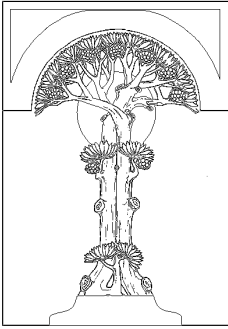


Centre for Integrative Medical Training
In Association with London Integrated Medical Health Education



Pre-membership Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

Units 45-50

Materia Medica Studies (Animal Group - Serpents) WEEKS 1-6

Introduction

Welcome to the **Materia Medica Studies** (Remedy Families Section) for Week 1-6 (Semester 1) of your Pre-Membership Year.

Last semester we concentrated on Mineral Remedy Groupings.

As we embark on Women's (and Men's) health studies, we will extend the study of remedy groupings to important Plant and Animal genera.

In this unit you will find an introductory lecture on the Serpent Remedies by Dr Ann Bowden followed by the materia medica of eight snake remedies.

In order to familiarise yourself with this group of remedies, we recommend you explore the materia medica of the different snakes over the next 6 weeks.

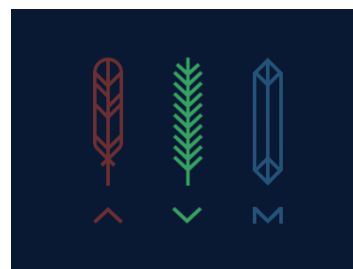
Week one is mainly revision of *Lachesis*, which you first encountered in Month 5 for the Foundation Course.

We recommend that you read the keynotes for the following remedies week by week, in the following order, and contrast the main prescribing features of each new remedy with the ones you have studied previously.

		Video time code ref:
Week 1	<i>Lachesis muta</i> (Surukuku, Bushmaster Snake)	12:00:00
Week 2	<i>Crotalis horridus</i> (North American Rattlesnake) <i>Crotalis cascavella</i> (Brazilian Rattlesnake)	32:53:00
Week 3	<i>Bothrops lanciatus</i> (Yellow viper)	39:13:00
Week 4	<i>Cenchrus contortrix</i> (Copperhead)	40:33:00
Week 5	<i>Vipera aspis</i> (German Viper)	42:19:00
Week 6	<i>Elaps corallius</i> (Coral snake) & <i>Naja tripudians</i> (Cobra)	43:07:00

Abstract serpent themes are provided in a comparative table on page 14.

Other remedy groups for study this semester will be introduced in later Units.



The Serpent Remedies

by Dr Ann Bowden MFHom

Introduction



Myth and legend tell us that the snake is the symbol of wisdom - as in the snake's healing staff of the Caducens - and also the agent of man's fall and redemption.

However their appearance and behaviour gives little outward indication of this and unfortunately there is widespread revulsion towards them. They are mostly inconspicuous and timid. Some snakes are poisonous most are not.

In its evolution from the reptile to some people the snake has become an enormous digestive system. Everything about them is concerned with swallowing and digesting. They swallow their prey whole, often many times their own size. The digestive process is so comprehensive that, in terms of waste metabolites, only uric acid is eliminated.

Snakes have 'lost' their legs and pelvic and shoulder girdles and became one seemingly endless string of vertebrae, up to 400. Their heads, with attached jaws are a continuation of the vertebrae with ribs for jaws.

There is only one lung, the left, most of the other other internal organs have made way for the digestive functions. The senses have been reduced to the perception of movement and vibration.

The snake's psychic force appears to have been subordinated to essential metabolic and digestive processes and the snake's 'wisdom' is in another concealed world.

From the homeopathic point of view, our Serpent medicines are made from the venom. The pharmacology of these poisons are a partial guide to understanding the indications and action of the remedies.

Snake venom contains a range of potent enzymes - proteolytic, cytolytic, neurotoxic and anticoagulant. One or more of these individual components may predominate in the different venoms that we obtain from the different species.

Most snake venoms affect the blood causing an initial thrombotic tendency followed by a more persistent anticoagulant action.

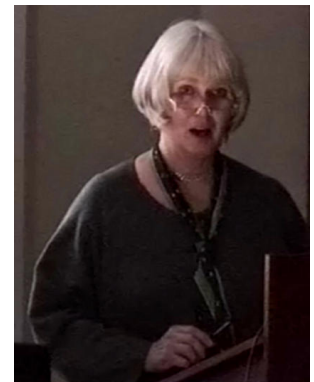
Cell damage leads to infection, necrosis and gangrene.

Cardiovascular effects range from hypotension, cold sweats and collapse to flushing and hypertension.

Involvement of the central nervous system is associated with delirium, paralyses of vital centres and coma.

The initial response to a poisonous snake bite is most commonly spreading oedema with intense pain. This is followed by haemorrhaging into the subcutaneous tissue, interstitial tissue and mucous membranes - causing ecchymoses, purple or black discoloration followed by intense thirst.

For the most toxic venoms, death usually ensues, unless antiserum is administered within minutes - hours. With less acute and non-fatal cases there is usually a process of suppuration, necrosis and gangrene.



Watch a presentation on
The serpent Remedies by
Dr Ann Bowden.

