

INSECTS

ESCAPING THE EARTH

The insects are the largest and most important class of the animal kingdom. They are central to all aspects of life on Earth being major forces in both the creation and destruction of life. In spite of this importance they have not yet had a significant role in homœopathy. In the last decade a dozen new Insect provings have opened up the remedy pictures and given us an insight into the properties of the group as a whole. The issues of the Insects correspond to those of the modern world and modern disease yet they are still little understood and considerably underused.

This is the first study of the known Insect remedies and it outlines the features that are common to the whole group and the often subtle distinctions that differentiate between them.

TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS

The remedies that move between the Realms of Sea, Earth, Sky and Underworld have a particular dynamic relationship to that transformation. Understanding this dynamic helps to understand the group as a whole and to find the subtle difference between its members. Groups include the Insects, the Birds, the Spiders, the Snakes, the Lacs, the Drugs and the Trees.

"Peter's series of books has been a revelation. The discrimination between insects and birds is so succinct it is hard to believe it is so true. I can think of no homœopathic books available which give so much wisdom for such a small cost! They have inspired my practice, and benefited my patients."

Geoff Johnson

"This book is remarkably informative, not only in the description of the different Insect remedies but more importantly in delineating how the traits of the insect are expressed in human pathology. The information is practical and brings alive the Insect remedies in a way that is exciting and inspiring."

Janet Snowdon



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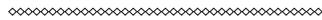
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TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS

INTRODUCTION



There are two types of symptom in any case. Most symptoms make up what can be seen as the background of the case. These are stable and distinctive and they will lead the prescriber to a group of remedies. Examples of the background are the Miasms, the Botanical and Zoological Families, the Periodic Table, the Realms and the Kingdoms.

It is sometimes possible to find the indicated remedy by cross referencing the various background features of the case. This approach has great appeal as it appears to be ordered and systematic and does not require a detailed knowledge of the remedies. In fact a completely unknown remedy can be prescribed purely on its relationship to other known remedies. However, this approach is not as easy to work with as it may seem as distinctions are subtle and the slightest misunderstanding in classifying any aspect of the case will lead to the wrong remedy.

The background in the case will usually lead to a group of remedies and it is differentiating within the group and finding the specific group member indicated in the case that is the most difficult part. Although other backgrounds do differentiate somewhat there is usually a correspondence between different backgrounds. Many remedies that are of the Sea Realm are also Phlegmatic in nature and so knowing that a case is both of the Sea and Phlegmatic is not very helpful.

The foreground is the place in a case where there is dynamic energy and movement. It is the place where the patient becomes animated and where the symptoms are changing and contradictory. This is the place that restricts, that prevents the patient from moving on and growing but it is also the place through which they will move and grow. This is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the foreground of the case, it is as positive as it is negative and it is as healing as it is destructive. It is also unusual, individualistic and characteristic. No one else expresses it in quite the same way and for no one else would it quite make sense in the way it does for the patient. It is also something that appears in different aspects of the case but with the same distinctive quality. The foreground is what Hahnemann refers to as the totality of the characteristic symptoms.

Finding the foreground in a case gives you a deep insight into the patient and without understanding this aspect of their life it is very difficult to understand the case and to discover what it is that is to be cured.

Finding the foreground features in a case requires attention to the patient's way of expressing him or herself and of describing his or her symptoms. The key indicators are animation and contradiction and wherever either of these appear in a case they need to be pursued because here will be found the information that allows an accurate differentiation between the group of background remedies. Animation is important because it indicates that the things under discussion are dynamic and alive for the patient. Contradiction is important because the path to illness and the path to healing are the same just as the symptoms of the disease and of its cure are the same.

