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Taxonomy, the Table and basic botanic division

Botanical order: evolution of species within the plant kingdom

The Table of Plants is based mostly on the evolutionary order of Species, Families and Orders within it, so understanding the way plants developed is quite essential.

As plants evolved, some species remained closely related, while others developed in diverse directions. While on this route they changed: their chemical and physical components, the structure of their flowers, their fruit, their seeds and their pollen became different from those of their ancestors. As shape and structure changed and became differentiated, species drifted away, groups dissociated from one another, initiating their own lines of evolution, while other groups withered and became extinct. In this way, a multi-branched, tree-like process of evolution was sketched out over history (Fig. 1).

The current evolutionary picture of plants: Since many of the old, primitive species are now extinct, what remains visible from the multi-branched, treelike evolutionary process is primarily its tips; that is, nowadays remaining plants (like islands popping out of the water). This makes it difficult to assess the course of evolution as it took place; nevertheless, the evolutionary course **can** be discerned by measuring the closeness or nearness between the species according to many 'signs and symptoms'. These symptoms include the flower, fruit, seed shape, pollen formation, stem structure, chemical ingredients and, nowadays, DNA proximity. The different measures of proximity or distance mark the relative evolutionary location of each group along this evolutionary process.

In short: According to the above, it is possible to view the basic tracks of evolution from the very primitive and archaic group – the seedless plants (called spore plants), through groups of early plants without flowers (Gymnosperms) up to the advanced, fruit-bearing and flowering plants (Angiosperms). **This evolutionary path forms the basis of the Table.**

Phylogenetic systematics

Systematics describes patterns and paths of evolution by sorting plants into groups according to molecular and morphological information, thereby establishing a developmental tendency that displays the proximity of different Species, Families and higher groupings in a developmental sequence.

The structure of flower and fruit provides the base for plant systematics. The more pronounced the flower's stability and uniformity, the more advanced the plant is considered to be. For example, when the number of the flower's parts is fixed, its method of pollination is more effective.

Systematics uses symptoms of the flower and fruit structure to construct an evolutionary developmental sequence. This sequence enables plants to be organised as a 'flow chart' where groups can be hierarchically placed. This hierarchal order has direction; therefore, it can be arranged as a table with two axes and used to describe stages and processes for homeopathic purposes.

Species are the basic unit of living nature, upon which classification and systematics are founded.

Plants are sorted, in ascending order, as follows:

Species > Genus > Family > Order > Subclass > Class > Phylum > Kingdom

Every plant belongs to a Species, then to a Genus, a wider Family, Order, Subclass and so on.

- **Species** – the basic unit. A group of closely related organisms that can inbreed and produce fertile offspring.
- **Genus** – composed of closely related species. Every plant (and therefore every plant remedy) is named after its Genus and Species name; for example Pulsatilla (Genus) pratensis (Species) (as with first and last names of people).

Fig. 1

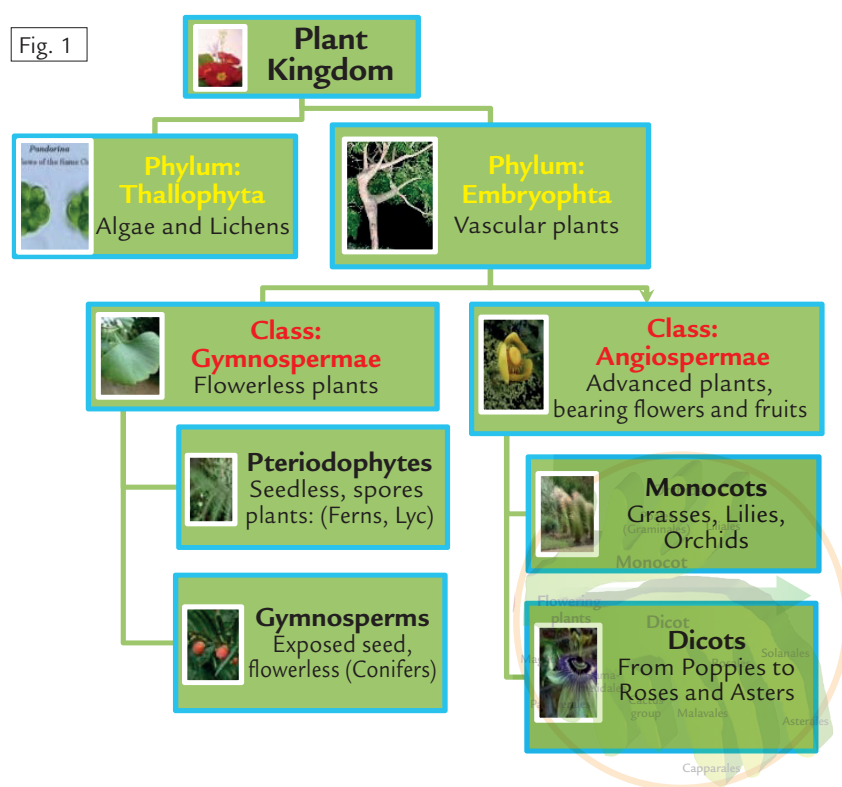


Fig. 1: Overview of the evolutionary process of plant development. From the earliest algae to the nonflowering plants (spore plants and Gymnosperms), to the modern flowering plants (Angiosperms). The two main groups are Phyla (singular Phylum)*. Most of the plants covering the earth belong in the Angiosperms (as do most of the homeopathic remedies).

