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## ARTICLE

### Title: A comprehensive study of the ophidia group with detailed rubrics

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## ABSTRACT

The Ophidia (snakes) group of medicines are one among the most important group of medicines comprises in homoeopathic medicines of animal kingdom. Known for their paralyzing effect on the nervous system. They weaken brain and heart functions, leading to blood decomposition, changes in muscle tissue, and localized tissue death due to gangrene. Initially, anxiety, mental agitation, and heightened sensitivity of the brain, accompanied by hallucinations and fear are developed after which nervous depression, that range from weakness seen in serious illnesses to mental confusion, stupor, delirium, and paralysis. The snakes have been both one of the oldest and most grandiose mythological figures, as well as have immense importance in the realms of medicine and Hindu philosophy.

**Keywords:** *Ophidia, Rubrics, Miasm*

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## INTRODUCTION

The snake's venom is stored in a sac behind its fangs, with a small groove on the fangs connected to a tube that channels the poison. When the snake is threatened, it opens its mouth, extends its fangs, and the venom is released into the wound. The effects of the venom depend on factors such as the snake's anger, the potency of the venom, whether the fang passes through clothing (which could absorb some poison), and the victim's resistance to the venom. Thus, the effect of snake venom can be sort out in three forms.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 1. Lightning stroke

This demonstrates the unrestrained and lightning-fast effect of the poison, as the victim, immediately after being bitten, shows a look of anguish before collapsing and dying instantly.

### 2. Weakness and septicaemic

Symptoms resembling septicaemia, characterized by an increased heart rate that gradually weakens in tone and strength. This is followed by nervous system depression, leading to a typhoid-like state and ultimately resulting in death."

### 3. Nervous phenomenon

Vertigo, dark spots in the vision, blindness, a distinct tremor throughout the body, a dazed expression, difficulty breathing, and even noisy respiration. In slower cases, patient experience weakness after the initial symptoms, with the wound becoming dark or gangrenous. Discharges become foul-

smelling. The patient may develop dysentery-like symptoms and a typhoid-like condition, eventually leading to a weak, critical state and death.

## HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES OF OPHIDIA GROUP WITH THEIR COMMON NAMES<sup>[2-4]</sup>

- LACHESIS MUTUS (Lach) – Surukuku snake
- NAJA TRIPUDIANS (Naja) – Cobra venom
- ELAPS CORRALLINUS (Elaps) – Coral snake
- CROTALUS HORRIDUS (Crot-h) – Rattlesnake
- CROTALUS CASCAVELLA (Crot-c) – Brazilian snake
- CENCHRIS CONTORTRIX (Cench) – Copperhead snake
- BOTHROPS LANCIOLATUS (Both) – Yellow viper
- VIPERA BERUS (Vip) – German viper
- HYDROPHIS CYANOCINTUS – Sea snake
- TOXICOPHIS – Moccasin snake
- BUNGARUS FASCIATUS – Krait
- CLOTHO ARICTANS – Adder
- DENDROASPIS – Black mamba

## DOCTRINE OF SIGNATURE<sup>[2][5]</sup>

**1. Snakes are highly sensitive to heat, which is why they resides in deep burrows where the temperature is cooler.**

- o Symptoms – gets aggravated from warmth, by hot drinks, in sun and in summer.

o Rubrics –  
 Generalities, Warmth agg  
 Generalities, Summer agg  
 Generalities, Sun, from exposure to

### **2. Snakes become more aggressive and venomous when they are hungry.**

o Symptoms – worse by fasting and better after eating.  
 o Rubrics –  
 Generalities, Fasting, while  
 Generalities, Eating amel

### **3. Snakes are venomous, and when we say the mind is poisoned, it implies the presence of jealousy and suspicion.**

o Symptoms – Suspicion and jealous patients.  
 o Rubrics –  
 Mind, Suspicious  
 Mind, Jealousy

### **4. Snakes are coil from left-to-right direction.**

o Symptoms – precedes from left to right, but Crotalus and Elaps are right-sided.

