

Editor's Note



Just yesterday one of my patients said of homeopathy, *It feels like a miracle to me.* This was after one dose of Samarium phos. Her comment really made my day, making up for the times when I've felt bogged down by a case. In those situations, belonging to a study group helps enormously – a bunch of homeopaths sharing problem cases and discussing possible solutions. It's so valuable. Do you belong to a study group? If you don't but would like to start one up, email me your details (location and contact details – phone, email) and I'll put them into the next newsletter. If there are any existing study groups who would like new members, also email me the relevant details. Another way of maintaining contact with other homeopaths is to attend the ACCH seminars. There are four a year, all on Saturdays. Details of this month's seminar are on the following page. If you attend any ACCH seminars and need proof of attendance for NZCH apply to the office for this.

In this issue of the newsletter, Jeannette Bennett highlights the difficulties choosing between similar remedies – in this case, members of the spider family. You may have a case of your own to share. If so, please email to me at pukekahu@xtra.co.nz. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Have a happy and prosperous couple of months.

Kathy

SPIDERY SPACE INVADERS

If an animal is cornered, what does it do? Depends on the animal, right?

A rabbit will freeze and then try to escape, whereas a snake will hold its ground and get ready to attack. This attitude to a perceived threat comes from the miasm to which the animal belongs. Snakes tend to be syphilitic and so, the *Kill or be killed* attitude is predominant.

What about the spider? Mostly referred to as being in the tubercular miasm, they are hyperactive and when faced with a serious threat, the spider hopes that his *cunning plan of entrapment* will do the trick!! Should the trap fail, in a last ditch effort to survive, he will bite the offender in the hope of poisoning them.

Last year, I treated a teenage girl with a couple of spider remedies. She had presented with excessive nervous energy as her chief complaint. She exhibited strong animal characteristics, especially HIGH DRAMA!! Lots of excitement and attractiveness and dancing! She talked about teasing others and of being teased, about other people being deceptive and liars and how she used to lie but was trying not to. She felt that she was the victim in other people's pranks and yet was equally capable of playing tricks and would laugh at the thought of it!

So, which spider to give her? I began with Theridion because she expressed symptoms around noise:

- ✱ *Noise...its in my space;*
- ✱ *It jolts and disturbs me.*
- ✱ *Swimming is quiet, silent and gliding....*

However, I realised that all spiders shrink and retreat from noise and that the expressions used by my patient were not enough to rely on for a prescription of Theridion. In this remedy, the noise actually produces a sensation of pain in the body.

At follow-up, though, she said the remedy had helped to calm her down quite a lot. Never satisfied with my results, however, I examined her case further and

decided to follow up with Aranea. This was mainly because she was able to tell me a rather peculiar symptom.....

- ✱ *Dreams of a finger getting fatter and fatter, of it swelling up, everything gets really big, I can make my whole body get bigger. It made me scream as a small child.*

Aranea ixibola and Aranea diadema share rubrics, so which Aranea would I give? How are they different? Here are some symptoms and the corresponding matches with the two araneas, taken from van Zandvoort's *Complete Materia Medica of the Mind*.

Symptom	Aranea ix	Aranea d
Dreams of death	✓	
Dreams of dead relatives	✓	
Sensitive to noise	✓	
Answers rudely, snappish	✓	
Teasing	✓	
Del body part enlarged		✓
Del he is swollen		✓
Hydrophobia		✓

The case was a little more difficult than usual because there were no physical symptoms to go on.

I chose Aranea ixibola despite the sensations of enlargements seeming to belong to Aranea diadema only because I felt Aranea ixibola was still a closer match. I used this remedy for about six months, repeating twice in this time.

When she presented to me again recently, she said that she generally felt 70% better in terms of energy levels and that the nervous energy was much improved. She felt more in balance and there had been no further dreams of enlargement!!

Although it had seemed likely that I would prescribe Aranea ixibola again because I felt it was a good simillimum for her, she had used numerous expressions that intrigued me.

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