* The chart is taken after A. Conquist; however, it is not a complete botanic chart, as it does not demonstrate all the compound systematics levels. Its purpose is to demonstrate basic evolutionary processes of plants. Be aware also, that other forms of classification are constantly being introduced, and only some of it will be referred to later in the text.

- ▶ **Family** – comprising closely related Genera. The name of a Family always ends with the suffix ‘-aceae’, as in Liliaceae.
- ▶ **Order** – a higher hierarchy, consisting of closely related Families. The name of an Order always ends with the suffix ‘-ales’, as in Liliales.
- ▶ **Subclass** – contains evolutionarily linked Orders, arranged by ascending developmental order (from the oldest to the youngest). Subclass is a column in the Table. The name of a Subclass ends with the suffix ‘-ides’ (Hamamelides) or ‘-dae’ (Hamamelidae), the older fashion of nomenclature.
- ▶ **Class** – denotes a large group of plants having a certain basic trait in common, i.e. one or two Cotyledons. A cluster of Subclasses, arranged in an advancing evolutionary order, constitutes a Class (or Classis).
- ▶ Classes are one hierarchy below the Phylum and then the **Kingdom**.

The botanic divisions of the plant kingdom (according to Cronquist)

A simple schematic overview of plant development and basic botanic division

Plant development can be described as a flow chart of groups that have evolved from primal sources long extinct; its relics are algae and lichens. Later, more complex plants evolved, such as the seedless, Lycopodium-like plants, ferns and others. These seedless plants are mostly extinct, but we have fossil evidence. As the climate dried up and cooled, more advanced plants developed: the seed plants, but still flowerless. In time, the flowerless plants also exhausted their growth and shrank in numbers while a newer group evolved on earth: the Angiosperms, the most developed group with fruits, seeds and multiple

flower shapes. This is the group we know today contains 90–95% of the plants on earth, and 95% of our homeopathic plant remedies. This group, the Angiosperms, splits into the **Dicotyledons (Dicots)** and the **Monocotyledons (Monocots)**, and are the subject of this book.

Between the Gymnosperms (nonflowering plants) and the Angiosperms (the flowering plants) there must have been intermediate groups of plants, probably extinct: some of the first families in the Dicots are considered to be such intermediate groups.

Basic botanic groups (according to Cronquist)

1. **Thallophyta** – the most primitive plants, are an assemblage of flowerless and seedless photosynthesising organisms: algae, bacteria, fungi and lichens. Thallophyta all consist of a single cell, or cell aggregates: plants **not** clearly differentiated into root, stem and leaf. (Thallophyta *are not* covered in this book.)
2. **Embryophyta** – modern and advanced vascular plants. Embryophyta comprise two main divisions:
 - 2.1 **Pteridophytes** – primitive plants such as ferns and mosses, mostly extinct.
 - 2.2 **Spermatophytes** – advanced plants with clear differentiation into root, leaves and stems, all having seeds. **Spermatophyta** is subdivided into two groups:
 - 2.2.1 **Gymnospermae** – the more primitive group of conifer-like plants, defined by flowerless reproductive organs and exposed seed (*not* covered in this book).
 - 2.2.2 **Angiospermae** – the flowering plants, the largest and most advanced group of known plants

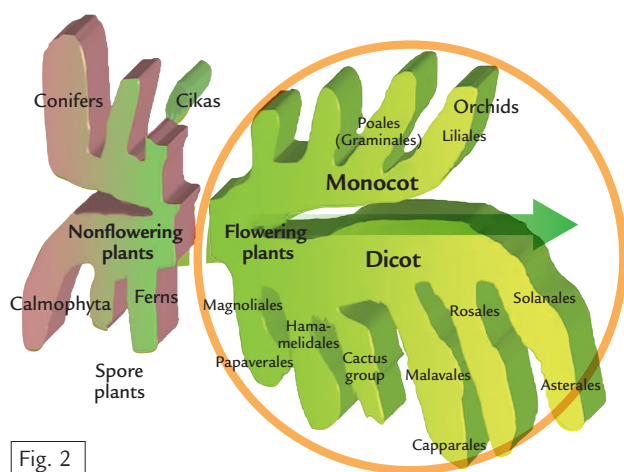


Fig. 2

characterised by complex structures of flowers and fruits and ovary-enclosed seeds. (The book deals mainly with this large group.)
 The **Angiosperms** are divided into two Classes: **Monocotyledons (Monocots)** and **Dicotyledons (Dicots)**, each evolving independently. Each contains Species of plants grouped into Genus, Family and Order, all arranged by evolutionary order.

