Jonathan Hardy

Spider and Scorpion Remedies in Homeopathy

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von Jonathan Hardy

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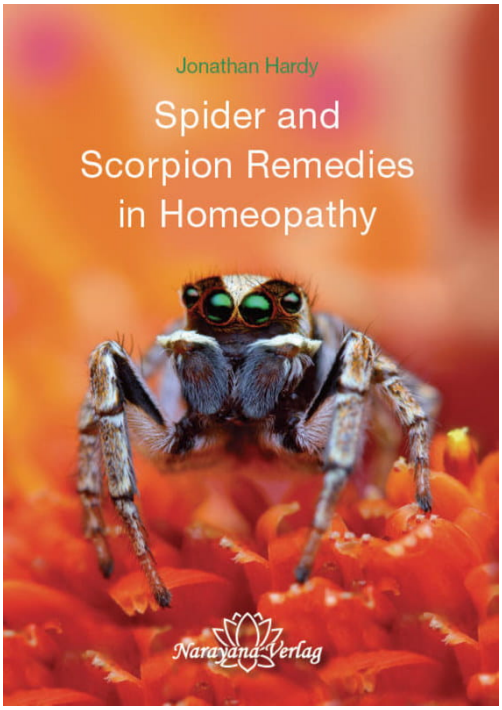

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ARANEA DIADEMA

The Papal Cross Spider

ARANEA DIADEMA MAIN THEMES

1. The idea of enlargement

Feeling as if parts were enlarged or heavier.
Wakes with hands feeling twice their natural size.
Sensations of swelling.

RUBRIC

Delusions; Enlarged, he is (59)

Of all the Spiders this remedy accentuates the theme of *size* the most. The size of others is threatening and *becoming bigger* is the solution to the feeling of threat.

2. Lassitude

Extreme weariness.
Desire to lie down.
Better for lying

3. Alone and attacked by a group

Feeling of being attacked by many; surrounded by attackers.
A lone person attacked by many.
Feel they must become big in order to defend themselves.

4. Very low self-esteem

Morose.
Deep melancholy.
Profound loss of confidence.

RUBRIC

Sadness: bed, will not leave (2)

Of all the Spider remedies, Aranea diadema is among those with the lowest self-esteem and least confidence.

5. Coldness

Cold to the very bones, cannot get warm.
Sensation bones are made of ice.
Worse for cold.

6. Sensitivity to dampness

Cannot live near fresh water, lakes, rivers.
Sensitive to damp, chilly places.
Most comfortable on sunny days.

Miasm: Malaria

The periodicity in this remedy is very marked.
The following modalities and rubrics of Aranea diadema are suggestive of the Malaria miasm:
Abnormal sensitivity to damp, chilly places.
Inability to live near fresh water, lakes and rivers.

RUBRICS

Mind; Death: desires: intermittent, in (2)
Generalities; Periodic: at the same hour (38)
Generalities; Periodic: daily (7)
Generalities; Periodic: at regular intervals (3)



The Malaria miasm lies between the Sycotic and Acute miasms and therefore shares characteristics of both. The feeling in the Malaria miasm is one of being limited, dependent and stuck (the Sycotic element) and, in addition, subject to intermittent attacks (the Acute element).
Both of the following cases demonstrate this state of being limited and stuck in an unfortunate position, while being intermittently attacked and persecuted.

Provings

1. Proved in 1832 by a young doctor and an army surgeon.
2. The main source is the clinical experience of von Grauvogl (1811–1887).
3. A more recent proving was carried out by Dr. Hedwig Kaeske on herself (1955), with verification on four provers by Weckenmann (1959).
4. Charlotte Rob, Berlin (2003).

Zoological features of homeopathic interest

During mating, the *much smaller* male will approach the female cautiously. In some cases he will be eaten by her.
This is a passive animal and is difficult to provoke to bite. If it does, the bite is only slightly unpleasant and completely harmless to humans.

CASE ONE

Boy aged 9
Chief complaints: Dyspraxia, dyslexia, behavioural problems

His mother says: He has difficulty controlling his anger. He has been hitting and kicking me. He has problems with his socialization. He cannot make friends and he is having problems with his work at school. Looking at him I see a mixed expression of both anger and hurt in his face.

Doctor: Is there anything you would like to tell me about?
Patient: Dad.

