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- Docteur, mon fils a de l'eczéma cutané.
- Votre réclame se fait de bouche à bouche (!!)
- J'adore nager au bord de la mer, chaque matin je fais quelques longueurs...

Perles entendues en consultation du Dr J.L.

Brassica - Rape seed oil - Raps Substance

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Extrait de "Dynamic Provings" Volume one - Jeremy Sherr & Dynamis School (p 161- 163)

The name Brassica is derived from the Latin word "Rupum," meaning turnip. It is related to mustard, cabbage, and cale. Oil seed rape has indefinite origins but are cited (Scarisbrick and Daniels, 1986) as being most likely Eurasian. There is some evidence to suggest that it was used in oil lamps as far back as 2000 B.C. in India, China, and Japan. It seems that European cultivation began in the 13th Century. Rape oil was the most important lamp oil in Northern Europe in the Middle Ages. From the 19th Century onward, its use declined due to colonial imports of other oil seeds and the use of fossil fuels (mineral oil) to replace it in lighting and lubrication. The decline continued until the 1940s, since which time its increased cultivation has been prolific. In 1986 it was the third most widely grown arable crop (after wheat and barley) in England. It has received heavy subsidies from the EEC to get to this point; it is relatively cheap to produce, has a high yield, and grows in many diverse conditions.

Other special features of the plant are the high erucic acid content, which makes it very water repellent, and the high glucosinolate content of the meal fed to cattle. Both these features have led people to question its use as a food. About 20 years ago, the high erucic acid level was deemed carcinogenic, and it was banned as a food stuff for humans in the U.S.A. and Europe until new strains were bred with low erucic acid. The high glucosinalate content has been said to have a bad effect on monogastric animals, therefore it is mainly fed to cows. It is perhaps ironic then that approximately 80 percent of the oil seed crop is used to produce cooking oils and margarines.

It produces its vivid yellow flowers in May/June, then turns dry and brown. When it is crushed, it gives off very heavy toxic fumes of sulphur compounds. (John Seaton Refiners, Hull.) Brassica napus is derived from Campestris and is very close botanically.

There has been a lot of interest in Brassica's relationship to hay fever and asthma in recent years, and indeed it is used isopathically in this way at the moment. The purpose of the proving this time is to begin to establish the more characteristic and specific properties of the substance or, in Hahnemann's words, its inner, highly distinctive properties (Par. 119a).

Sources

- *Oil Seed Rape*, Scarisbrick and Daniels, 1986.
- *Oil Seed Crops*, Weiss, 1983.
- "Natural History Programme," Radio 4, June 1991.
- *John L. Seaton Refiners*, Hull, 1991.
- *Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica*, J. H. Clarke.
- *Organon of Medicine Hahnemann*, 1842 (Kunzli et. al. translation).

Brassica: substance
Mr Jeremy Sherr

Toxicology

Oil seed rape (Brassica napus) is regarded as a profitable crop with many potential uses. These include industrial lubricants, printing inks, replacement for diesel oil in tractors, the cosmetics industry, and as a culture medium in the pharmaceutical industry. Its most common use is in the production of edible oils for cooking and in margarine.

Clarke's *Dictionary of Materia Medica Pura* has a summary of toxic effects "... derived from the experience of the Irish famine, during which people ate it freely."

The toxic effects of this plant and its derivatives were forcefully experienced in May 1981 when a previously unknown epidemic disease appeared in Spain.

It was characterized predominantly by noncardiac pulmonary edema, skin rash, myalgia, eosinphilia, joint contractures, scleroderma, sicca syndrome, polyneuropathy and pulmonary hypertension.

Within a few months, 19,748 people developed the disease and 457 died. The epidemic outbreak was related to the intake of cooking oil sold in bulk. Once the toxic oil was withdrawn from the market, there was a significant reduction in the occurrence of the disease. The disorder was thereafter known as the Toxic Oil Syndrome.

Much research has been done on various aspects of the plant, including its physiological and biochemical propitious. However more relevant to this report is the plethora of research that surrounds the toxic oil syndrome.

The most comprehensive references from the literature search we did were the following: "Toxic Oil Syndrome: A Long-Term Follow-up" by Alonso-Ruiz, et al., in the *Journal of Medicine* (USA) and "WHO Meeting Report on Toxic Oil Syndrome" by R.Philen quoted in *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism* (USA).

Particular Symptoms

- Mind: irritability, anxiety, depression, distress, memory disorders.
- Head: alopecia.
- Vision: xeropthalmia.
- Throat: dysphagia.
- Face: oedema, scleroderma.
- Eyes: Sicca syndrome ("reduced or no lachrymation with consequent dryness and inflammation of conjunctiva. Sicca Syndrome is the occurrence of this symptom in the absence of rheumatoid arthritis." O.E.D.)
- Respiration: dyspnoea, exertional, failure of.
- Chest: edema, wall restrictions, pain, pneumonia, pulmonary hypertension.
- Cough: nonproductive.
- Back: pitting edema.
- Abdomen: enlargement of liver, enlargement of spleen, hepatic disease.
- Genitalia, female: transient amenorrhea.
- Skin: rash, maculopapular, scleroderma, hyperaesthesia, hypesthesia, tenderness,pruritus, atrophy, hyperpigmentation, pitting oedema.
- Extremities: myalgia, chronic pain, joint contractures, claw-hand, hands, feet, genu-flexum, pes equinnus, Raynauds disease, muscle cramps, muscle wasting, arthritis, arthralgia, loss of reflex, weakness, numbness, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, tenderness.
- Sleep: disturbances, insomnia.
- Generalities: weariness, strength loss, wasting, extreme weight loss, jaundice.

PHARMACY

The tincture we used was made from the stem, leaves, and flowers of a plant believed to be Brassica Campestris. Brassica Campestris is the primary species of oil seed rape. The plant was picked while in flower. This was made into a mother tincture to a strength of 1 in 10. Subsequent dilutions, to 200c, were prepared in 90 percent ethanol by the traditional single vial Hahnemannian method.