The construction of the Table of Plants from botanical information

The development of the flowering plants can be described as a tree-like process (Fig. 2) which split into two main divisions: Dicots and Monocots. Each division developed its own branches, one more advanced than the other. This tendency creates a horizontal axis of development (Fig. 3, A). In addition, each 'branch' (column) has developed inside itself into smaller groups (Orders), each

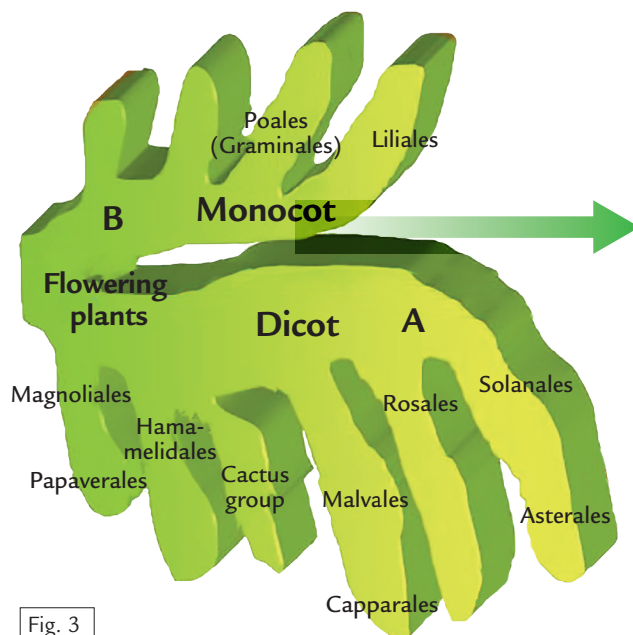


Fig. 3

more evolutionarily advanced than the other. This creates a vertical axis of development (B).

The courses of the plant evolutionary development 'branches' can be interpreted as a double axis table (Fig. 3), where the timeline is determined by the evolutionary location of each botanic group: this determined and structured the Table of Plants.

The **Table of Plants** thus encompasses the two Angiosperm subdivisions, the Monocots and Dicots which, for efficient organisation, are placed atop each other, *mirroring the same evolutionary stage* (Fig. 4). As will be detailed throughout the book, homeopathically speaking, the same themes recur correspondingly in both subdivisions, with some minor differences.⁴

Both Dicots and Monocots are set according to systematics criteria, based on 'botanic symptoms' of the plant's shape, structure and genetics (according to Cronquist systematics). In each, the **columns** are organised by the botanic Subclasses, according to their evolutionary location. The **rows'** building blocks are smaller groupings of plants: Families and Orders.

In each column, the Orders are arranged by levels of botanic development, each more advanced than the one that precedes it (the direction is mapped in the Table from centre to bottom or top). These levels form **the rows of the Table**. The first row, which contains the more primitive Orders in each column, signifies initial stages in the column directive; whereas the later, more developed

4. The Dicotyledon Table has six columns while the Monocotyledon has only four. The Monocots undergo a similar journey to the Dicots, but in a less intricate manner: its first column has no remedies. The second column corresponds to the second column of the Dicots. Column Three is botanically nonexistent. The fourth column is analogous to both groups. The last column (mostly Liliales) corresponds to both the fifth and sixth columns of the Dicots. The evolutionary directive is based on botanic advancement of organs, cells and function.

			Zingiberales	Dioscoreales	
		No plants		Orchidales	
	Arales		Juncuales	Liliales	
	Arecales		Graminales		
Alismatidae	Arecidae		Commelinidae	Liliidae	
Monocots →					
Dicots →					
Magnoliidae	Hamamelidae	Charyophyllidae	Dilleniidae	Rosidae	Asteridae
Magnoliales	Urticales		Dilleniales	Rosales	Polemoniales
Nymphaeales			Theales	Myrtales	
Iliales	Urticales		Sarraceniales	Fabales	Gentianales
Piperales					
Laurales	Hamamelidales		Malvales	Geraniales	Malpighiales
				Violales	Scrophulariales
Aristolochiales				Euphorbiales	
Ranunculales	Juglandales	Caryophyllidae	Primulales	Sapindales	Rubiales
				Cornales	
Papaverales	Myricales	Polygonales	Cucurbitales	Rhamnales	Lamiales
		Plumbaginales	Ericales	Santanales	Dipsacales
	Fagales		Capparales	Celastrales	Campanulales
			Salicales	Apiales	Asterales

COLUMN ONE

Magnoliidae

PRE-SEPARATION



The first column (Subclass) contains the most primordial and ancient (primitive) plants of the Dicotyledons in terms of botanical evolutionary development. They are generally considered a relic of even more primeval plants, from which more advanced plants arose. Some of the Families are so primitive that they are thought to be a transitional group *between* the Dicots and the Monocots. The flowers of the Magnoliidae display archaic structures, with an unstable, often large number of petals, stamens and ovaries, along with primitive fruit structures and ancient water-conducting systems in the stems.

The main themes of the column reflect the primordial, immature and naive state of the Ego and its struggle to separate from the oneness. Although every Order has its own attributes (based on the evolutionary timeline and maturity along the column), the following themes persist throughout the column (see elaboration in the introductory chapter):

COLUMN ONE THEMES

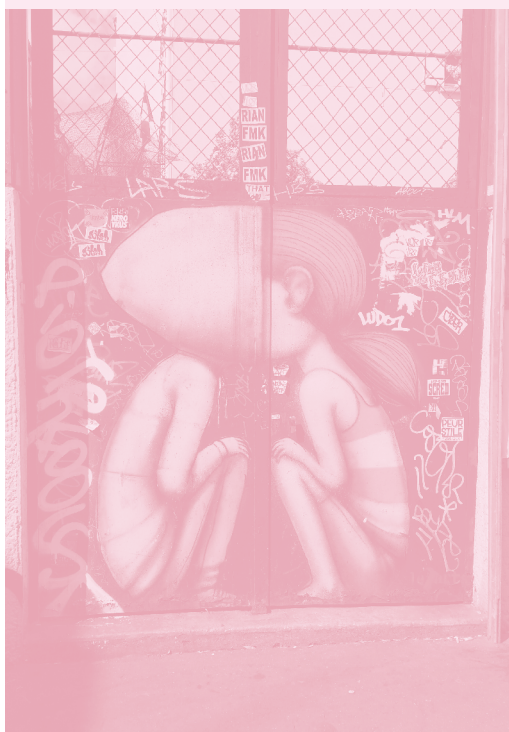
- 🌿 Primordial. Confused, not here. Escapism, drugs
- 🌿 Primordial, ideal existence, oneness, to be a part of...
- 🌿 Weak Ego, weak will, weak mind and strong impulses
- 🌿 Weak mind, incapacity for introspection
- 🌿 Inability to protect themselves, no defense – reacting with control
- 🌿 Exposed, no boundaries, no skin. Irritable, oversensitive
- 🌿 Control
- 🌿 Fears and anxieties
- 🌿 Hormonal, uterine and fluid problems. No vessel