The same process that is involved in finding the foreground features of a case is involved in finding the foreground features of a remedy. Again animation and contradiction are the key indicators of foreground symptoms. This is why it is important to study remedies from the provings as all too often these are

INSECTS – ESCAPING THE EARTH

Insects are the largest class of animals with some 800,000 species described and possibly a far greater number that have not yet been found. For every human on earth there are something like a billion insects. They range from stick insects a foot long and moths with a 12 inch wingspan to many tiny species one hundredth of an inch long. They are generally among the most developed of the invertebrates. The evolution of the insects allowed for the co-evolution of the angiosperms, the flowering plants that make up the majority of plant species. Many insects live off the nectar that they receive from plants in return for pollination. However, they can also be parasites and the parasites of parasites. Many feed on dung or decaying material and without them the ecosystem would be overwhelmed with partially decayed organic material in a matter of weeks. The ecology of the planet is dependent on the activities of insects.

What exactly constitutes an insect is not clearly defined. Sometimes all the six-legged hexapods are regarded as insects; sometimes only those which fly or have flying ancestors. As only the latter group are used in homœopathy the question is fairly unimportant to us.

The chief features of insects are that they fly; that they develop from juvenile forms that are often very different from the imago (adult); that they breed prolifically; and that many of them

are social animals. By no means do all insects have all these features but they are the features of the insects as a whole and they seem to be found, at least to some degree, as features in all Insect remedies, even those made from insects that do not express all of them in their current physical forms.

The insects and the birds are the only classes of animal that have established the ability to fly as a property of most of their species and so a property of the class as a whole. Some mammals, particularly the bats, some snakes and lizards and even some fish have the ability to fly or at least to glide but they are all exceptional within their class, with insects and birds the inability to fly is the exception.

Almost all insects undergo some form of transformation from their larval form to the adult form. Some are holometabolous and undergo a pupal stage in which they change, often into a completely different form. Others are hemimetabolous and undergo a series of changes through a number of larval stages, called instars, as they shed their exoskeletons, each one a little more like the adult form. The common pattern involves a flightless larval stage and a winged imago. The appearance and feeding behaviour of the two forms can be completely different. The caterpillar and the butterfly being the most powerful expression of this.

Insects use a wide range of reproductive strategies. The adults are usually involved in sexual reproduction, though there are species that reproduce sexually at the larval stage. Some insects use a degree of parthogenesis, with the child a clone of the mother. Usually when this happens sexual and asexual reproduction are found in alternating generations but there are species that are only known to reproduce asexually. Sometimes the larvae reproduce asexually and only some generations reach maturity and then reproduce sexually. Insects are also often involved in the sexual behaviour of plants. Some plants, most notably species of orchid, pose as sexually available insects to attract mates who will pollinate them.

INSECT REMEDIES IN GENERAL

The key indicator for the Insect remedies is their industriousness. It is through the work that they do that they are able to progress and so their work is always important to them in some way. They will put all their energies into their work and it will be among the ways that they gauge their success. This could be a little misleading as it is the work itself that is important rather than the concomitants such as success, power and recognition. Though in the individual Insect remedies the importance of some of these rewards can be pronounced and thus a point of differentiation. In non insect remedies the things that come from work are often more important than the work itself.

The Insect remedies will also bring a work pattern and ethic to whatever they do. This means that they do things in a business like manner, even things where this is not appropriate and so they can appear to be unemotional, structured and fastidious, especially in personal relationships. They are better for activity and for work rather than just any activity. They are restless and are often unable to rest or to settle into a calm or meditative state. However, their restlessness can become unproductive, just buzzing around getting nothing done.

It is only through effort that they are able to achieve and it is only through achievement that they are able to gain validation for who they are and what they do. It is achievement rather than success that is important to them and not so much for its own sake

or even for what it brings but because it validates their work and their effort. The other side of this can be that in spite of the work they do and the effort they make they do not achieve as much as they feel they ought and they find this very depressing.

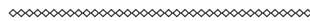
One of the areas that the Insect remedies can direct their energies is into benevolence. They can be working for the good of the family or the group rather than just for themselves. They feel that helping others can be very worthwhile and this is another way of validating the work that they do. However, they also feel that others should reciprocate and should help them and they are disappointed that they seem to give much more than they receive in the way of help and support from the people around them.

