

International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences

E-ISSN: 2616-4493 P-ISSN: 2616-4485 www.homoeopathicjournal.com

IJHS 2023; 7(3): 69-72 Received: 10-04-2023 Accepted: 14-05-2023

Dr. K Syed Abid

Assistant Professor,
Department of Homoeopathic
Pharmacy, MNR
Homoeopathic Medical College
and Hospital, Sangareddy,
Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Efficacy of homoeopathic doctrine of signature in the treatment of *paederus* dermatitis: A case report

Dr. K Syed Abid

DOI: https://doi.org/10.33545/26164485.2023.v7.i3b.891

Abstract

Paederus dermatitis is a rare and peculiar type of irritant contact dermatitis caused by a Rove beetle belonging to the genus Paederus. This insect does not bite or sting, but releases a coelomic fluid when accidentally brushed or crushed on the skin. If not washed immediately, the chemical leads to form blisters on that exposed area. Doctrine of signature is the relation between the external physical characters of the drug substances and the signs and symptoms of the medicines produced during pathogenetic trial on healthy human beings. In Homoeopathy, the Doctrine of signature is one of the sources of Materia medica. Even though Doctrine of Signature is a source, every homoeopath should take the case thoroughly and use repertorization to prescribe the simillimum.

Case Summary: A Male aged 27 years, came with complaints of Blisters on the neck due to crushing the Rove beetle (Nairobi fly) on his neck. After considering Doctrine of Signature along with detailed case taking and repertorization, he was prescribed CANTHARIS 200. The Blisters and the scar marks got completely reduced in a very short span of time. This shows that Homoeopathic management with the help of doctrine of signature and repertorization can treat the rare conditions like *paederus* dermatitis.

Keywords: *Paederus* dermatitis, rove beetle, doctrine of signature, homoeopathy, *Materia medica*, cantharidin, pederine

Introduction

Paederus dermatitis, also known as blister beetle dermatitis or dermatitis is a peculiar irritant contact dermatitis characterized by erythematobullous lesions or "blisters of sudden onset" on the exposed areas of the body ^[5]. The disease is caused by a Rove Beetle belonging to the genus called "*Paederus*" ^[1]. The genus, *Paederus* belongs to the family called "Staphylinidae", order called "Coleoptile", class called "Insecta" and consists of over 622 species which are distributed worldwide ^[7]. *Paederus* beetles have been associated with outbreaks of symptoms like dermatitis in various countries such as Australia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kenya, Iran, Uganda, Okinawa, Sierra Leone, Central Africa, Argentina, Brazil, France, Venezuela and India. The incidence of cases are reported to be greater during the last quarter of the year, the period that immediately follows after the rainy season ^[4].

The Adults of these kind of beetles are usually 7-10 mm long and 0.5 mm wide, which is the size around one and half times that of a mosquito. They have a black head, lower abdomen and elytra (this structure covers the wings and first three abdominal segments) and a red thorax and upper abdomen. This beetle does not bite or sting, but when accidentally brushed against or crushing the beetle over the skin provokes the release of its coelomic fluid which contains highly poisonous substances such as cantharidin or pederin, a potent vesicant. The compound "Cantharidin" is found in the haemolymph of the beetle and then released when the insect is crushed on surface of the skin. A number of these insects secrete the caustic fluid via their leg joints when they are disturbed or crushed ("reflex bleeding"). The lesions are characteristically linear.

Once "Pederin or Cantharidin" is on the skin from the initial contact of the beetle, it may also be spread on any other location on the skin. "Mirror-image" or "Kissing Love bite" like lesions, where any two skin areas come in contact. Severe cases, in addition of occurring more extensive blistering, may also demonstrate other additional symptoms such as fever, neuralgia, arthralgia and vomiting. Washing the hands and the skin thoroughly with a soap and water is strongly recommended, if there is any contact with a rove beetle. The clinical features of *Paederus* dermatitis are Extensive Blistering, Erythema, Vesicles and Pustules,

Corresponding Author:
Dr. K Syed Abid
Assistant Professor,
Department of Homoeopathic
Pharmacy, MNR
Homoeopathic Medical College
and Hospital, Sangareddy,
Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Fever, A burning sensation, Intense Itching, Blister Beetle Dermatitis, Conjunctivitis (Nairobi eye), Irritation, Crusting, Scaling.⁴

Doctrine of signature was developed by Swiss physician "Paracelsus". He wrote that "The Nature makes each growth according to its own curative benefit". Doctrine of signature signals, such as colour, shape and texture, serves as hints pointing to which organ a drug treats. In Homoeopathy, the Doctrine of signature is the relation between the external physical characters of the drug substances and the signs and symptoms of the medicines produced during pathogenetic trial or drug proving on healthy human beings [3]. It is one of the sources of Homoeopathic Materia medica. Many stalwarts like Dr. C Hering, Dr. C.M. Boger, Dr H.A. Roberts and Dr. J.C. Burnett had supporting attitude towards this doctrine. Dr.J.H. Clarke wrote in the introduction, of the remedy Magnesia Carbonica, that it is often found that the physical characteristics of any substance correspond with their true dynamic influences.