<https://youtu.be/W-UBK191CWk>



Dr Massimo Mangialavori has made a fascinating study and comparison of the snake remedies. He presents common themes:

- forsaken feeling - there is no relationship between mother and her young
- religious affections
- sense of persecution
- sensation of constriction
- cannot tolerate tight clothing - snakes must regularly shed their skin to fit their bodies
- difficult swallowing
- loquacity - like their vertebrae they go on and on
- temperature sensitive
- congestion, swollen sensation
- worse after sleep
- complaints of circulatory and nervous system



Ann Bowden discusses the common themes in the video presentation. 00:09:55

Lachesis muta (Surukuku, Bushmaster Snake)



The classic serpent remedy and a major polycrest.

Origin

The bushmaster snake originates in South America. It is the largest of the pit vipers and measures 3.6 m. The bite is particularly deadly, causing death from massive thrombosis (if a vein is punctured) or more delayed from vasomotor paralysis. The snake venom was first proven by Constantine Hering in 1828, who nearly died in the process. He elicited 3800 symptoms.

Ann Bowden describes the remedy picture of *Lachesis muta* in the presentation. 12:00:00

Affinities

Snake venoms contain proteins and phospholipids that affect the nervous and haematological system.

The action on the nervous system includes excitation followed by depression, slowing down of respiratory and cardiac functions, lowering blood pressure, hyperaesthesia and vaso-motor disorders.

On the haematological system there is hypercoaguability as well as haemorrhagic effects.

Modalities

Worse: sleep, morning, heat, sun, swallowing, touch, pressure (clothes around neck, waist), delayed discharges, beginning and end of menses, menopause, hot drinks, left side

Better: open air, free discharges, cold drinks

Typology

Vascularised, blotchy face. Very blue or purple. Periods of excitation, very talkative, suspicious, jealous and spiteful alternating with despondency, depression, silence and anxiety.

Mind

- sharp tongued, witty
- loquacious
- strong-minded, haughty
- jealous, envious, possessive, territorial
- passionate, vivid imagination
- strong sex drive
- dualism, conflicts between lower instincts and higher ego
- cyclotonic
- wanting approval, applause

Generals

- L sided
 - warm-blooded
 - haemorrhagic tendencies
 - hypertension
 - purple discoloration
 - < after sleep
 - < humid weather, spring
 - < constriction
 - < suppression
 - >discharges
-

ENT

- purple, livid pharynx and tonsils, feeling of constriction
 - difficulty swallowing, < empty mouth or liquids, > solids
 - tonsillitis L moves R
 - coryza or sinusitis with headache, > discharge
-

Cardiovascular

- hot flushes
 - palpitations with precordial constriction
 - hypertension
 - ischemic heart disease
 - myocarditis
 - varicose veins
 - thrombosis, thrombophlebitis
 - coma after CVA
-

Respiratory

- coryza or sinusitis beginning with headache better by discharge
-

Digestive

- inflamed prolapsing haemorrhoids, sensation of constriction in anus
 - craving for alcohol and oysters
-

Genital

- periods can be irregular, light, abdominal pain better onset of menstruation
 - L ovarian pain
 - symptoms since menopause
-

Skin

- spontaneous bruising
 - ulcers bluish, livid, bleeding easily, skin is sensitive to touch, foul discharge
 - wounds sensitive, bleeding profusely with dark non-coagulating blood
-

Clinical Indications

- septic conditions
 - menopausal, menstrual problems
 - thrombosis, thrombophlebitis
 - hypertension
 - heart disease
 - neuritis
 - alcoholism
-

Nucleus

- overactive mind, loquacity, vivid imagination, passionate
- > discharges, especially menses
- L sided
- < after sleep
- > heat, oppressive, humid weather

Crotalis horridus (North American Rattlesnake)



Key Features

- low septic states
- dark unclotted blood

Affinity

- cardio-vascular system
- haematological system

Ann Bowden describes the remedy picture of *Crotalis horridis* in the presentation. 32:53:00

Typology

- Less intense than Lachesis, not as aggressive, more sensitive.
- Very sad, melancholic.

Generals

- R-sided symptoms
- intolerant of tight clothing

Des: stimulants, sugar

Av: meat

Mentals

- weepy, sad
- deep depression
- sensitive
- apathy to family

Clinical Indications

- septic conditions
- purpura, ecchymoses
- nosebleeds
- metrorrhagia

Crotalis cascavella (Brazilian Rattlesnake)



Key Features

- constriction
- more marked emotional symptoms than physical (proving)

Ann Bowden describes the remedy picture of *Crotalis casc.* in the presentation. 36:20:00

Affinity

Cardiovascular and haematological system.

Generals

- chilly

Mentals

- thoughts and fear of death
- sense of persecution
- dreams of spirits, ghosts, monsters

Clinical Indications

- headache with constriction like a helmet
- nosebleed
- menstrual disturbances

Bothrops lanceolatus (Yellow viper)

Key Features

- highly coagulating, thrombosis
- hemiplegia



Affinity

Haematological system with tendency to hypercoagulation.