Primordial. Confused, not here. Escapism, drugs

The first column is in an initial state, still without form or structure. The Ego has not completely separated from the whole (the Self): it is potential rather than actual, not here yet, not fully incarnated. This is a 'timeless' column, where time is experienced vaguely. The body is not fully saturated with consciousness, leading to a tendency to daydream, with out-of-body, floating sensations, desensitisation and paralysis.

The first column sets the basis for the Ego structure (desires, emotions and mind) in its most elemental form. Emotions and mind are not yet consolidated, leading to mental confusion, problems with concentration, physical confusion (*Losing his way in well-known streets*), disorientation, alienation, and feeling strange in this world. Column One retains a link to the elemental consciousness





expressed also in the human subconscious. Hence clairvoyant states, prophesying and drug-like qualities are observed (mood-altering drugs are agents used to lure the consciousness into other worlds). There is an unwillingness to partake in the life of this world, with escapism and a tendency for various addictions – from reading to alcoholism and drug abuse.

Primordial, ideal existence, oneness, to be a part of..

There is a pull to remain in the non-separated stage and be a part of any form of oneness, be it a community or a relationship. There is a search for ideal, non-dual existence (ideal = non-dual). Duality is not tolerated, nor is conflict. ‘Two-ness’ is not yet perceived. *Desire for idyllic relationships and situations, seeking an ideal, often spiritual world* (Scholten) which echoes the primordial union. *Better by warmth* (but not by heat), which expresses the desire to return to the womb or the initial union with the all-giving feminine. The need to be guided and the need to lean on strong people can be understood in this context.

Weak Ego, weak will, weak mind and strong impulses

The first column relates to the inception, launching and formation of the Ego (the urges, emotions, mind and nervous system). The Ego consciousness that operates in humans as a vessel for the urges is primordial, unstructured and immature. Although the Ego doesn’t have much control at this early stage – the survival instinct is still primary – the urges are strong, sensual and often unruly, with a tendency for unstable impulsiveness. The mind, on the other hand, is weak, not structured yet, unfocused and not fully conscious, as are the person’s self-identity or sexual identity. (*Puls*: easily influenced; *Asar*: uncertain about his and his father’s name [Grandgeorge]). The weak Ego and unfocused mind are not conducive to dealing easily with the world, so when hurt or injured they escape the body or the mind. The weakness, defencelessness and powerlessness, as well as the first separation, indicate the psoric nature of the column.

Weak mind, incapacity for introspection

As Ego awareness is just awakening, and the mind is in its initial stage of formation, the introspective ability is limited. Thoughts and even emotions are not easily articulated, and the mind is unfocused, leading to attention disorders and problems at school. Even when asked to describe their feelings, they can’t explain; they just feel. Fearful of forgetting, the patient comes ready to the interview armed with lists and notes.

Inability to protect oneself, no defence – reacting with control

A general sense of incapability prevails, with earthly tasks perceived as too burdensome. One’s hold on the world is not yet established, thus nausea and vertigo occur often. The weak Ego offers neither protection nor the ability to stand up for oneself. Physical instability or allergies and immune problems are prominent, reflecting the lack of protection from the world.

Exposed, no boundaries, no skin. Irritable, oversensitive

One has no boundaries yet. Typical expressions are: “I don’t have a skin”, “I am thin-skinned”, “I am oversensitive” – as though the nervous system is exposed (*Acon*, *Staph*, *Myris*). The intense sensitivity and emotionality lead to restlessness, mood swings, impressionability, excitability, extreme irritability, uncontrollable anger or easy offence.

The slightest cause can irritate, leading to departure from the body or the mind, loss of concentration and escape from reality. Remedies in this column are indicated for severe concentration problems (similar to the gases among the mineral remedies). The vital sensation is disintegration or dissolution, lack of control, dissolving into the surroundings, and the reaction is an attempt to be in control.

Control

The compensation for the sense of powerlessness is a strong need to be in control – not so much over others as over one’s own world and immediate surroundings, out of fear of dissolving away. When stressed, the need for control increases, which is another reason why such patients will arrive at the homeopathic interview armed with lists, controlling and telling the homeopath what to write down (*Puls*).

Fears and anxieties

Being so completely exposed, multiple fears and unexplained anxieties are prominent, not only in such well-known remedies as *Acon*, *Chel* or *Op*, but in the entire column. The lack of boundaries frequently invites offence and hurt from the world, which in turn increases the already inexplicable anxiety. When one is not here, when one is ungrounded, the here-and-now can bring up many fears. These fears often stem from the feeling of being a stranger in an unknown place (including planet Earth!).