D: Go on.
P: He is very annoying.
D: Go on.
P: I hate him. I'd like to find out where he lives and pound on his door and ask him why doesn't he come and see me.
(He hasn't seen his father for five years.)
D: What's it like – not seeing him?
P: Really lonely. (He cries.) I see other children with their dads – it's really annoying.

Later in the consultation:
D: Do you have any dreams?
P: I have nightmares.
D: Say a bit more about them.

P: I have dreams of spying. They're horrible because your comrades die beside you. Some of you get trapped and you have to go and save them.
D: Go on.
P: They're held hostage. They're tied up and locked up in special reinforced chairs. You know you're alone and you can't reach your weapons.
D: Why can't you reach your weapons?
P: Because you're tied up. Your hands and legs.

His mother says: He has nightmares a lot of the time. Often he's trapped somewhere, by monsters or by people or he has fallen down caverns and he has been caught on his spy missions and he is stuck in a dungeon.

The boy goes on: You're stuck in a corner.
D: Go on.
P: It happens at school when I'm bullied. You come out of it with bruises and also you hurt other people and you don't want to, so then you're harmless, but then they punch you to death. It's really annoying.
D: Say more about being trapped.
P: Stuck in a corner – you can't break out. You're stuck in a prison cell or there are people in a long line in front of you and you're shoved in a corner. There's more than one line of people – there's one on both sides. Or you're stuck up somewhere, maybe up a chimney, trying to get out and you can't go up and the fire's burning, the chimney's too narrow, or there are planks of wood.
D: Go on.
P: People are holding you so you can't get away. They're building a wooden shelter for you so you can't get out.
D: Go on.
P: It's dark and there's a toilet but there's hardly any food and you can't see. Or you're shoved into a metal container with no lights or washing facilities, no food.
I have another nightmare where they get hold of you and they suck your soul out.
D: Describe it more.
P: They suck your soul out by breathing in.
D: Say more about spying.

P: You're super-intelligent. You're highly trained. You hijack the enemy and take them to prison.

D: Do you have any fears?

P: People who are bigger than you, stronger than you.
Every time you wake there are bats and mice and spiders in the loft and you think you're being stabbed and you're waiting for an ambush.

D: Describe it more.

P: It really feels like being stalked. Sometimes I hear a hissing.

D: Say more about being stalked.

P: It's by something quite small.

D: Describe it more.

P: It's a black mamba. It strangles and bites you or puts venom in you.

His mother says: Before his current school he was incessantly bullied. He was suicidal and his sense of self-worth completely disappeared.

P: The bullying was very painful. They were quite small people but very strong and there was a pack of them. They were coming from all sides, so I learned karate.

D: Do you have any other fears?

P: I have a feeling of being haunted.

D: Describe it more.

P: You know somebody and they're still alive but you haven't seen them for a long time, but you know they don't remember you. It makes you feel like you're cursed or haunted because they totally forget you… it's the same as happened with Dad.

D: Do you have any other fears?

P: No.

D: What about animals?

P: Oh, one thing. The black widow spider is really, really, really frightening. If it bites you, you can be dead, you collapse down the staircase. It's in Australia but I'm frightened it will come to England.

D: What kind of foods do you like?

P: Pasta.

His mother says: He doesn't like food he has to chew. He doesn't like meat – it sits in his mouth and he won't swallow it. He loves juices.

D: (To mother) How would you describe him as a person?
M: He is very restless. He has no self-confidence. It is 100% lacking. He has a wicked sense of humour – he can be very sarcastic. He can be very wry and ironic. He can have people in stitches – he acts the fool.
D: (To the patient) What kind of clothes do you like?
P: I like blue and green clothes when I'm doing my painting. I like cool things.
D: Describe them more.
P: A t-shirt with dragons on.

His mother says: He likes camouflage things very much.

P: Oh yeah – I like to hide and ambush people.
D: What would you like to do when you grow up?
P: I want to be an assassin.
D: What would that be like?
P: I want to be in the SAS (British Army Special Forces). They send in lone people, they find and kill.
D: Describe it more.
P: It's not fun. It's lethal and deadly and you only have to do it once in a while and then you can be lazy for the rest of the time. When you send in a big squad of people it's too obvious – I would do it by maybe being their bodyguard. And at the right time sneak into their bedroom and stab them.
D: How would you kill them?
P: I'd shoot them with a silencer, or I'd poison them, or I'd rub powder in their eyes to give them a slow and painful death.

Case analysis

This boy is completely decompensated and therefore expressing his state very clearly. He gives us a dramatic picture of the Spider state of consciousness, and fortunately there are a few clues as to the specific remedy he needs.