Ann Bowden describes the remedy picture of *Bothrops lanceolatus* in the presentation. 39:13:00

Generals

- broken down haemorrhagic conditions
- septic states
- symptoms move diagonally

Modalities

Worse: R-side

Mentals

- forgets words
- exhaustion

Clinical Indications

- thrombosis
- phlebothrombitis
- gangrene
- malignant ersipelias

Cenchrus contortrix (Copperhead)

Key Features

- alternation of moods
- sense of constriction



Affinity

Cardiovascular, haematological systems.

Ann Bowden describes the remedy picture of *Cenchrus cont.* in the presentation. 40:33:00

Generals

- R-sided complaints
- easier swallowing liquids than solids
- chilly
- pulsating sensations

Modalities

Worse: pressure, lying down, night

Mentals

- alternating moods
- dreamy, absent-minded
- suspicious

Clinical Indications

- R-sided ovarian pain
- menstrual disturbances
- heart disorders

Vipera aspis (German Viper)

Key Features

- pessimism
- irritable
- chilly



Affinity

Cardiovascular and haematological system.

Generals

- chilly
- thirst for cold drinks
- sleepy during daytime
- throbbing pains

Modalities

Worse: warm, damp weather, warm room, pressure

Better: during menses, gentle motion

Mentals

- pessimistic
- nervous, on edge
- dreams of death

Clinical Indications

- venous stasis
- ecchymosis
- varicosities
- nocturnal palpitations < lying on L side
- throbbing headaches < menses

Ann Bowden describes
the remedy picture of
Vipera in the presentation.
42:19:00

Elaps corallius (Coral snake)

Key Features

- black discharges
- fear alone
- R-side



Ann Bowden describes the remedy picture of *Elaps corallum* in the presentation. 43:07:00

Affinity

Haematological system, nose, ears, throat.

Generals

- chilly
- R-sided

Des: salads, oranges, ice

Av: meat

Modalities

Worse: cold, night

Better: walking, lying on abdomen

Mentals

- desire for solitude
- averse people, wants to go into the country away from people
- fear of being alone
- fear of rain

Clinical Indications

- menstrual disturbances
- intermenstrual bleeding

Naja tripudians (Cobra)

Key Features

- nervous, excited
- cardiac cases
- chilly



Affinity

Cardiovascular system especially heart valves.
Venom is more neurotoxic, not so much haemorrhagic.

**Ann Bowden describes
the remedy picture of
Naja in the presentation.
45:15:00**

Generals

- very sensitive to cold
- cannot lie on the left side
- pains moving from L to R

Des: sugar, alcohol

Modalities

Worse: lying on L side, after sleep, alcohol

Better: walking in open air

Mentals

- more of a soft personality
- broods over imaginary troubles

Clinical Indications

- chronic cardiac problems
- cardiac asthma
- valvular problems
- palpitations
- little application in gynaecology

Comparative Themes of the Serpents - Compiled by Dr Lee Holland and adapted by Russell Malcolm

<u>Crotalis cascavella</u> Lump Lament Fright Night	Constriction Discolouration Haemorrhage	Persecution Lonely / Solitary Needs a person around Forsaken Talk	Supernatural Religion / Mystical Ghosts / spirits Death Duality	Left brain problems Liver problems ?? Thyroid affectations	Problems during menses, better for menses, and better for discharges
<u>Cenchrus contortrix</u> Abstraction Swelling Rape Bite	Perspiration Constriction Right	Persecution Jealousy Restless Memory	Dreams of being bitten or being raped, penetration.	Dyspnoea Pain heart (cf Naja) Pain ovary	Spring Sleep Chill
<u>Crotalis horridis</u> Dementia Pain drawing Drunk Escape Memory weak	Congestion Discolouration Haemorrhage - Free bright blood Right	Persecution Talk aphasia (cf. Crot-c, Lach) Social or antisocial Memory weak	Sense of duty to loved ones (sociable snake) Person Cold	Gangrene or necrotic abscess	Typical insomnia drawing pains Chill lying egg
<u>Elaps corallum</u> Abstraction Falling Eating Sensitive High aesthetics	Discolouration Constriction Haemorrhage (dark)	Loneliness Persecution Aesthetic (?sensual)	Fantasies of going alone into the country fantasies of isolation ? Timidity, self effacing artistic	Nose (epistaxis) vicarious bleeds Pressure / congestion	Compensatory eating, eats til they feel bunged to the throat. Chill Menses
<u>Lachesis muta</u>	Constriction / swelling Left	Jealousy Loquacity	Dreams of dead relations	Veins, blood	blueness of lesions wakes into aggravation
<u>Naja trij.</u> Grief Duty Low self confidence Suicide	Constriction Discolouration Congestion Left	Duality Alcohol (cf Crot-h) Excitement	Fear	Praecordium Heart Arhythmia (No Bleeding)	Chill Lying Dullness Lump Waking
<u>Vipera aspis</u> (cf Vipera berus) (?? zoological identity of Vipera torva)	Constriction Discolouration Haemorrhage - Black blood	Forsaken Agitation	Change Death (cf Crot-c, Lach)	Lymphatics	Black spots < from change of temperature from cold to warm

Adapted from Part 12, *Women's Health* RLHH / RLHIM 1997

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