Hormonal, uterine and other body-fluid problems. No containing vessel

The first column is feminine by nature: the foundational, elemental energy, as it begins to generate and beget life, clothes itself in a feminine quality. The feminine has a containing, vessel-like quality, and when this quality is imbalanced its physical manifestation will be through pregnancy, birth, menstruation, uterus, female sexuality and the hormonal system. The body’s circulatory systems, blood vessels and other fluids (a manifestation of the feminine) are also affected.





Magnoliales

Annonaceae: *Asim, Guat*

Magnoliaceae: *Magn+*

Myristicaceae: *Myris, Nux-m*

Column One: Ancient, primal, feminine, 'watery', life-giving quality. Confusion and lack of borders. Instability. Indistinctive, indiscriminate, no vessel, shapeless. Influenced. Spaced out. Escapism. Disorder/ control.

Row 1: Before life, before birth – not ready. Not ready to be born, to start processes. Premature. Pregnancy, birth and womb issues, too-early birth, induction. Not present in the world, before life, death, connections to the other realms. Primordial fears. Under the rule of the subconscious; mythical/ shamanistic/ otherworldly elements. Location: First stage of the first column. The Ego's formation having just begun, it is in a 'pre-' state. This very primal stage brings out the column's themes in their extreme form.

1. In the APG systematics, the *Magnoliales* is one of four Orders in the Magnoliids clade (which also includes *Laurales*, *Canelales* and *Piperales*).



The *Magnoliales*¹ present a primordial and archaic fruit structure, with single or aggregated berries arranged in a cone-like formation, and a primitive flower structure. They are remnants of a primeval era dating back to 150 million years ago, when flower-bearing plants made their very first appearance, adapting to the large insects of this era. Mostly trees and shrubs, with pantropical distribution, they are largely confined to lowland rainforests and other humid habitats. Some species are valued for their fruits or timber, and others for their fragrance (i.e. Ylang ylang), ornamental or medicinal properties. Nowadays magnolias are grown even in northern gardens.

THEMES

Stranger in a strange land

The first row contributes to the feeling of being a stranger in a strange land. Naive and undefined, they encounter the world in a kind of daze, puzzled, as if they do not understand why this world is not as ideal as it should be and what is expected of them here. All of this creates anxiety – while the world around him does not understand what it is that they don't understand... There is a desire to participate in this world, but no knowledge of *how* to do it. Such people may experience themselves as not belonging to this world, feeling odd, strange and estranged.

Primordial naivety. Indiscriminate mind

Given that the *Magnoliales* represent the seed of consciousness for Ego building, the mind is still indistinct and indiscriminate rather than clear and differentiated. There is an inability to say 'no', decide between good and bad, and erect boundaries. The connection is to an ancient sort of consciousness, with lacking awareness of this world. An undefined, poorly resolved, unconscious and naive energy permeates the case.

Difficult concentration, forgetfulness, weakness of mind, fuzziness

One is allied more to the undercurrents of the subconscious than to waking consciousness: thinking is unclear, it's difficult to find a centre, to concentrate with great difficulty feeling centred and focused. One is easily distracted, with a diffuse energy that points out the weakness of the containing vessel. The

mind is 'dizzy', dull, confused and unfocused. (The reason one can easily feel lost and confused is that at this early stage of evolution time and space are not yet defined.) There are difficulties with articulating thoughts and feelings (even though these are strongly present), because everything is still unclear and indistinct. Cognitive abilities are likewise not yet fully developed.

Premature, not ready

There isn't yet a readiness to be in this world, and consequently a tendency to retreat to an inner world. Inability to stand up against outside forces, be it life impressions, spouses or parasites, resulting in a sensation of powerlessness and weakness. Thus the morning aggravation – when needing to get up and start the day, get to work or to school.

Incapable, powerless, feeble

The primal creative energy of the first column is diffuse, with the containing vessel not yet fully formed. This brings about feebleness: physical weakness, emotional weakness, and feelings of incapacity when acting or protecting oneself. The mind as well is weak, dazed, disorganised and unstable.

Vertigo, dizziness, ungrounded, fainting

Fainting easily, loss of consciousness: easily leaving the body. Vertigo (as in the beginning of the Carbon series) all representing the ungroundedness of the *Magnoliales*, both physically and mentally, as does the left-sided affinity (the feminine, flowing, 'unstable' side of the body).

Fears and anxieties

The first row still has a link to other worlds and to the time before birth, hence many inexplicable fears and anxieties are seen. The lack of presence in this world leads to estrangement: "Strangers in a familiar place, now alienated and frightened, as in a horror movie" (Azrieli). This is augmented by feelings of inability to cope with the world, confusion, being lost, and not being here quite yet. This can cause a retreat into a spaced-out, disconnected state, as if in a bubble. There is fear of fainting, as if one is going to die, due to the knowledge that leaving this body is so very easy.

Asimina triloba

The remedy produces issues that arise when there is a lack of boundaries. The remedy's symptoms are mainly derived from children who ate the fruits indiscriminately.

The skin (the body's boundary) produces pustular itching acne, scarlet-coloured eruptions, with fever and long-lasting diarrhoea. The fluids of the body are in overdrive: the throat is sore and swollen, oedematous, causing hoarseness.