The Insect needs to metamorphosize, to transform, in order to be able to do what he or she needs to do. It is not enough for them just to grow or develop or learn. The way that they are is not sufficient to achieve their objectives and needs. They feel that they need to be a different person and in a different situation in order to be able to move on. They might need to change their environment or the company they keep. They might feel they need to learn something more or to gain new skills or to achieve some sort of qualification. At the same time there is a reluctance to take the necessary steps and a feeling that in changing they will lose something of what they already have.

There can be a paradox arising from the attitude to transformation in that they must work and through work achieve something in order to transform but they also feel that they cannot truly achieve through their work until they have transformed. They feel this puts them in an impossible situation that seems to have no resolution and so they despair of ever being able to make the necessary transformation.

Exhaustion is found throughout the Insect remedies. It is a physical exhaustion that comes primarily from too much

REPERTORIZING



Using the repertory with the Insect remedies is very difficult. Many of the new remedies have not been added yet and most of the old ones are very incomplete.

There is also no representative remedy that gives a good indication that an Insect might be needed in the way that Lachesis does for the Snakes, Falco for the Birds or Tarentula for the Spiders. It is therefore necessary to be able to recognize the Insect remedies even when they do not appear strongly in a repertorization.

Apis and Cantharis are well represented in the repertory although mostly in therapeutic terms and the mind symptoms are fairly restricted.

Coccus cacti and Formica rufa have good representation but again not much of a mind picture.

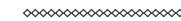
Cimex, Aphis, Vespa, Doryphora, Pediculus all have some representation but limited picture. Inachio io, though new, has about the same level of representation.

Limenitis bredowii californica, Galla quercus, Musca domestica have all been added to the repertory recently. Although they have the same number of rubrics as the last group their mental pictures are much clearer and they have fewer physicals.

Mantis, Enallagma, Schistocerca, Blatta, Lomonia, Culex, Coccinaella and Lamprohiza all have extensive new provings that have not yet been added to the repertory. Pieris and Inachio are in the repertory but the provings are not available in English.

The other remedies are very poorly represented at this time.

FAMILIES



Just as Insects have qualities of the Animal Kingdom in general as well as qualities specific to Insects; so each family or order of Insects has general Insect qualities as well as qualities that are specific to that family. From most of the orders we have only a few representatives but it is still worth making a tentative differentiation that can be clarified and expanded as more remedies are proved and we gain more experience.

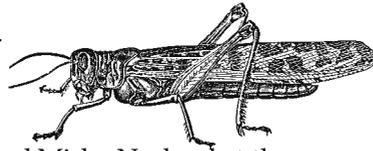
Odonata, the dragonflies and damselflies, have a connection to the Snakes and are fearsome predators. Like the Snake remedies they have some degree of clairvoyance and connection with the Underworld.

Orthoptera, the grasshoppers, locusts and crickets, have enormous amounts of pent up energy that has no outlet and so is held in tension or is vented explosively.

Hemiptera, the bugs, are the most cramped and restricted of the Insect remedies.

Coleoptera, the beetles, is the largest family of all insects and indeed of all animals. It is said that if God created everything he must have had an inordinate fondness for beetles. The Coleopatera is the family in which sexuality is most strongly expressed. It is also the family which bears a strong relationship to rabies and the Hydrophobic Miasm and to the Solanaceae family of plants. Although urinary symptoms are strong in all Insects the cystitis of the Coleoptera is the most extreme.

SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA – PLAGUE LOCUST



The Locust was proved by Peter Fraser and Misha Norland at the School of Homœopathy in 2007. The Plague Locust has two distinct forms the gregarious and the solitary. The two are different not only in behaviour but also in appearance. The proving was of the gregarious form. When food is scarce not many young survive and those that do remain in the solitary form growing and reproducing slowly. When food is plentiful more survive and repeated contact between individuals (principally the rubbing of bumps on the legs) results in the physical change into the gregarious form which then produces great swarms of not only the imagos (flying adults) but also of the younger non flying forms known as hoppers. This pattern allows the locust to take advantage of years of plenty while lying low in leaner times. It also means that though predators will take them when plentiful no predator will adapt to prey specifically on them.

