



DOCTRINE OF SIGNATURE: AN EXPLANATION OF DATURA STRAMONIUM PLANT FOR CORONAVIRUS?

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ABSTRACT

Man is the epitome or object of this universe.

In the ancient times, while human beings suffered from various maladies, they experimented with plant cure. They developed the concept of plant signature. everything on this cosmos with a sign or "signature" for their appliance by human beings, the concept of which is known as Doctrine of Signatures.

The key to human use of plants was hidden in the forms of the plant itself (signature); so close observation helps to recognize the utility of the plants.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION:

The Oxford Dictionary defines 'Doctrine' as "what is taught; a body of instructions"; "a set of principles".

The ancients believed that the form, colour and the shape of the plants are closely associated to certain therapeutic virtue.

The Doctrine of Signatures by the Neapolitan philosopher, Giambattista della Porta in the Middle Ages, evolved to reflect the thought and the insight of people towards plants.

The doctrine of signature was written by Jakob Bohme (1575-1624), a master shoemaker in the small town of Gorlitz, at Germany.

The Doctrine states that, by observation, one can determine from the colour of the flowers or roots, the shape of the leaves.

The relation between the external physical characters of drug substances and the signs and symptoms of the medicines produced during pathogenetic trial on healthy human beings. Doctrine of Signatures with Medicinal Substances of Plant Origin.

The concept of signatures is reflected in the common names of some plants whose shapes and colors reminded herbalists of the parts of the body where they were thought to do well, as for instance:

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Eyebright, used for eye infections. Hedge woundwort, thought to have antiseptic qualities.

Liverwort, either Marchantiophyta or Hepatica – used to treat the liver. Lungwort – used for pulmonary infections. Spleenwort, Asplenium – used to treat the spleen. Toothwort, Dentaria – used for tooth ailments.

One particular virus particle was very well preserved, showing features very typical of coronaviruses. This particle was 75 nm

in size and showed patchy stain pooling on the surface and a distinct envelope projection ending in round peplomeric (glycoprotein spike on the viral surface).

These bind only to certain receptors on the host cell.

The image revealed the presence of stalk-like projections ending in round peplomeric structures typical of a coronavirus particle.

So as per the microscopic image of coronavirus and Datura Stramonium resembles is observed.

Datura stramonium (D. stramonium) is one of the widely well-known folklore medicinal herbs.

The troublesome weed, D. stramonium is a plant with both poisonous and medicinal properties and has been proven to have great pharmacological potential with a great utility and usage in folklore medicine. D. stramonium has been scientifically proven to contain alkaloids, tannins, carbohydrates and proteins.

This plant has contributed various pharmacological actions in the scientific field of Indian systems of. Consumption of any part of the plant may result in a severe anticholinergic reaction that may lead to toxicity medicines like analgesic and antiasthmatic activities.

All parts of the plant are toxic, but the highest amount of alkaloids is contained in the ripe seeds.

Regional and other names

Sanskrit: Umatta-virkshaha

English: Thornapple

Hindi: Sadah-Datura, Safed Datura

Tamil: Umatai

Arab: Jonz-masal

Gujrat: Dhatoria

Bengali: Dhattura

Malayalam: Maraummam

Marathi: Kanaka

Scientific classification of D. stramonium

Scientific classification of D. Stromonium

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta
 Class: Magnoliopsida
 Order: Solanales
 Family: Solanaceae
 Genus: Datura
 Species: Datura stramonium

Botanical Description/Plant Appearance:

D. stramonium is an annual plant. The stem is herbaceous, branched and glabrous or only lightly hairy. By cultivation the plant reaches a height of about one meter. The branching stems are spreading, leafy, stout, erect, and smooth and pale yellowish green in color, branching repeatedly in a forked manner. Leaves are hairy, big, simple dentate, oval glabrous, apposite veins of leaves are pale black, stalked, 4-6 inch long, ovate and pale green. The upper surface is dark and grayish-green, generally smooth, the under surface paler, and when dried, minutely wrinkled.