### **5. As a therapeutic measures to minimize the damage of snake bite, blood is drawn out instantly after the bite.**

o Symptoms – Generally better by bleeding or any discharges  
 o Rubrics – Discharges: available in different section

### **6. Snakes are highly sensitive to touch and vibrations.**

o Symptoms- Worse by touch and even slight sounds.  
 o Rubrics –  
 Generalities, Touch, agg  
 Mind, Sensitive, noise to

### **7. Snakes are capable of swallowing relatively large prey with ease.**

o Symptoms – Can swallow solids easily.  
 o Rubric –  
 Throat, Swallowing, difficult, liquid, more difficult than solids

### **8. Snakes' stools are black and have a foul odor.**

o Symptoms – Dark and offensive discharges.  
 o Rubrics – Discharges: available in different section

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GROUP** [1-2][5-11]

The important group pictures are given under the subheading as mental and physical symptoms.

## **MENTAL SYMPTOMS**

### **1. ANXIETY**

o Lach – Great anguish, insupportable anxiety > open air  
 o Crot-c – Anxiety & inquietude (physical & mental restlessness)  
 o Crot-h – Weeping with timidity, fear, anxiety  
 o Elaps – Apprehensive of some fatal disease  
 o Cench – Anxiety feels she will die suddenly.  
 o General rubric – MIND, ANXIETY  
 2nd grade- Cench, Crot-c, Crot-h, Lach  
 3rd grade- Naja, Elap

### **2. FEAR**

o Lach & Crot-c – fear of death  
 o Lach – fear of being poisoned  
 o Elaps & Crot-c – fear of being left alone  
 o Elaps – MIND, FEAR, rain of  
 o General rubric – MIND, FEAR  
 2nd grade – Crot-h,  
 3rd grade – Elaps, Lach

### **3. HALLUCINATION, DELUSION, ILLUSION**

o Lach – nocturnal delusion of fire, hears voices and compelled to do things.  
 o Crot-c – Marked hallucination – Magnetic state (sensation of increased personal power).  
 o Single medicine rubrics:  
 MIND, DELUSION, dead, person, sees, that his mother is dead – Lach  
 MIND, DELUSION, heart disease, too large – Lach  
 MIND, DELUSION, poisoned, medicine being – Lach  
 MIND, DELUSION, visions, clouds of colour – Lach  
 MIND, DELUSION, asylum, that she will be sent to – Cench

MIND, DELUSION, falling forward, that she is – Elaps

MIND, DELUSION, eyes, falling out – Crot-c

MIND, DELUSION, footsteps, hear, behind him – Crot - c

MIND, DELUSION, voices, hears, that he must follow – Crot- c

MIND, DELUSION, walk, fancies that someone walks behind him – Crot- c

o MIND, DELUSION, troubles, broods over imaginary – Naja

o General Rubric – MIND, DELUSION, imagination, hallucination

1st grade – lach

3rd grade – cench, crot-h, elaps

#### 4. DELIRIUM

o Lach –Nocturnal delirium with much talking or with murmuring.

MIND, DELIRIUM, changing subjects rapidly.

MIND, DELIRIUM, fatigue, study, etc from.

MIND, DELIRIUM, mental exertion

o Naja – Consciousness almost or quite loss, comatose

o Crot-h – Delirium with drowsiness

o Vip – Delirium with raving (incoherent talk) with vomiting alternating with stupor

o General Rubric – MIND, DELIRIUM

1st grade – lach

2nd grade – crot-c, crot-h

3rd grade – naja, vip

#### 5. MELANCHOLIA

o Lach – Morning, waking on

o Naja – Making themselves miserable by dwelling on imagined wrongs and misfortunes.

o Crot-c – Weeping mood, agony, despair

o Crot-h – Constantly dwelling on death and weeps easily by reading due to heightened sensitivity.

o Elaps – Depression of spirit, desire for solitude

o General Rubric – Mind, SADNESS

1st grade – Crot-c, Lach

2nd grade – crot-h, naja

3rd grade – elaps

#### 6. LOQUACITY

o Compelled to talk continuously

o Irrelevant talking and constantly changing subject.

