

STUDY ON UMBELLIFERAE FAMILY

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INTRODUCTION

- This botanical family is presented with **33 members** in our materia medica.
- Large number of plants in this family, we use as food or spices (carrot , parsley, celery, fennel).
- Many of them are **poisonous in nature** and proving records were obtained from poisoning cases like conium- a renowned poison , aethusa, cicuta , oenanthe , zizia, pastinaca except phellandrium which has not shown poisonous properties though being similar in action to oenanthe crocata.

- We all know about Cicuta ,Conium and Aethusa which are well proved medicines of the family.
- The seminar is aimed to shed more light on this botanical group and also feature its less known members which are as valuable as the bigger and common remedies.
- The family got its name from **umbel shaped flowering stand**, which is common to all its members. Also known as **apiaceae** .



LIST OF MEDICINES OF UMBELLIFERAE

MEDICINE	COMMON NAMES	PART USED
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	Fool's parseley, garden hemlock	Whole flowering plant
<i>Ammoniacum gummi</i>	Gum ammoniac	Gum
<i>Angelica</i>	Wild celery	Root
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Celery (Ajwain)	Seeds
<i>Asafoetida</i>	Devil's dung (Hing)	Gum resin
<i>Athamanta</i>	Grund heil	fresh plant
<i>Cicuta virosa</i>	Cowbane /Water hemlock	Fresh root
<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Spotted cow bane	Root
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock (Conicine)	Fresh plant in flower

MEDICINE	COMMON NAME	PART USED
Eryngium aquaticum	Button snake root	Fresh root
Ferula glauca	Giant fennel	Tincture of plant
Hydrocotyle asiatica	Indian pennywort	Whole fresh plant
Imperatoria	-	Infusion of root
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Drop wort	Fresh root
Pastinaca	Parnship	Roots
Phellandrium	Horse bane / water dropwort	Fresh ripe fruit
Pimpinella	Bibernell	Fresh root
Sumbul	Musk root	Tincture of powdered root
Zizia aurea	Meadow parnship	Root

SPHERE OF ACTION

NERVOUS SYSTEM

**Marked action
developing in some
cases symptoms
akin to hysteria.**

GLANDULAR SYSTEM

**Producing either
engorgement or atrophy of
glands.**

MUCUS MEMBRANE

**Act on mucous membranes ,
producing catarrh.**

SKIN

**Developing pustular
eruptions**

NERVOUS SYSTEM

- **Conium** : Act as **depressor** of cerebrospinal system. Act on motor centres. It develops a paretic state which spreads from below upwards. Dizziness marked . Locomotor ataxia.
- **Cicuta** : Produces **congestion** at the base of brain and medulla oblongata . Increased state of irritability of nervous system producing convulsive tendency.
- **Oenanthe crocata** : Act on cerebrospinal nervous system producing convulsion.

Asafoetida :

- Causes most fugitive and sympathetic disturbances of nervous system.
- Nervous diseases developing a perfect type of hysteria
- Guernsey says: best remedy when hysterical symptoms manifest themselves in oesophagus.

Produces reverse peristaltic action in oesophagus and intestine. **Contractions of diaphragm , numbness and choreic motions.**

Athamnata : Dull befogged condition of brain .(like aethusa)

Aethusa : action on brain producing imbecility

GLANDULAR SYSTEM

Conium :

- **Teste says - what aconite is to heart and arterial system, conium is to gland and capillary system.**
- Glands affected are of stony hardness. Malignant affections of gland
- Mainly induration in mammae , testicles and uterus especially after contusion or bruises when induration is the result.
- Glands become hard and sore from every little cold – Kent
- **Pain in mammae before menses < every step – strong indication .**

- **Phellandrium** : Sharp pains in the course of lactiferous tubes , when child nurses.
- **Aethusa** : Swelling of mammary and axillary glands with lancinating pains (*Clarke*) .
- **Asafoetida** : The glands all over the body are hot and throbbing with shooting , jerking pains, in syphilis or old psoric and scrofulous complaints(Kent). Milk in nursing mother's is deficient.

MUCOUS MEMBRANE

- **Ammoniacum gummi** : First diminished then increased secretions. Great accumulation of mucus.
- **Eryngium:** Thick yellow mucus discharges
- **Petroselinium** : Action on urethral mucous membrane.