D. stramonium bears funnel shaped, white or purple colored flowers, with 5 stamens and superior ovary. The average length of flower is about 3 inches. The calyx is long, tubular and somewhat a swollen below and very sharply five angled surmounted by five sharp teeth. Corolla is funnel shaped. Stem stalk is pale blue or greenish white. Seeds are black, kidney shape and flat. Fruits are as large as walnuts and full of thorns (hence the English name "thorn apple").

The whole plant is poisonous and the seeds are the most active; neither drying nor boiling destroys the poisonous properties.

Homoeopathic Literature

Preparation: Tincture of herb in flower and fruit.

The action of lungs was enfeebled, not from any impediment, by simply from want of power, the patient only respiring at long intervals.

Pain in forehead and over eyebrows; raises head frequently from the pillow.

On postmortem examination we do not notice much change except congestion of the vessels of brain and its membrane, congestion of the lungs and a great flaccidity of the heart.

Stramonium is good for all kinds of fever-typhoid, typhus, quotidian, double quotidian etc.

Spasmodic constriction of throat periodically returning attacks of painless, barking, spasmodic cough in fine, shrieking tone from constriction of larynx and chest, without expectoration.

Obstruction of the nose. Nose feels obstructed and dry, though able to breathe through spasmodic sneezing.

A mild dosage produces medicinal and healing effects, a moderate dosage produces aphrodisiac effects, and high dosages are used for shamanic purposes.

Choking in throat. Constriction about throat; frequent hemming and hawking.

Excessive sense of suffocation. Spasmodic asthma. Cough periodical, painless, spasmodic, shrill, screeching tone. Respiration is difficult and constricted in affections of the respiratory organs.

Stramonium has acquired great reputation for the relief of asthma. Dried leaves were smoked in a pipe, often relief.

Nervous asthma; the patient can scarcely draw in the breath

on account of the spasm.

Hamilton, Edward: I have found great benefit from it in having symptoms analogous, mentally and physically, to its own.

Hahnemann s.: Efficacious in some epidemic fevers with symptoms similar to those it capable of exciting in the mind and body. (Materia Medica Pura- Vol I, II) by Hahnemann S.

Moderate doses act for only 36 to 48 hours, small doses a shorter time. Injurious consequences of several days duration are to be feared from very large doses.

A feeling of suffocation from constriction of chest (spasm of the respiratory muscles) causes hurried breathing and desire for the open air.

These spasms may be brought on by attempts at drinking, along with the spasms of the throat muscles. A dry, spasmodic cough may also be noticeable. Palpitation, with rapid full strong pulse may be present. Pyrexia of stramonium is continued.

CONCLUSION:

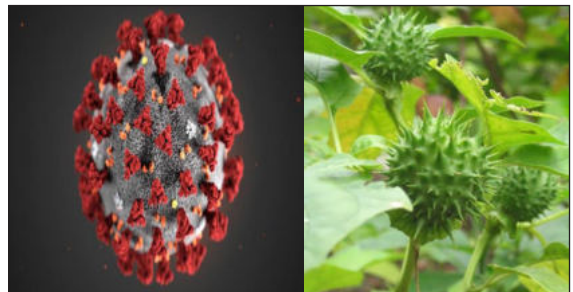
Concepts similar to the Doctrine of signatures may be found in folk or indigenous medicines and in modern alternative medicines. Till now there is no scientific evidence that shapes and colors helps in the discovery of medical uses of plants. The doctrine of signatures may sound eccentric to us but its insight is primeval and rediscovered in contemporary times.

It is often found that the physical characteristics of substances correspond with their dynamic influences.

Many stalwarts like c. Hering, Dr. C. M Boger, Dr. H. A Roberts and Dr. J. C Burnett had supporting attitude towards doctrine.

The doctoring of signatures also characterizes the medicinal potential of plants according to the visible mark bore in plant that reveal its intended use.

Deeper studies are required using modern technology Assessment.



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