o Crot-h – loquacious with desire to escape

o General Rubric – Mind, LOQUACITY

1ST Grade – Lach

2nd Grade – Crot-c

3rd Grade – Crot-h

#### 7. SUSPICIOUSNESS

o First sign of paranoia (means delusional belief)

o LACH - Strong tendency to take everything amiss (wrongly/inappropriate) JHC

- imagines that her friends, husband, and children are conspiring to harm her and that her friends intend to have her sent to an insane asylum – LACH & CENCH

o General Rubrics

MIND, SUSPICIOUS - 1st grade – Cench, Lach

SUSPICIOUS, evening – LACH & CENCH

SUSPICIOUS, afternoon, 3 to 8 pm – CENCH

#### 8. ABSENT-MINDED

o Lach – confusion of mind

extraordinary weakness of memory

o Naja – very forgetful

o Crot-h - Memory is impaired, struggles to express himself, and make silly errors.

o Elaps – absence of mind

o Cench – Memory lost, dreamy, absent minded

o General rubric – MIND, ABSENT MINDED

1st grade – lach

2nd grade – crot-h

3rd grade – cench, elaps, naja

#### 9. INSANITY

o Lach – Religious insanity

o Naja – Suicidal insanity

o Single medicine rubrics:

MIND, INSANITY, crawls on the floor – lach

MIND, INSANITY, alternating with menorrhagia – Crot-c

MIND, INSANITY, chilliness with coldness of skin – Crot-h

o General Rubric – Mind, INSANITY,

**MADNESS**

3rd grade – crot-h

**10. JEALOUSY**

- o Malicious and always playing dirty tricks
  - o MIND, JEALOUSY, as foolish as it is irresistible – lach
  - o General rubric – MIND, JEALOUSY
- 2nd grade – cench, lach

**11. Active at NIGHT AND DUSK**

- o Lachesis – mental labour best performed at night
- Morning sadness, with no intention to engage with the world.
- Sluggish in the morning & day time
- o General Rubric – GENERALITIES, NIGHT
- 1st grade – lach
- 2nd grade – crot-h
- 3rd grade – elaps

**12. IRRITABLE AND QUARRELSOME**

- o General rubric
- MIND, IRRITABILITY – crot-h, elaps, lach, naja
- MIND, QUARRELSOME – cench, elaps, lach, crot-h,

**13. CLAIRVOYANCE**

- o Intuition, can look into the future & predict the future of a person
  - o General rubric – MIND, CLAIRVOYANCE
- 3rd grade – crot-c, lach

**PHYSICAL GENERALS****1. PARALYSIS**

- o Right
- Crot-h – Painful paralytic sensation
- Crot-c – paralysis, hemiplegia, right
- Both – paralysis of one arm and, one leg only (diagonal)
- paralysis, finger, sensation of, extending over whole side
- o Left
- Lach – paralysis, shoulder, morning, rising on paralysis, knee, sensation of, walking while, amel
- Naja – Typical bulbar paralysis

- 2nd grade – crot-c, lach, naja
- Vip - paralysis of foot with shuffling gait
- paralysis, the ulcer
- o Elaps (both right & left)
- Right shoulder and hand feels as if paralysed

**2. CONSTRICTION** - Of throat, larynx, sphincter

- o Lach – choking of throat < clothing
  - spasm of glottis
  - sensation of suffocation and strangulation
  - tight sensation in anus, as though nothing could pass through
  - o Naja – Sensation of choking, accompanied by a feeling of tightness in the throat.
  - o Crot-c – Constrictive pain as if a string were tied round thyroid body
  - suffocative feeling with dread of another attack
  - o Crot-h – Vomiting, pulging & micturition simultaneously caused by spasmodic contractions with tenesmus & strangury
  - Tight constriction, constant choking of the larynx
  - o Elap – constriction in pharynx with pressure in the throat
  - constriction of chest
  - constriction of anal sphincter, after bloody stool
  - o Vip – closure of throat so the she could swallow only water and milk
  - suffocation – dyspnoea
  - o Cench – difficult in empty swallowing but easy swallowing on solid and liquid
  - o Both – pulmonary congestion, oppressed breathing
  - o General rubric – THROAT, CHOKING
- 1st grade – lach, naja
- 2nd grade – crot-c, crot-h
- 3rd grade – elaps, vip

**3. HEART AFFECTION**

- o Naja – pain in the forehead and temples with heart symptoms
  - o Crot-c - palpitation of anyone stands at her right side
- feeling as if heart were beating from above downwards
- o Lach - palpitation with fainting spell
  - o Single medicine rubrics:
  - a. Naja