SKIN

- **Cicuta:** Eruptions of pustules which run together with **yellowish honey colored scabs**.
Eczema : No itching ; exudation forms hard lemon colored crust.
- **Aethusa** – **Herpetic eruptions on tip of nose**.
- **Apium graveolens** : **Urticaria with shuddering**. Pressure in stomach preceding urticaria and relieved when it appears.
- **Asafoetida** : Ulcers with hypersensitiveness.(Kent)
- **Hydrocotyle** : Obstinate **thickening of the skin** . efficacious in chronic eczema and leprosy. Acne, pemphigus, copper colored eruptions. **Intolerable itching** in various places.

GROUP CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FAMILY

CONVULSIONS AND SPASMODIC AFFECTIONS

VIOLENCE

DEBILITY

CONVULSIONS AND SPASMODIC AFFECTIONS

CICUTA :

- Twitching and spasmodic jerking is the keynote.
- **“Bending the head backward”** – characteristic.
- **Opisthotonus** - leading indication . Head turned to one side.
- Shocks from head and body. **Entire loss of consciousness.**
- < noise > rest , dark , warm room.
- Aura in stomach . From head to downwards. (Kent)
- Head hot and extremities cold in convulsions. Uprturned eyes.
- Between the convulsions patient is mild, gentle and yielding.
- **Convulsions are due to falls and effects of concussions especially brain and spine, alcohol , drugging.**
- Good for hiccough and belching of spasmodic character .(Dunham)

CONIUM :

- Useful in local **paretic conditions**, motor irritability as chorea , paralysis agitans, infantile convulsions , local spasm and cramps. **Consciousness is unaffected.**
- Gradually growing paralytic. Paralysis from below upwards
- **Trembling, twitching and nervous symptoms in widows deprived of sexual relations. (Kent)**

AETHUSA :

Convulsive affection of childhood .

Convulsions with great weakness and prostration with sleepiness.

Thumb bent inwards and eyes turn downward. Convulsions with cold limbs.

OENANTHE :

Convulsions worse during menstruation and pregnancy. Puerperal and uraemic convulsions. State of “status epilepticus.”

VIOLENCE

- **CICUTA** : Violence is leading feature. Violent spasms , moans and howls. Great agitation . **Violent Distortions**. Strange violent desires to eat coal.
- **AEHUSA** : Violence one of the notes of its action. **violent vomiting** , violent convulsions , violent pains, violent delirium.

DEBILITY

CICUTA : Prostration follows the convulsive attacks.

CONIUM :

- Weakness on mental plane produces imbecility and on physical course produces paralysis.
- **Weakness from masturbation in youth and men.**
Weakness temulousness and palpitation after every evacuation .

AETHUSA : Weakness and exhaustion after vomiting , so exhausted fall sleep at once.

CHARACTERISTIC MENTAL SYMPTOMS

DESIRE FOR SOLITUDE

- **CONIUM**: Anthropophobia yet fear of solitude. **Aversion to society at the same time dread of being alone.** .
- **CICUTA** : Retires to solitude , want of confidence.
Afraid of society, afraid of company, wants to be alone.
Becomes pessimistic .(Kent)
- **HYDROCOTYLE** : misanthropy , inclination for solitude.

DELIRIUM

- **CICUTA** : Mania with dancing, laughing, ridiculous gestures, forgets his own name. Confounds present with the past. Thinks himself young child. Childish behaviour after convulsions.
- **AETHUSA** : hallucinations; delirium ; sees cats and dogs , wants to jump out of bed or out of window.
- **PASTINACA** : state of perfect delirium tremens . Illusion of vision ,catching of imaginary objects , fighting with others.

ILL HUMOR

- **CICUTA** : Discontent and ill humor. Groans moans and howls.
- **CONIUM** : cannot bear any kind of excitement, brings physical and mental distress ; **will not bear contradiction**; easily vexed.
- **AETHUSA** : Bad humour , irritability . Great anguish and crying is peculiar. Great anxiety expressed by face.
- **ASAFOETIDA** : ill humor; irritable . unsteady and fickle . “Hypersensitive” . Dissatisfied with oneself. Hysterical anxiety and restlessness.
- **AMMONIACUM GUMMI** : prevailing mental feature - ill humor (Clarke)

WANT OF MENTAL POWER

- **CONIUM** : Benumbed sensation , inability to sustain mental effort, weak memory , tired sensation in brain, imbecility.

