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Action of homoeopathic medicines prepared from anacardiacea family

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Abstract
Homoeopathy is the science of healing based upon the Law of similars of a law of selection. Homoeopathy can be defined as a system of drug therapeutics based on the Law of similars. Homeopathy is a system of medicine founded on a definite law 'Similia Similibus Curantur' which means 'like cures like'. The word Homeopathy is a Greek derivation where 'homeos' means 'similar and ‘pathos’ means 'suffering'. The Law of Similars is the Fundamental law on which Homoeopathy rests. We can find earliest references to it in the ancient Hindu medical texts. We can also find this law in the writings of Aristotle, Hippocrates, Paracelsus, Von Haller and others. Galen was also having a strong advocacy of this law.
The homoeopathic medicine which is prepared from plants have vital role in treating all the types of disorders. The medicine which is prepared from Anacardiacea family have action on Mind, Skin, GIT, Joints, etc.

Keywords: homoeopathic medicines, mind, skin, GIT, Joints

Introduction
The family Anacardiaceae (the cashew or sumac family) are a flowering plants bearing fruits that are drupes and in some cases producing urushiol, an irritant. This family include numerous genera with several of economic importance. Notable plants during this family include cashew (in the sort genus Anacardium), mango, poison ivy, sumac, smoke tree, marula, yellow mombin, and cuachalalate. The Pistacia (which includes the pistachio and mastic tree) usually is now included, but has sometimes been placed in its circle of relatives, Pistaciaceae [1].

Description
Trees or shrubs each with inconspicuous flowers, highly poisonous, sometimes foul-smelling resinous or milky sap. Resin canals located in the inner fibrous bark of plants fibro vascular system found in the stems, roots, and leaves are characteristic of all members of this family; resin canals located within the pith are characteristic of the various of the cashew family species and variety of other species have them located within the first cortex or the regular bark. Tannin sacs also are widespread among the family. The wood of Anacardiaceae has the frequent occurrence of straightforward small holes within the vessels, occasionally in some species side by side with scalariform holes (in Campnosperma, Micronychia, and Heeria argentea (Anaphrenium argenteum). The simple pits are located along the vessel wall and in touch with the parenchyma. Leaves are alternate or rarely opposite and without stipule [2]. Flowers grow at the top of a branch or stem or at an angle from where the leaf joins the stem and have bracts. Often with this family, bisexual and male flowers on some plants, and bisexual and feminine flowers on others or flowers have both stamens and pistils (perfect). A calyx with three to seven cleft sepals and therefore the same number of petals, occasionally no petals, overlap one another within the bud. Stamens are twice as many or equal to the amount of petals, inserted at the bottom of the fleshy ring or cup-shaped disk, and inserted below the pistil [1]. Stamen stalks are separate, and anthers are ready to move. Flowers have the ovary free, but the petals and stamen are borne on the calyx. In the stamenate flowers, ovaries are single-celled. In the pistillate flowers, ovaries are single or sometimes quadri- or quinticelled. One to 3 styles and one ovule occur in each cavity. Fruits rarely open at maturity and are most frequently drupes. Seed coats are very thin or are crust-like. Little or no endosperm is present. Cotyledons are fleshy. Seeds are solitary with no albumen round the embryo. Within the angiosperms, Anacardiaceae belongs to the eudicots – a monophyletic group that contains up to roughly 75% of all the flowering plants. A main trait for the eudicots is that the embryo contains two cotelydons. However this is not a solid characteristic for determining the evolution and phylogeny of flowering plants. Having two cotyledons in the embryo is believed to be the basal condition for angiosperms which was lost in the monocotelydons. Eudicots can more reliably be categorized based on the tricolpate derived pollen grains. A tricolpate pollen grain has three apertures, or slits, which are spaced evenly on the surface and aligned parallel to the grain's longitudinal axis. Apertures may allow for the pollen grain to contract or expand in moist environments and may also function as the site for siphonogamy during fertilization [2].