The swarms of flying locust can cover enormous distances and consume all the vegetation in their path. They have become synonymous with an appetite that eats everything available. At the same time they are preyed on by many creatures including birds, reptiles and mammals and they are the only insects that are kosher and halal and that are commonly eaten by people.

The order of Orthoptera, grasshoppers, locusts, crickets and katydids (bush crickets) include many of the “singing” insects. The sound is made by stridulation, in which the legs are rubbed against the abdomen to produce distinctive sounds.

The structure of insects in this order tends to involve large, powerful rear legs that allow them to jump substantial distances.

The remedy involves a great deal of pent up energy that is held in and cannot be released. They are better for being outside, for exercise, for running and for dancing, where this energy can be allowed to smoothly dissipate. As with most insect remedies they

are better for work and activity but in Locust it is specifically because the work allows them to expend some of the energy that is building up. They have the contradiction that going to work recharges and relaxes them while resting at home exhausts them. If it do not have an outlet for their energy they tend to move into a place of explosive release.

This pent up energy often takes the form of sexual energy and frustration with a need for sexual release that overrides all conventional mores and common sense. They must have sex or masturbate immediately in order to dissipate the sexual tension. The physical irritation of the genitals has a strong element of arousal and tension in the Locust.

The common insect irritation will build up and may be released in explosive anger. Physically there is a building of internal pressure and symptoms that echo this, especially a build up of gas released by belching.

Clinical work with Grasshopper indicates that some of the above symptoms are perhaps common to the Orthoptera. There are many symptoms around food and particularly around groups that are probably more specific to the Locust.

The dynamic around being alone and being in the group is particularly important. In the group they feel restricted and suffocated. They are irritated by the people around them and strongly desire to be outside and to be alone. On the other hand being alone is very unsafe and exacerbates the powerful element of fear found in the remedy. If they are alone they are particularly vulnerable but if they have company they are safe. They feel safer outside in the domain of the group than they do inside the home, in their individual domain.

When they feel that they are not being accepted into the group they feel the rejection very deeply. They feel that they are horrible people who will never be liked and cannot be accepted. This is common in Insect remedies but in Locust it is that they are unacceptable to the group more than just to other individuals.

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PEDICULUS CAPITIS – HEAD LOUSE

The Head Louse is a small insect that dwells in human hair living off the blood that it sucks from the scalp. It is the scourge of peri-pubescent school children. It is averse to androgens and so is not often found on adult men and is less interested in boys and adult women than it is in girls. The female lays eggs individually gluing them to strands of hair close to the scalp. The empty egg cases remain stuck to the hair and are known as nits. Each female lays about a hundred eggs which mature and start laying their own eggs in about 17 days so an infestation can escalate very quickly. The bite by which they get blood causes itching and irritation. The insect cannot jump and is usually transferred by close contact, they can only live a day or two away from a host. Although it can be a vector for typhus and other fevers in the developed world it is more of a nuisance than anything else.

Just as the insect affects children most so it is the most child-like of the Insect remedies. It has laughing and merriness in a way that the other Insects do not.

It has an aptitude to work, the expressive domain of the Insect remedies, and the usual industriousness. This is particularly expressed in a childlike way with quickness and eagerness, writing with feverish rapidity.

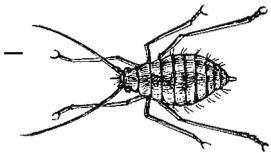
Just as they laugh without cause so their anger and their melancholy can be sudden and causeless.

There is a constriction in the throat and stammering was cured in one prover. Various different noises in the ears were reported. Oedema, fainting and jerking and twitching are all particular. There is violent colic and diarrhoea after eating.

Sexually there are erections without desire and nocturnal emission without amorous dreams.

The usual Insect symptoms of itching, prickling (with horripilation) and irritability both mental and physical, of heat, of falling hair and weariness are all present.

