

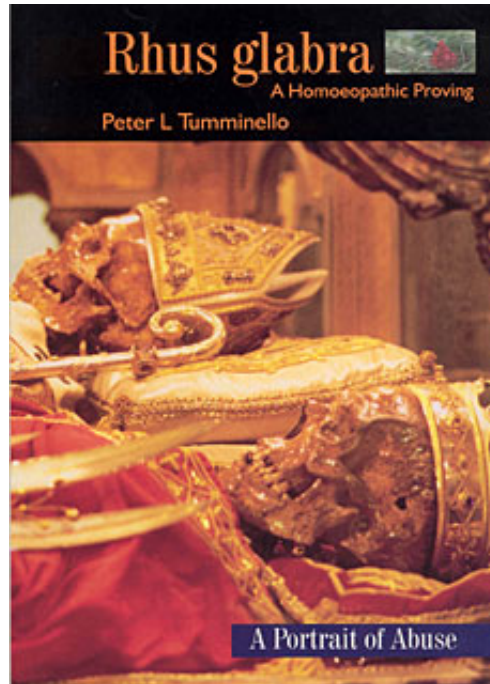
Peter L. Tumminello

Rhus glabra A Homoeopathic Proving

Leseprobe

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ABOUT RHUS GLABRATHE PLANT

Rhus glabra is a deciduous shrub, with terminal flowers, and fruit clothed with acid crimson hairs, like the other non-poisonous *Rhus* varieties.¹

Its common names are Smooth Sumac, Common Sumac, Pennsylvania Sumac and Upland Sumac. Similar *Rhus* varieties are *Rhus carolinias*, *Rhus elegans* and *Rhus virginica*. It grows on rocky or barren soils in North America.¹

Rhus glabra, *Rhus trypanosomiasis*, and *Rhus coriaria* all have acid fruit and astringent bark which is used in tanning.¹

Botanical Description

Rhus glabra is a shrub from six to fifteen feet high, consisting of many straggling, glabrous branches, covered with a pale, grey bark, often having a reddish tint.³

The leaves are alternate, pinnate, and consisting of from six to fifteen leaflets, about three inches long and one fourth as wide. They are lanceolate, acuminate, acutely serrate, shining and green above, whitish beneath, sessile, except sometimes the terminal odd one; during the autumn they become red.

The flowers are greenish-red, and arranged in terminal, thyrsoid, dense panicles. There is a calyx of three sepals united at the base; petals five and stamens are five. These are inserted into the edge or between the lobes of a flattened disk in the bottom of the calyx. There are three styles and the stigmas are capitate.³

The fruit, a small red drupe, hangs in clusters. When ripe they are covered with a crimson down (like the other non poisonous *Rhus* varieties), which is extremely sour to the taste, owing to the presence of malic acid in combination with lime.³

Official Preparation Tincture of

the bark or leaves.³

Traditional Uses

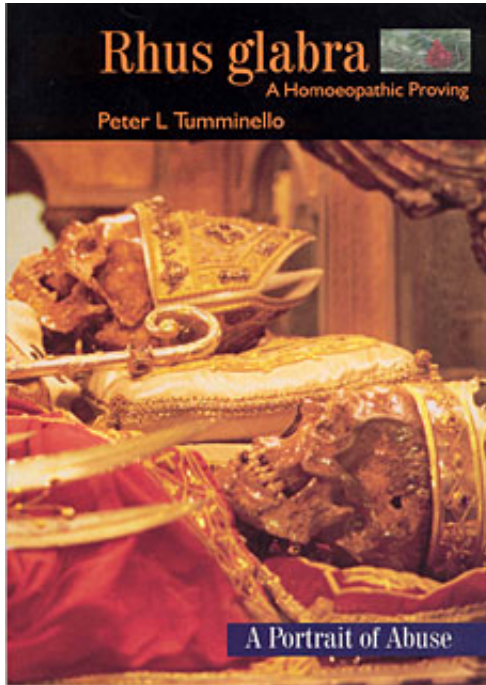
It has been used extensively in American Indian tribal medicine as a diuretic, gynaecological aid and dermatological aid. It was then inducted into Thomsonian herbal medicine as an anti-venereal, an antidote for poisons and for oral conditions. It is also a dependable source of vitamin C and has been widely used in the form of a winter drink.

The tincture of the bark was proved by Dr. A. V. Marshall on himself with very substantial doses. The symptoms bear out the traditional uses of the remedy. One of these is, "profuse perspiration arising from debility" and Marshall had "profuse sweat during sleep" with such a degree of debility that he was obliged to leave off the proving.⁴

Hale mentions that an infusion of the root is of popular repute in diarrhoea and dysentery, especially when the discharges are fetid, and that the berries are used for chronic cough, wheezing cough and laryngeal asthma.⁴

A tincture made of the whole panicle, "Sumac-bobs", cured a patient of his who, every spring, had an attack of laryngeal cough with dyspnoea and almost complete loss of voice. Farmers place "bobs" in the mangers of horses who have "heaves".⁴

Murphy states that *Rhus glabra* has an astrological affinity to the Moon.



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