

Title: Ricinus Communis: As a Homoeopathic Remedy

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ABSTRACT: Ricinus Communis have been used traditionally from a long time in cases of dyspepsia, constipation and arthralgia. Many other remedies from vegetable kingdom proves beneficial in various aspects as per Homoeopathic principles likewise Ricinus Communis do. The potentized form may prove extremely useful by-passing the side effects produced by it in its crude form.

KEYWORDS:

Ricinus Communis, Castor Oil, Arand, Homoeopathy.

INTRODUCTION:

Ricinus Communis belongs to family Euphorbiaceae. Ricinus Communis is commonly known as ‘Oleum Ricini’, ‘Plasma Christi’ or ‘Castor Oil’ and in Hindi is known as ‘Arand’, mainly found in East India. The Preparation is made from Castor oil which is expressed from the seed.^[1] Tincture is prepared with hot alcohol and water or trituration of fresh seeds and also Tincture of fresh plant.^[2]

Active Alkaloid: The seeds contain an Alkaloid named “Ricinine” [which is soluble in water and alcohol] and acids named Ricinic acid, Elaidic acid, and Margaristic acid [which are acrid and soluble in alcohol]. Also contains a volatile principle, which passes off by heat, and while bruising or triturating the seeds.

The method of making the oil by decoction, doubtless extracts the alkaloid, which is probably the most virulent quality which causes a large portion of the choleraic symptoms. The acids are expressed with the oil, and assist in evolving severe symptoms.^[3]

Physiological Dosage: Of the oil for an adult, as an enema, 1 to 1 1/2 fluid ounces.^[1]

Pharmalogical Activity: The plants carries various antioxidant activity, antinociceptive activity, anti- inflammatory activity, anti- histaminic activity, anti- microbial activity, anti- asthmatic activity, heparo- protective activity.^[4]

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Physiological Action: This agent acts as a cathartic, anti-purgatives. Acts as a galactagogue. Vomiting and purging. Languor and weakness.^[5]

HOMOEOPATHIC GUIDING SYMPTOMS:

Head: Vertigo, occipital pain, congestive symptoms, buzzing in ears.^[2,5] *He cannot go into open air, as the brain seems exhausted and easily overpowered.*

Face: Face pale, twitching of mouth.^[5]

Mouth: Mouth dry.^[5] Tongue coated white; and dry; furred.^[2]

Stomach: Anorexia with great thirst, burning in stomach, Pyrosis, nausea & profuse vomiting, pit of stomach sensitive.^[2,5] *Sensation as if a bar were laid over his stomach, with profound anguish.* (bar lays across the chest; *Haematoxylon Campechianum*) Vomiting profuse; with burning in gullet. Vomiting fluid lightly coloured with bile, and containing some glairy filaments.^[2]

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Abdomen: Rumbling with contraction of recti muscles, colic, incessant diarrhoea with purging.^[5] Duodenal catarrh (*Berberis*, *China Officinalis.*, *Hydrastis*, *Lycopodium*, *Mercurius*, *Podophyllum*) Epigastrium very sensitive, pains radiate from navel and hypochondria to epigastrium, not aggravate or ameliorate by light or strong pressure. At the same time he felt a sensation of violent constriction in intestines.^[2]

Stool: Loose, incessant, painless, with painful cramps in muscles of extremities. Anus inflamed. *Rice water stools* (*Agaricus*, *Phos*, *Jatropha curcas*) with cramps and chilliness.^[5] Diarrhoea became colliquative, stools like cholera-stools.^[2]

Urine: Complete anuria. A small quantity of dark, thick urine was passed, and was found to be highly albuminous.^[2]

Female Reproductive System: Effacious in suppression of milk with amenorrhea. *Also increases the quality of milk in nursing women with commencement of menstrual flow* (Alfalfa, Agnus castus, Asafoetida, Puls).^[5] Breasts thick, swell, with swelling of axillary glands and pains running down arms. Thin discharge from breasts becomes milky. Brings milk in breasts of virgins and women who have not suckled for years.^[2]

Respiratory: Voice altered & veiled.^[2]

Back: Pains in the back like after-pains.^[2]

Limbs: Gangrene of one foot necessitates amputation.^[2]

Generalities: Anaemia. Profound adynamia. Collapse. Convulsions. Muscular contractions. Very painful cramps in trunk and limbs.^[2]

Skin: Pronounced jaundice; skin saffron yellow. Pruriginous eruptions, or redness and itching, at wrists and bends of knees.^[2]

Dose: Third potency & Ricinus Q [Five drops every four hours for increasing flow of milk; also locally a poultice of the leaves].^[5]

* A study conducted by CCRH for Assessing the therapeutic usefulness of Ricinus Communis: A multicentric observational clinical verification study indicates about the left sided affinity, aggravation from sun, amelioration in open air, dryness of mucous membranes of GIT, dissatisfaction leading to irritability & anger, along with usefulness in relieving headache, acne, apthae, coryza, gastritis, diarrhoea and constipation.^[6]

CONCLUSION: In the Homoeopathic Materia Medica, there are various lesser known Indian drugs which possess tremendous therapeutic properties, Racinis is one of them. In crude form, it is a powerful poison which may prove fatal. But with Homoeopathy, The inherit properties of this drug will be enhanced. But there is need to make further researches for the lesser known drugs to be more clinically verified.

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