The mind produces languid and haze, absent-minded and detached states: "Did not care to hold conversation with anyone, even his best friends" (Allen). Irritable, unrefreshing sleep due to persistent thoughts: "Could not dismiss from my mind what had occurred during the day" – the mind is not shielded from the world as it lacks boundaries, thus the tendency for headaches.

The mind is 'uncooked': *Thoughts – persistent – occurrences of the day at night; of the.* **Bad memory:** Keeps forgetting people and names, perpetually surprised. For the *Magnoliales*, just living in this world is baffling; they feel that they just don't 'get' things. Odd, confused, abnormal feeling in this world. Out-of-the-world notions such as: "I don't need food to survive." Dreams of flying.

There is a great need to be part of a community, to be a normal part of society, while underneath lurks a feeling that something is not normal with them (from cases: Dinesh Chauhan and Linda Johnston, RefWorks). They felt odd and were thus striving to feel normal.

Asimina triloba (formerly *Annona triloba*) (*Asim*)

Pawpaw

Family: Annonaceae



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A North American tree with large, edible protein-rich fruits, full of big black seeds.

Asimina is related to the *Annona* and the Custard apple.

Column Two: Post-separation, initial split and boundaries formation. Neither here nor there. Coping, making effort or escaping. Being engulfed vs emerging; small or big. Smallness of genital parts, atrophy, covering up weakness. Reproductive malfunctions, sycosis. Body boundaries, skin, formication, numbness. Desire to manifest, handling the task.

Row 6: Adolescence: Establishment of identity and external image. Freedom, search, rebellion. Feeling hindered and restricted by others. Self-identity and image issues, dependence on the group, cooperation, participation. Desire to step out into the world vs fear of growing up and taking on responsibilities leading to apathy, inactivity, laziness and confusion of identity.

Myrica cerifera (Myric)
Wax myrtle
Family: Myricaceae



WAX-COVERED FRUITS © MICHAL YAKIR

Native to Central and South America, it favours warm climates. When growing on sand it will appear as a shrub; on rich, moist soils as a small tree. Due to its underground rhizomes, it can be fire resistant.

The Wax myrtle flower's ovary is unique in its ability to freeze the movement of the seed in the process of fertilisation. The tree's leaves and fruits are covered with wax which is used in candle manufacturing, though it has the disadvantage of crumbling easily.

The roots were used for a time as an invigorating herbal potion for fever, dysentery, convulsion, for bleeding gums and infections.



Myricales

Myricaceae: *Myric*



An Order composed largely of wind-pollinating trees (similar to *Fagales*).

Location: The single known remedy illustrates well the conjunction of column and row – any effort that requires stamina is resisted or kept outside, while keeping the Ego well protected within (just as in the *Juglandales*) so as to create a separate identity. Yet deep within, a confusion of identity may remain.

Myrica cerifera

This remedy has heart, liver and mucous membrane affinities and is listed for gonorrhoea symptoms.

Looking for empowerment, they try to affirm their strength by pitting themselves against others at work, pretending to be superior, acting in a haughty critical manner. They do not wish to mix with others [keeping borders] yet may easily lose their own barriers: *errors of personal identity*; lose their borders, feeling they *have no place in this world*.

They start out excited, lose themselves, and end up exhausted.

Restricted, a sensation characteristic of Row 6, exacerbated by the borders issue of Column Two: **Walking unsteadily, staggering gait** – feels restricted. Joint complaints ameliorated in the open air. The tongue is thickly coated to the extent that it can hardly move. The throat is constricted, making talking difficult. Muscle aches and restricted joints.

Any confrontation is an issue as it touches boundaries, causing grumpiness. Feeling restricted when forced to act.

Later on, depression will serve as a pretext to avoid doing anything. Deep depression and low spirits were present in the proving. So depressed he can't do anything, doesn't want to talk, saying "all is well". Becoming isolated by depression. "Miserable, dejected feeling all day, did not care about anything or for any friends; was perfectly wretched, beyond description" (Allen).

Typical concentration difficulties [not really here] echoes the physical experience, i.e. numbness of the temples and headache with sleepiness. Later becoming indifferent to their affairs, to loved ones and to sex. Sexual relationships are rejected so as not to be entwined with the Other, 'saved' for the sake of growing up and maintaining separation.

Extreme insomnia causing irritability and restlessness which in turn cause weakness and illness. [Sleep is about moving between worlds, precisely the issues here.]

Skin: Creeping sensations as of insects, jaundice, formication, scalp feels tight. Urticaria.

CASE 1

A woman in her mid-thirties, suffering fatigue and possibly Lyme disease. She describes her fatigue as overwhelming. She also has a number of chemical sensitivities, and very poor boundaries with her work. Before her fatigue became overwhelming, her favourite activity was running, enjoying the sensation of everything becoming more vibrant and the world coming in towards her. She felt it all coming in at once, which both exhilarated and exhausted her. The exhaustion stemmed from the intensity of her perceptions. She felt as if she was being absorbed by her surroundings, and then as though she would like to disappear in order to avoid the pain and fatigue that would come later. She felt during these episodes as if she could not move, likening herself to a tree. The opposite of being absorbed was evaporating. Her major problem in her work was a feeling of being scattered, not able to pull herself together to focus on her clients. Often felt herself outside of herself during this process. Long-term relationship was described in terms of inability to maintain boundaries. Her idea of boundaries¹ were that they defined places where you were comfortable, where you aren't sacrificing yourself.