APHIS CHENOPODII GLAUCI – APHID



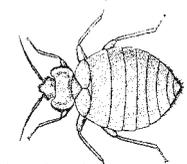
The Aphid is a small insect that feeds on the sap of plants. It often exudes a sticky, sweet liquid called honey dew. Some ants will farm aphids and consume the honeydew. They are a pest to gardeners and farmers and one of the favourite foods of ladybirds.

The remedy is made from aphids that live and feed on the Oak-leaved Goosefoot and undoubtedly shows some of the properties of the Chenopodiaceae, the Goosefoot family, including toothache, colic, convulsions and stupour and paralysis.

The only mental symptom is a general sadness.

It is known for its toothache that is better for perspiration.

There is general dryness. Ineffectual urging of bladder and rectum. Irritation and itching in the urinary tract.



CIMEX LECTULARIUS – BEDBUG

The bedbug is a small insect often living in the bedding and coming out during sleep to suck blood. It has a strong smelling secretion that it exudes from stink glands. The patient has an odorous perspiration that he himself finds repulsive.

They feel squashed and restricted emotionally and physically. There is restriction and oppression of the chest and of respiration.

The tendons are painfully contracted and contraction and clawing are the most distinctive feature of the remedy.

It has a rage that comes on with fever. It is a remedy for intermittent fevers. The patient would like to crawl inside himself.

There is constipation with hard stools. Urinary incontinence. A hot sensation in the genitals. Shooting pains from vagina to ovary.

PULEX IRRITANS – HUMAN FLEA



The Human Flea is a very small wingless insect that lives on the blood of mammals preferring humans. It is one of a great number of fleas each of which have evolved to fulfil a niche that is often species specific. Although tiny its rear legs are very powerful and it can jump 200 times its body length. It has a flattened body and a very tough exoskeleton that is not easy to crush and backward facing hairs that allow it to move easily through hair and fur. The bite of the flea usually causes a small raised spot with considerable itching and irritation. In some cases it can cause a more severe allergic reaction.

The remedy does not appear to have been properly proved and the only mind symptoms are the common Insect symptoms of impatience and irritability. However there are a few clear symptoms established through clinical experience.

There are urinary symptoms with frequent urging, burning pain on urination and the flow stops suddenly with great pain.

There is delayed menses with burning in the vagina and profuse, offensive leucorrhoea between menses.

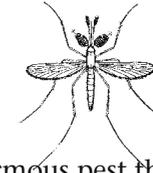
Digestively there is nausea vomiting and bloating.

The eyes feel that they are enlarged and the face appears old and wrinkled.

The heat feels like a glow all over or like being held over steam.

All the discharges, stool, urine, menses and leucorrhoea are offensive and hard to wash out.

CULEX MUSCA – MOSQUITO



The Mosquito is an enormous pest throughout the world and is the vector of many dangerous diseases but especially of malaria. It was proved by Kent and has had recent provings in India and New Zealand.

The eggs are laid in standing water. The larvae live and feed in the water but come to the surface to breathe. The pupae are unusual in that they are motile, tumbling under water to evade predators and then rising again to the surface. They have a short life cycle that varies by species and is also much slower in cooler temperatures. In the Autumn the fertilised female finds a sheltered place to overwinter, emerging in the Spring to start laying eggs.

They generally feed on nectar but the female mosquito needs a blood meal before she can become fertile and it is her bite and the injection of various substances as she bites that cause a slight allergic reaction with itching, burning and irritability.

Itching, burning and irritability are the keynotes of all the Insect remedies but they are perhaps strongest in Culex. It is found physically all over the body.

Mentally the irritability is extreme and leads to anger and rage that are invariably out of all proportion to the offence caused, which is often trivial. The provers were rude, intolerant, quarrelsome and censorious. If any one invaded their space or offended them in any way their immediate reaction was to fight back and retaliate. Their rudeness and aggressiveness was worse at home than when out and about. Although sentimental about children they find them irritating and are not tolerant of them.

They wish to be the best. This was a word that came through strongly in provings. They wanted to be the best at their work and be the best prover. There is great attention to detail and