Taxonomy
In 1759, Bernard de Jussieu arranged the plants within the royal garden of the Trianon at Versailles, consistent with his own scheme. That classification included an summary of an order called Terebintaceæ which contained a suborder that included Cassuvium (Anacardium), Anacardium

(Semecarpus), Mangifera, Connarus, Rhus and Rourea. In 1789, Antoine Laurent de Jussieu, nephew of Bernard de Jussieu, published that classification scheme. Robert Brown described a subset of Terebintaceae called Cassuvlæ or Anacardea in 1818, using the herbarium that was collected by Christen Smith during a fated expedition headed by James Kingston Tuckey to explore the River Congo [1]. The name and genera were supported the order with an equivalent name that had been described by Bernard de Jussieu in 1759. The herbarium from that expedition contained just one genus from the family, Rhus. Augustin Pyramus de Candolle in 1824, used Robert Browns name Cassuvlae or Anacardeae, wrote another description of the group and filled it with the genera Anacardium, Semecarpus, Holigarna, Mangifera, Buchanania, Pistacia, Astronium, Comocladia and Picramnia. John Lindley described the "Essential character" of Anacardiaceae, the "Cashew Tribe" in 1831, adopting the order that was described by Jussieu but abandoning the name Terebintaceae. He includes the genera which were found in de Candolle's Anacardieae and Sumachineae: Anacardium, Holigarna, Mangifera, Rhus and Mauria. The Pistacia has sometimes been separated into its circle of relatives, Pistaciaceae, supported the reduced flower structure, differences in pollen, and thus the feathery kind of the flowers. However, the nature of the ovary does suggest it belongs within the Anacardiaceae, a foothold which is supported by morphological and molecular studies, and up so far classifications have included Pistacia within the Anacardiaceae [2].

Ecology

The cashew family is more abundant in warm or tropical regions with only a few species living in the temperate zones. Mostly native to tropical Americas, Africa and India. *Pistacias* and some species of *Rhus* can be found in southern Europe, *Rhus* species can be found in much of North America and *Schinus* inhabit South America exclusively. Anacardiaceae has about 70 genera worldwide, 11 of which can be found in the United States. Anacardiaceae is distributed in tropical areas and it also extends into temperate regions. Members of this family are not found in dry, desert areas. In the figure below, blue denotes the presence of members of this family.

Homoeopathic Medicines from Anacardacea Family

Important remedies

1. Anacardium orientalis (marking nut)
2. Anacardium occidentalis (cashew nut)
3. Comocladia dentate (guao)
4. Karaka (kopi)
5. Mangifera indica (mango)
6. Rhus aromatic (fragrant sumach)
7. Rhus glabra (smooth sumach)
8. Rhus radicans (Poison ivy)
9. Rhus toxicodendron (Poison oak)
10. Rhus venenata (Poison sumach)
11. Rhus diversiloba (Californian poison oak)
12. Schinus molle (chilly pepper).

General Features of Anacardiaceae Family

Sphere of action

Skin, CNS, Gastro intestinal track, Genito urinary trackt, musles, joints, bones, blood, etc.

Pathology & pathogenesis

It causes vesicular eruption which turns pustular & eczematous later. Produces erythema which turns into erysipelas. Produces inflammation in joints& paresis in muscles. Mangifera & rhus glabra- atonic conditions with relaxed muscles & poor circulation. Rhus arom -senile incontinence due to vesical atony [3].

Common characteristic features

- **Ailments from:** Overuse of brain, Excessive mental& physical strain Sedentary habits, mental excitement.
- **Temperament:** Irritable and easily angered.
- **Thermal status:** Chilly or ambithermal.
- **Diathesis:** Rheumatic & gouty diathesis.
- **Miasm:** Psora & syphilitic
- **Characteristic Mental Symptoms:** Restlessness, Brain Fag, Loss of memory, Illusions & Delusions, Doubtfulness, absent mindedness, Plug – like sensation, Stupidity, Suicidal thoughts, Strong fear of being injured by the surroundings, Aversion to people, Extreme lack of confidence.
- **Characteristic Physical Symptoms:** Stitching type of pain, Red tipped tongue, Hypertrophy of Heart, Hematuria, Paralysis of Bladder, Erysipelas & Eczema of Genitals, Early, Profuse & Acrid Menstruation, Numbness of extremities with rheumatic pain, Ill effects of tearing of tendons & ligaments, Red & Angry looking erythema over skin, Erythema progresses to vesicular form, ultimately resulting into pustules & scabs, Urticaria, Ill effects of suddenly checked Perspiration.
- **General Modalities:** General Aggravation by initial motion, sitting at house, rest, night, cold (except in comocladia) & excessive mental work. General Amelioration by continued motion, lying down, eating & warm things [4].