Analysis: In this case we can see the patient with an incomplete boundary between herself and the outside world, overwhelmed by sensory stimuli, re-merging with the universal energies (*Delusions, error of personal identity*) rather than focusing on her life and work. But this absorption was exhausting her, leading to fatigue. This clearly pinpoints Column Two. Arriving at the row was challenging. The main issue was not merging, rather it was a lack of boundaries with the outside world, which particularly affected her in the area of her work, calling for a later row in Column Two. There was a feeling of almost teenaged vivacity from her, which led me to the *Myricales* in Row 6.²

Follow-up: She received *Myric* 30c, one drop per day succeeded. She reported back in three weeks that her energy considerably increased, she was no longer exhausted, and had been randomly crying, without a feeling of sadness. The feeling of being absorbed wasn't really an issue any longer, and she felt much more comfortable in her life in general. Over the next several months we monitored her condition, gradually increasing the potency to 200c. In about five months the picture changed, and the remedy was changed to *Kali-br*, which she responded to very well. She continues under my care. (Paul Theriault)

CASE 2, EXCERPT

Young woman, 18; complaining of (urticarial) itching and stinging on the face, neck, right forearm and right leg. On the face a sensation as if insects were crawling, causing attempts to brush them away. The skin of the whole body has a decidedly yellowish tinge. Tongue thickly coated, yellowish. She felt sick all over, and was rather irritable. *Myric* 6x, a dose every two hours.³

Follow-up: Already on the second day there was much improvement, which continued with the steady use of the remedy. When I next saw her (after ten days), she felt entirely well, and discontinued treatment. (Melford E. Douglass. *Hahnemannian Advocate*, 1899)

1. Her free association was interesting. I asked her to free associate along the word 'black', and she described a feeling of being alone in the dark, cocooned, and resting. She reconfirm the information above on absorption and evaporation, and described a great deal of plant-related source imagery.

2. Allen writes about *Myrica*: "A pleasant exhilaration... followed by an excited state of the nervous system; this was accompanied by a restlessness which required a frequent change of position [Running?]. Dull and drowsy state. Exhilaration, excitement or depression, preventing sleep, with restlessness... Loss of energy... Drowsy stupor."

3. Note the typical crawling, tingling sensation of the skin, seen in many remedies in Column Two. Here it's on the face: *Face; Formication, crawling; bugs, insects, as from.*

COLUMN FIVE

Rosidae

ENCOUNTER WITH THE OTHER

COLUMN FIVE THEMES

- Split and opposition
- Heart vs mind, establishment of self-awareness through blocking and hardening
- Dominance of Mind, suppression, criticism and hierarchy
- Individuality will first emerge in this column but is easily suppressed
- Rigid or spasmodic expression of the suppressed emotion. OCD
- Relationships and friendships: split vs longing for a connection
- Avoidance of people
- Rigid desire for activity
- Activity, work, path, fulfilment of purpose
- Willpower and limbs

The general theme in Column Five is the split between the masculine and feminine principles, which causes suppression of the feminine element, of emotion and intuition, and the emergence of mind and reason as a means of attaining self-awareness. The split creates the possibility of recognising Otherness: thus a major concern in this column is the relationship with the Other (father-son relationships, connection with the father, partnership, pair relationships, connecting to and being liked by the Other). At the same time the split amplifies the masculine quality, leading to issues of excessive hierarchy, rigid morality, strict religiosity, concern with one's identity and path in life, focus on **work**, and preoccupation with rules and limitations. Physically the affected organs are the heart and extremities, with congestion and paralysis.

The modern world traces its roots to the early modern era represented by Column Five; therefore many characteristics of contemporary life, such as its emphasis on rationality, dependence on large institutions and rigid laws as well as superstitions, remain imbued with qualities which first arose then.

Split and opposition

The split arises when the masculine separates itself entirely from the feminine and begins to operate as the main actor in the realm of soul. The function of the masculine principle is to create separation. It does so by erecting a boundary that helps to establish the self-determination and awareness required by the Ego to evolve from the pure existence of Column One to the self-aware existence of Column Five and beyond. To allow for this separation, the soul temporarily





sacrifices part of its emotional essence, purposely allowing its boundary-setting masculine aspect to become dominant over its feminine aspect.

The split is thus the driving force behind the further evolution of the Ego. Pathology, on the other hand, comes about in this column since, **by holding heart and emotion apart from mind and reason, the split produces the sensation of separateness, estrangement and loneliness.** It also leads to a situation in which parts of the mind are opposed to each other, which the Ego may then project onto the world to create antagonism between itself and everything else that differs from it. The Ego declares: ‘By negating the other I become myself.’ This split and antagonism is seen in the case as it affects relationships by creating a gulf between the sides involved, along with feelings of alienation or hardheartedness, and is responsible for the emergence of hierarchies (higher and lower, important and unimportant and so forth). In Column Five one perceives all other persons and objects as opposite and set apart from oneself; everything becomes a challenge for the solitary Ego – an ordeal that involves constant effort.