- CHEST, PALPITATION heart, speak
- CHEST, PAIN, heart, extending, to nape of neck & shoulder
- CHEST, PAIN, drawing, heart, in the, as if heart and ovary were drawn together
- CHEST, FLUTTERING, writing while
- CHEST, HEAT, heart in region of, evening
- b. Crot-h
  - CHEST, PAIN, heart, ascending agg
  - CHEST, PAIN, burning, motion agg
- c. Cench
  - CHEST, ANXIETY, heart, region of
  - CHEST, PAIN, heart
  - CHEST, PAIN, heart, extending to back
- d. Lach
  - CHEST, PAIN, burning, night
  - o General Rubric – CHEST, PAIN, HEART
  - 1ST grade – Lach, Cench
  - 2nd grade –Crot-h, Naja
  - 3rd grade –Vip
  - o General Rubric - CHEST, ANXIETY, HEART
  - 1st grade – Cench
  - 2nd grade –Lach, Naja, Crot-c
  - 3rd grade –Vip, Elaps

- 4. HAEMORRHAGE** -Of dark, decomposed oozing from every orifice
- o Retinal haemorrhage, Bloody discharge from ear, Epistaxis, Bleeding in the throat
  - o Lach- Haemorrhage, anus from, menses during, scanty
  - o Crot- h – mouth, bleeding, continuous, does not coagulate
  - o Elaps – epistaxis, walking while
  - o Vip – Climacteric haemorrhage
  - o Both – Bleeding from eyes, bloody discharge from ear, epistaxis, bloody urine, metrorrhagia
  - Haemorrhages, blood being fluid and black.
  - o NAJA – is not haemorrhagic, does not cause haemorrhage – but only oedema
  - o General rubric – Generalities, HAEMORRHAGE
  - 1st grade – Lach, Crot-h

unable to  
2nd grade –Elaps

## 5. NERVES AFFECTION

- o Special nerves involved are pneumogastric and spinal accessory
- o Produces symptoms affecting the larynx, respiration, and heart.
- o Leads to a choking or constriction, often caused by irritation of the pneumogastric nerve.
- o All drugs have symptoms of dyspnoea and heart.

## 6. PERIODICITY

- o Vipera – Symptoms recur annually.
- o Toxicophis – Pain and fever reappear every year, occasionally shifting to a different location as the initial symptoms fade.
- o Lachesis – Notable for recurring intermittent fevers each spring.
- o Crot-h – Many symptoms are characterised by their periodic nature.

## 7. SKIN

- o Yellow discolouration of skin (most marked in Lachesis)
- o Harsh and dry skin with no vitality

## 8. SIDE AFFINITY

- o Right side – Crot-h
- o Left side – Lach & Naja
- o Both side – Crot-c, Elaps, Cenchrus

## GENERAL MODALITIES

- o Worse by:  
Morning, during sleep, noise, jar, suppression of discharges, summer, touch, night.
- o Better by:  
When awake, cold, onset of discharges.

## MIASMATIC WEIGHTAGE OF MEDICINE

The miasmatic dominance of some of the drugs from ophidian groups are given as follow in table no. 1.<sup>[12]</sup>

Table no.1: Miasmatic dominance of some of the drugs from ophidian groups

DRUGS	PSORA	SYCOSIS	SYPHILIS	TUBERCULER
BOTHROPS	++	++	+++	+++
CENCHRIS	++	++	++	+++

CROT-H	++	++	+	+++
ELAPS	++	++	++	+++
LACHESIS	++	+++	++	+++
NAJA	++	+	++	+++
VIPERA	++	+++	++	++

## CONCLUSION

This collaborative learning approach emphasizes understanding the dynamic and potent nature of these remedies, including their specific indications, miasmatic tendencies, and psychological profiles. By comparing remedies within the group and exploring their distinct qualities, learners gain a deeper insight. This method not just strengthens theoretical knowledge but also encourages analytical thinking and capacity to recognize the patterns common to the group. Ultimately, studying the Ophidia group within a collaborative framework equips homoeopathic practitioners with a well-rounded understanding of this fascinating group and its profound healing potential.

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