH_3COOH. Distilled water is used for attenuations 1x and 2x, very dilute spirit for 3x and 4x, rectified spirit for the 5x and higher.

CLINICAL
Weeds. Respiratory insufficiency, photosynthesis impaired. Chlorosis. Wilting.

GENERAL
The leading features of *Acet. acid* are excessive wasting and debility, presupposing a strong influence on plant life. In the crude form it has been used extensively on weeds, but its dangers to other plants must not be overlooked. Like all acids it can be used for weed control.

Weeds tell much about the state of the soil - its pH level, structure and nutrient content. It is advisable to let weeds grow for as long as possible before they set seed. Their eradication will return nutrients to the soil. Deep rooted weeds break up compacted soil and reduce water-logging.

Acetic acid plays an important role in the Krebs cycle which regulates respiration (Fuller and Ritchie, 1967.)

Acetic acid in the potencies will be effective in disturbances of the Krebs cycle.

Caution is written more largely over this remedy picture than any other remedy including the tissue salts. Application must be precise, with no spillage. The advantage of using the potencies is clear - no residues remain in the soil and no build-up of toxic levels is possible. It is advised to use this remedy pre-planting or seeding.

Acetic acid can be conceived of äs an 'organ remedy' of the first order. Together with the *Oxalic acid* and the *Citric acid* this trio forms the key to respiratory and photosynthesis disorders.

RELATIONS
Compare: *Citric acid, Oxalic acid.*

Aconitum Napellus

Monk's hood. NO *Compositae.* Tincture of the whole plant.

CLINICAL
Stripe rust, leaf rust, beet roots, bean rust, marigold rust, iris rust, poplar, rose, snapdragon. Banana rust. Bean blossom thrips. Rust mite. Active congestion of the capillary System. Rust - rapid onset of Symptoms. Worse cold dry nights, injury, mechanical damage. Barley yellow dwarf virus.

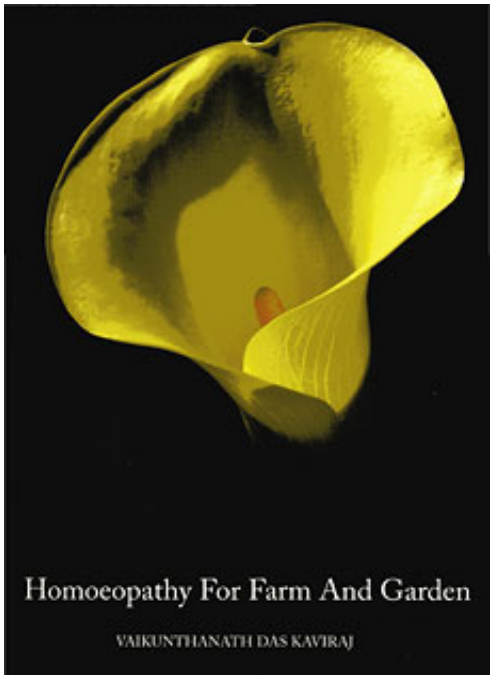
GENERAL
Grows in moist pastures and waste places in mountainous districts. The rapidity of action determines its appropriateness for conditions where Symptoms set in with great intensity, äs in rust. *Aconite* is homoeopathic to tension. Active congestion of the capillary System, especially after cold spells, cold dry air at night. The keen cutting winds of the hills (amongst which the plant grows) give the signature of its remedial action. Chill, injury or mechanical damage. Extreme sensitivity to light. Plants have a marked thirst. Great and sudden sinking of strength, both effects of heat and cold. This remedy has been used with great success in the treatment of rusts.

APPEARANCE
Rust with bright red colouring and yellow margins. Hard red swellings of the leaves, bloated and hot and bright red. Red spots, swollen and shiny and broad. Sudden wilting.

Yellow dwarf virus - Wheat:
Interveinal chlorosis is the first sign of the yellow dwarf. The colour is yellow/orange and there is less pronounced reddening of leaf tips.

Yellow dwarf virus - Barley:
Barley has a bright yellowing of the leaves and pale yellow interveinal chlorosis. Sometimes reddening of the leaf tips occurs. In all cases of yellow dwarf, if infection occurs in young plants, they stunt and grain yields are sharply reduced, often with shrivelling of the grains. In general sick plants are stimulated to produce seed to ensure survival of the species. In grain, tillering is poorly developed and sterile heads are common. (McKirdy and Jones, 1993. Loughman, 1994.)

Yellow dwarf virus - Grasses:
Grasses do not always show Symptoms. Phalaris shows yellowing, whereas the rye grasses show reddening or purpling of the leaf tips. The latter should be treated with *Belladonna.*



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