ANIMAL THEMES

Victimized.
Me against the group.
Killing.
Fighting.

SPIDER THEMES

Humour

Sarcasm.
Acting the fool.
A wicked sense of humour.

Persecution

Annoying.
Bullying.

Sadism and pain

Hurting other people.
The bullying was very painful.
A slow and painful death.

Forsaken feeling

Totally forgotten.
Lone people.
Your comrades die.

Trapped

Tied up.
Stuck in a corner.
Prison.

Feeling held

Held hostage.
People are holding you.

Feeling weak and wanting to defend oneself

You're harmless.
Poor self-esteem.
Karate.

Attacking with cleverness

Spying.
Super-intelligent.
Ambush.
Sneaking.
Betrayal.
Camouflage.
Assassin.
A long time.



Liquid food

Aversion to chewing.
Desires juices.

Eating seldom

There's hardly any food.
You only have to do it once in a while.
Lazy for the rest of the time.

Size

Bigger than you.
Stronger than you.
Something quite small.

POISON THEMES

Stabbed, bites, venom.

SPIDER PECULIARITIES

Hissing.
"They suck your soul out" This probably refers to the spider mode of eating: without chewing mouth-parts they must digest their meal before ingesting it.

Digestive juices are injected into the victim and the resulting pre-digested liquid matter is then sucked up.

He is restless and has poor self-esteem. Dyspraxia and behavioural problems are common Spider pathologies.

It is clear through his vivid expressions that this boy needs a Spider remedy. What is not so obvious, as is often the case, is which specific remedy from the group he needs. We must look carefully at the case and see what is left. What is a prominent theme in the case but is neither a general Animal nor a general Spider theme?

SPECIFIC REMEDY THEMES

His sense of self-worth completely disappeared.
They were coming from all sides.
There was a pack of them.
Suicidal.

Remedy: Aranea diadema

Death, desires: Aranea diadema is prominent in this rubric.

Massimo Mangialavori tells us Aranea diadema is, in his experience, the Spider with the lowest self-esteem.

Divya Chhabra has observed that these people have the sense of needing to defend themselves from all sides – there is a group of people attacking coming from all around. This is his specific feeling, which apparently manifested in reality in the "incessant bullying" at school which his mother reports.

General Spider themes expressed strongly in this case

Size: He talked a great deal about the size of things: "They were bigger than you, stronger than you"; "Something quite small". Aranea diadema is the Spider with the biggest emphasis on size. It is one of only two Spider remedies in the rubric Delusions; enlarged, he is.

POTENCY SELECTION

1M. This boy is clearly at a delusional level. His fears, dreams, ambitions and expressions all demonstrate a disturbance primarily in his mind and he therefore needs a 1M potency.

RESULT OF TREATMENT

He responded positively immediately and his mother continued to bring him for treatment for two and a half years. He required a repeat of his remedy every two to three months. After eighteen months he stopped responding to the 1M potency but an increase to 10M produced a very good response again. During the course of his homeopathic treatment he improved on all levels. He stopped being violent to his mother. His behaviour and schoolwork improved. He ceased to have disturbing dreams. He became much happier, the bullying at school stopped and he began to make friends.



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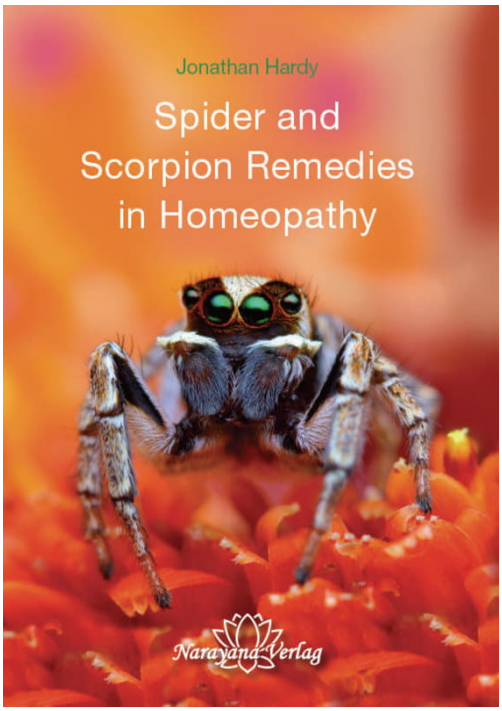

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