Effect of grief, overstudy.

- **CICUTA** : Blank memory for hours or days with or without convulsions. (Kent)
- **AETHUSA** : Inability to think or fix attention . Idiocy.
- **AMMONIACUM GUMMI** : Incapacity for mental applications.

SOME MEDICINES WITH THEIR INDICATIONS

AMMONIACUM GUMMI

- Obtained from Dorema ammoniacum
- Tincture of the gum
- Prevailing mental feature – “**III humor**”
- Incapacity for mental applications
- **Marked sensitiveness to cold.**
- **Bronchial affections of old in cold weather.**



ANGELICA

- Rare and clinically established medicine
- **Produces disgust for liquor .**
(Boericke)
- Used in **chronic** bronchitis to increase expectoration.
- **Dr. Raue - angelica in 15 drops doses of tincture 3 times a day , causes a disgust for liquor.**



APIUM GRAVEOLENS



- **Most obstinate retention of urine** , which could only be relived by catheter.
- “Fidgets feeling”.
- Pressure in stomach preceding **urticaria** and relieved when it appears.
- *Dr. Herring* cured with apium an old abscess near the umbilicus.
- *Dr. Allen* - Profuse discharges from granulating **ulcers**.
- Desire for oranges , for oat meal

ASAFOETIDA

Asafoetida (Hing)



- **Venous constitutions-
puffed dark red dusky
faces (Kent)**
- Remedy for hysterical troubles.
- Symptoms resemble **globus hystericus**
- Bone caries
- **Offensiveness** characteristic.
- Nightly pains.

ATHAMNATA

- Proved by Franz
- Headache , confusion
- Dull befogged condition of brain (like aethusa)
- Stupefaction and confusion rises like vapour from occiput (like aethusa)



ERYNGIUM AQUATICUM

- Urinary disorders, strangury, renal colic, nervous erythism .
- **Thick yellow mucous discharges.**
- Uridrosis - **sweat of urinous odour**



HYDROCOTYLE



- Remedy for leprosy and lupus.
- *Great thickening of epidermoid layer and exfoliation of scales*
- Intolerable itching marked

OENATHE CROCATA

- Most poisonous
- **Convulsions worse during menses and pregnancy**
- **Sudden and complete unconsciousness.**
- Furious delirium
- Cold as if dead.



PASTINACA SATIVA

- Very poisonous
- Loquacity
- State of perfect -"Delirium tremens"
- Milk intolerance of



PETROSELINUM

- common parsley
- Active principle- Apiol
- Gonorrhoeal remedy
- Sudden urging to urinate with voluptuos tickling in fossa navicularis – leading indication.



PHELLANDRIUM AQUATICUM

“Universal cough remedy”
especially pthisis cough

- Sputa horribly offensive
- DESIRE FOR ACIDS
- *Dr. Dudgeon* in 28th volume of the british journal of homoeopathy a case of severe and long lasting headache cured by Phellandrium.



PIMPINELLA

- Headache , nose bleed and lumbago.
- Chilliness marked symptom
- Great drowsiness
- Weakness and general sick feeling



SUMBUL

- Hysterical and nervous symptoms, easy fainting. Nervous palpitations.
- **A tissue remedy for sclerosed arteries.**
- Oily pellicle in urine.
- Mind : **Intellect dull in morning , clear in the evening .**
- < thinking of symptoms.



Indian Spikenard (Jatamamsi)



ZIZIA AUREA

- Spasms and convulsions esp of **face and limbs**.
- **Exhilaration like intoxication followed by sleep.**
- **Surface of body paler than natural – white and puffy** – characteristic
- **Craves acids and stimulants**



CONCLUSION

- There are different ways to study materia medica, among which group study is one of them.
- Group study help to find out a certain group for a given case in hand and help to cut short the effort to **find out the most similar remedy**. But the need is to differentiate various remedies under the same family in order to individualize the case.
- Although this simplifies and makes it easy to correlate and memorize, but **symptom similarity is the only highest authority of prescription**.

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Thank
you!!