Few examples

- **1.** *Pulsatilla*: Movement of the flowers– Changeability of *pulsatilla* is persistent.
- **2. Lachesis:** Snake is fretful suspicious and distend tongue—Patient is additionally same.
- 3. Chelidonium: Yellow juice—Useful for jaundice.
- **4.** Calcarea carb: It is a Hardshell to secure the delicate body– Patient is delicate and needs to be assured.
- **5. Euphrasia:** Black spots on corolla resembles a pupil—Useful for eye symptoms.

Before Hahnemann, the development of Homoeopathic *Materia medica* was mostly based on the theoretical concept, where the Doctrine of Signature was a great source of Homoeopathic *Materia medica*. Hahnemann says that human health does not always allow medicines based on the doctrine of signature ^[2]. Only the drugs which after drug proving on healthy human beings which reveal their original medicinal properties which are very similar in morbid state that can be administered for the ideal cure. It is based on the "Law of Similars" which Hahnemann says in his prefix to the proving of drug - *Chelidonium* ^[2].

Case Report

A Moderately built male, 27 years old, reported to the clinic with the complaint of lesion on his right side of the neck since 3-4 hours. Complaint started after he crushed the rove beetle on his neck when he felt something was crawling on his neck. The lesion is red in colour and has blisters on it. There is burning and smarting type of pain. He has intense

pleasurable itching. His pain gets aggravates from any kind of touch. His complaint gets ameliorated from cold application, bathing and scratching which gives him pleasure.

There was no abnormality in his past history, allergic history and family history. In Personal history his Diet is mixed, Appetite is good - 3 times/day, Thirst is normal, Desires are nothing specific, Aversions are nothing specific, Micturition is normal 5-6/D, 0-1/N, Bowels: 1/day, satisfactory, Sleep is disturbed due to itching, Perspiration is moderate and he is a hot patient. When asked about his mental symptoms, he said that he is highly irritable since the complaints started, became restless and is having mental excitement, specially he was having excessive sexual desire since the complaints occurred. His vitals are normal. On Local examination, there is Reddish (Erythamatous) Blisters on the right side of the neck and tenderness on touch.

Totality of symptoms

- 1. Irritable due to pain.
- 2. Restlessness with mental excitement.
- 3. Excessive Sexual desire.
- 4. Blisters.
- 5. Touch aggravation, cold application or bathing amelioration.
- 6. Intense Pleasurable Itching.
- 7. Scratching amelioration
- 8. Smarting pain with Burning sensation.

Repertory Used

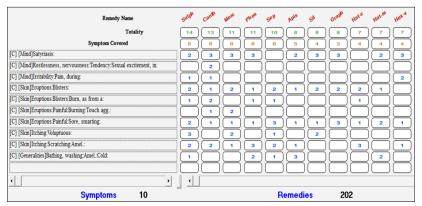
Complete Repertory

Repertorial totality

- 1. MIND Satyriasis:
- 2. MIND Restlessness, nervousness: Tendency: Sexual excitement, in:
- 3. MIND Irritability Pain, during:
- 4. SKIN Eruptions: Blisters;
- 5. SKIN Eruptions: Blisters: Burn, as from a:
- 6. SKIN Eruptions: Painful: Sore, smarting:
- 7. SKIN Itching: Voluptuous:
- 8. SKIN Itching: Scratching: Amel:
- 9. GENERALITIES Bathing, washing Amel: Cold:

Repertorisation was done using Hompath Software (complete repertory) (Mind Technologies private limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra State, India), and the repertorial result is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Repertorisation table of first prescription done by repertorisation software



Result

- 1. Sulph 14/8.
- 2. Canth 13/8.
- 3. Merc 11/6.
- 4. Phos 11/6.
- 5. Sep 10/6.