Heart vs Mind, establishment of self-awareness through stopping and hardening

In this column we encounter the heart for the second time: as in Column Three, the interflow between masculine and feminine poles creates a pulse¹ that manifests in the centre of the body as the heartbeat. Again the masculine principle surges in with full force, but this time (unlike in Column Three) it has the strength to complete the process of separation from the feminine. By halting the free flow of the feminine, sorting and dividing up everything, and giving names to things, the mind strives to encompass all creation within its sphere of awareness and understanding. But in the physical realm, when these powers grow too strong they create **stiffness and hardening – the Mind pathology.** Physically, these qualities are associated especially with the heart: “A muscular organ that momentarily stops the flow of the blood with valves made up of rigid, sinewy tissue that lacks a blood supply of its own. Thus it may be said that the heart is the embodiment of the processes of halting, hardening, and ultimately calcification and ossification” (Bühler).² Starting with the early stages of the column, as awareness is increasingly infused into the previously dominant feminine flow, any disruptions are likely to be expressed physically as heart pathology.

Dominance of Mind, suppression, criticism and hierarchy

The role of Column Five is to strengthen the representation of reason within the Ego, allowing consciousness to become aware both of itself and of its surroundings and thereby grow and expand. But when the mental and rational faculties become overly dominant, **emotions are perceived as threatening** – as a source of turmoil and ultimately as a chaotic force that might bring total destruction. The rational mind will therefore tend to suppress both emotions and sexual energy. (*Emotions predominated by the intellect [Viol-o]* is a prominent symptom of this column.) At times when sexual energy is overtaken by the mind we may observe extreme religious zeal, while sexuality as such is suppressed. All this, coupled with the lack of emotional softness, creates dryness and rigidity physically and emotionally, gradually becoming more pronounced along the progression of the column, defining its pathological tendencies.

The mind, which in itself lacks the voice of the heart to guide it intuitively through life’s events, clings to rules and definitions and seeks to break everything down to its constituents in order to make sense of it. Since the nature of mental awareness is dualistic and evaluative, its basic tendency is to criticise, blame, condemn and suppress. Whenever this critical voice is internalised it becomes self-repressive, provoking sexual or religious guilt. This voice often originates from the family, typically from the father.

1. Column Three is characterised by the conflict between the instinctual desire to maintain the primordial unity and the emergent conscious desire to separate. The latter tendency leads to avoidance and withdrawal from the primordial heart-based interaction with the world.
2. The beat of the heart is its most essential capacity: as it alternates between motion and rest, it embodies in its endless contraction and expansion the duality of emotion and reason. Walther Bühler (1979). *Living With Your Body*. London: Rudolf Steiner Press, 1979.

Individuality will first emerge in this column but is easily suppressed

In this column suppression is pervasive, affecting emotional expression, the will, and individual feelings and desires. This relates to the theme of hierarchy (being evaluated and suppressed by another or else doing this to another) that arises throughout the column.

Here the mind is independent, self-aware, and resistant to external influence. When balanced it serves its owner well, but otherwise it may fail in its very purpose of advancing the soul's evolution.

Rigid or spasmodic expression of the suppressed emotion. OCD

As just described, emotion is suppressed for the sake of higher consciousness. At times the mind will put up a shield in order to survive the pain of hurt feelings. This tends to block the free flow of the heart, but because the heart lies at the centre of our being, its existence cannot be disregarded altogether. In such situations it will fight for its life against the tyranny of reason and will express itself in a repressed and jerky manner through outbursts and wild emotion. As a result, in some Orders, such as *Euphorbiales*, there will be extreme phobias and wild, electric-like emotional states. Emotions, being the main tool of the soul, cannot be killed; so suppressing the emotions only ensures that they will erupt elsewhere as a neurosis. Chronically suppressed emotions may be expressed in a rigid and phobic way; for instance as religious fanaticism or as various obsessions and fixations. In the extreme case these may develop into the repetitiveness and ritualism of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

Relationships and friendships: split vs longing for a connection

Early in Column Five the feelings are still alive and kicking, whereas toward its end they are repressed and rigidity of mind sets in. This transition from heart and emotion to mind and reason reflects the shift away from the unifying feminine toward the masculine striving for individuality. When smooth, this transition gives rise to heart-centred relationships that are interdependent yet not co-dependent; each is loved in his own right.

But if the mind becomes too rigid, pathologies of excessive mental control and suppression of heart and emotion will arise. Alternately, these emotions may find their outlet in eroticism and sexuality.

Even more, since the essence of our being is One, the response to the split is an immediate yearning to reconnect, whether through being *with* or *against* someone else: to connect so as to re-establish the flow between the masculine and feminine poles. This longing is difficult to establish: the *Rosales* yearn for a connection but are easily upset by one, while the *Fabales* cannot allow connection to break, or they become ill. In a way, the lack of emotions becomes the driving force of the column. As the column matures and gets old, masculine-feminine flow is more impaired and this rigidity infiltrates relationships: isolation, hardheartedness and dryness in relationships; *Abusive* or *Censorious*: *Anac*, *Asaf*, *Cic*, *Con*, *Der-p*, *Gran*, *Guai*, *Hura*, *Mez*, *Oenan*, *Rhus-g*, *Rhus-t*, *Ruta*. They would have liked to be in relationships; alas, relationships are difficult for them (*Con*, *Rhus*, *Ruta*, *Schin-m*).

Avoidance of people

They easily reach a state where a connection with another has led to hurt. Due to the mind's suppressive tendency, much unexpressed emotion may accumulate, leading to a need to distance oneself from others. The encounter with the Other is desired in principle, but the need to assert one's individuality also creates an inner conflict.

Rigid desire for activity

In the fifth column, the person wants to act so as to express the individuality acquired by the end of Column Four: activity and work become the application





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