Comparison of Remedies

Constitution–Mental

ANACARDIUM — People who have an inferior complex and work hard to prove themselves. They have often been put down from an early age and lack self-confidence. This makes them feel detached from themselves, as if they are split into two wills. Students who give up their studies due to memory loss often need this remedy. This type may display cruel behavior and confused readily [5].

RHUS TOX — Usually cheerful, lovely, jokey and quick witted and are good company although a bit timid at first. There are often serious hard working people. They may feel an inner restlessness and agitation, become irritable frustrated, depressed gloomy if suffering from a long-standing illness.

RHUS VENENATA – Gloomy, has no desire to live.

Dreams

ANACARDIUM – Anxious dreams, disgusting, horrible with cries, lively dreams with meditation and activity of mind followed by pain in head after walking. Dreams of projects, of fire, of diseases, of death and of dangers.

RHUS TOX – Dreams of great exertion, rowing, swimming etc or working hard at daily occupation. Dreams of fire.

RHUS GLABRA – Dreams of flying in air.

COMOCLADIA – Dreamy refreshing sleep with pleasant dreams almost clairvoyant [6, 7].

Mind
Common to both Anacardium and Rhus Tox – irritability, sadness and mental depression. Anxiety, Fear of being poisoned. Lack of confidence, Delusion as if pursued by someone, Delirium, Weakness of memory, Suspicious.

Side Affinity
ANACARDIUM – Left sided.
RHUS TOX – Affects generally right abdominal ring, Left chest, arm, lower extremities and left side of body. Affects joints of right side.
COMOCLADIA – Right Side

Skin
ANAC – Erysipelatous eruption of malignant type. Yellow vesicles of intense burning and itching.
ANAC OCCI – Cures Erysipelas spreading from right to left (opp to rhus tox)
Erysipelas – Anac Similar to Rhus Tox.
> Warm applications. < scratching
Anacardium proved to be a valuable antidote to poison Oak.
RHUS TOX – Phlegmonous Erysipelas, especially when it begins in the ankle moves gradually up the leg, running up in deeper tissues.
Rhus Tox cures cases spreading from left to right. Vesicular eruption with much swelling, inflammation, burning, itching. Aggravation night, cold, wet, rainy weather. Amelioration warmth, dry weather.
COMOCLADIA – Malignant Erysipelas with pain similar to Rhus Tox. Scarlet redness of the body with burning and itching. Both produce weakness, numbness and restlessness.
VENENATA – Face swollen, eyes nearly closed with great swelling. Nose red and -shining. Vesicular eruptions. Erysipelas, itching > hot water [7].

Warts
ANAC – On palms
RHUS TOX – Warts especially on hands and fingers, large jagged often pedunculated exuding moisture, bleeding readly.

Eczema
ANAC -has intense itching eczema with mental irritability. (Similar to Rhus toxs)
RHUS TOX – Of entire scalp [8].

Eye symptoms
ANACARDIUM – Pressure in eyes as from a plug. Objects appear too far off
RHUS TOX – Usually left eye is affected. Also in rheumatic ophthalmia of right eye. Amelioration by warmth.
COMOCLADIA – Pain in right eye with a sensation as if it were larger or were being pushed out of the head. < Near a warm stove or warmth [9, 10].

GIT
ANAC ARDIUM– General > after eating, < empty stomach.
RHUS TOX – Pain in stomach < after meal > lying down.
RHUS GLABRA – Foetid flatus.
SCHINUS – Painful vomiting followed by painful diarrhea. Profuse diarrhea, which continues all night.

Affection of Joints
ANACARDIUM – Aggravation commencing motion.
RHUS TOX– Similar to COMOCLADIA. Both has < rest and night >motion
But, Rhus Tox has > from warmth and Comocladia has < from warmth and > open air [11].

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