Selection of remedy with potency

Cantharis 200

Intervention with justification

First prescription: On 30 December 2022, Cantharis 200, water dose for every 3 hours was given. Basis of prescription: Cantharis is selected on the basis of individualization, symptom totality with the consultation of *Materia medica* and the Doctrine of signature. As Cantharis

is prepared from Tincture or trituration of living Spanish fly which is of *paederus* (family), Coleoptera (order) and Insecta (class). As of doctrine of signature, this family insects will produce coelomic fluid called Cantharidin and pederin when crushed on skin, causes blisters, burning, intense itching on the affected part. Cantharidin, in many sources taken as aphrodisiac because it has properties which causes excess sexual desire. Thus, overall, as the symptoms matches to Cantharis according to repertorization and also Doctrine of Signature, Cantharis is selected as a perfect remedy.

Follow up and outcomes

Follow- up of the patient was assessed for every 6 hours and later on for every day. The date wise detailed follow-ups are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Time line including follow-up of the case

Date	Symptoms	Medicine with Doses	Justification
31 December 2022	 Redness and Blisters got reduced by 80%. Pain reduced by 80%. Sexual desire slightly reduced. 	1. Cantharis 200, Water dose every 10 hours.	As there was improvement noted, <i>Cantharis</i> 200 was continued.
01 January 2023	 Blisters got completely reduced. Pain reduced completely. Sexual desire reduced completely. 	1. Cantharis 200 C, 1 dose.	No recurrence of the eruptions is seen and all his mentals are improved. Therefore, the same medicine was continued.
02 January 2023	1. No new complaints. Patient is physically and mentally healthy.	No medication	The symptoms are cured completely, so the treatment is stopped.

Result

The Erythematous blisters on the neck got reduced from the 2nd water dose and itching burning sensations got completely reduced without any scar marks along with his irritation, mental sexual excitement with excessive sexual desire by the end of the treatment. Cantharis 200C showed a marked improvement.

Case report of Paederus Dermatitis

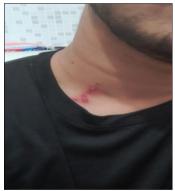






Fig 2: 30/12/2022



Fig 3: 31/12/2022





į

Fig 4: 01/01/2023

Fig 5: 02/01/2023

Discussion

The Patient presented with the complaints of reddish blisters with sudden onset on the right side of his neck. This case was treated with individualized homoeopathic medicine along with the doctrine of signature, which showed complete recovery without any recurrence in the follow up period. Dr. Vishal Deshpande presented an article of "Homoeopathic Management of Insect Bite: A Case Study' in which *Apis mellifica* 200 was prescribed to treated successfully [6]. As this is a very rare condition, there are very few articles related to *Paederus* dermatitis in the field of Homoeopathy.

Conclusion

Homoeopathy is a specialized system of medicine. It treats patient as whole and not just symptoms; in which the doctrine of signature plays a significant role in prescribing the perfect remedy. A complete recovery of the blisters including the scar mark within the span of 3 days shows that Homoeopathic treatment in Acute conditions shows tremendous effect on the patients.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

Declaration of patient consent

An informed consent was received from the patient for publication of this case report, provides the identity of the patient is not revealed.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

References

- 1. Singh G, Yousuf Ali S. *Paederus* dermatitis. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol. 2007;73:13-15.
- 2. Kumari DrK. Doctrine of signature what Hahnemann says? International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences. 2019;3(1):06–07.
 - doi:10.33545/26164485.2019.v3.i1a.49.
- 3. Bagga DrA, Kaur DrA. Doctrine of signature and Corona virus. International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences. 2021;5(4):171–173. doi:10.33545/26164485.2021.v5.i4c.467.
- 4. *Paederus* dermatitis [Internet]. Wikimedia Foundation; 2022 [cited 2023 Jul 12]. Available from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/*Paederus*_dermatitis.
- 5. Mammino JJ. *Paederus* dermatitis: An outbreak on a medical mission boat in the Amazon. The Journal of clinical and aesthetic dermatology. 2011;4(11):44–46.
- 6. Deshpande V. Homoeopathic Management of Insect Bite: A Case Study. Homoeopathy, 2022, 360.
- Ebrahimzadeh MA, Rafati MR, Damchi M, Golpur M, Fathiazad F. Treatment of *Paederus* Dermatitis with Sambucus ebulus Lotion. Iranian Journal of pharmaceutical research: IJPR. 2014;13(3):1065-1071.

How to Cite This Article

Sabud A, Das A, Debbarma R. Efficacy of Individualized homoeopathic intervention in subclinical hypothyroidism: A case report. International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences. 2023;7(3):69-72.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share-Alike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.