

Editor's Note



When philosopher, essayist and poet, George Santayana once wrote *The family is one of nature's masterpieces*, I don't think he was writing about homeopathy. However, having recently read Massimo Mangialavori's book on the family of sea remedies, Santayana's quote came to mind. Knowing about the themes of the sea remedies helped me decide on a remedy for a patient who didn't really fit into one of the usual families. So, it was with much interest that I read about Todd Rowe's research into Desert Remedies which appeared in *Homeopathic Links*, Winter 2007. Todd has allowed us to reprint an edited version of his article which we do in two parts. In this issue, Todd explores the desert realm; a desert remedy case will be detailed in the next issue. Many thanks to Todd for his generosity in sharing his work with us.

This year we are introducing a new format for our Senior Seminar Programme. Page 2 has all the details. Enjoy.

Kathy

Case Analysis through the Desert Environment

Nature vs. Nurture A long-held debate in scientific circles has had to do with *nature* vs. *nurture*. This debate revolves around the relative importance of an individual's innate qualities vs. personal experiences in determining or causing individual differences in physical and behavioral traits. It is my belief that ultimately life is best understood as a complex dance between these two driving forces of nature and nurture. All of life is equally influenced by both factors, although at times one factor may be more predominant.

Principle of Perfinity Jan Scholten has recently described a Principle of Perfinity (12). He defines this principle as *Similarity in one field indicates similarity in another field*. This principle underlies the affinity (symptom similarity) that we see between various family members (e.g. Bird Remedies, Ranunculaceae remedies or Carbon remedies).

Strength of Perfinity We have many ways of mapping homeopathic space (Marrs (13)). There are many ways of grouping remedies together ranging from miasm, to families to conceptual. There has been an explosion of interest in this area in the last few decades within the field of homeopathy. This has created a diversity of classification systems which can be confusing and bewildering at times for the homeopathic practitioner.

One way to deal with this is to choose perfinities that are the strongest or deepest. Perhaps these are the ones that we most want to be using in our case analysis strategies. Jan Scholten describes this as follows [12]:

"It's possible to make a group of every kind one likes...Groups like trees or desert plants also have family characteristics, in the sense of having groups of qualities in common, but are not that basic as botanical or zoological families. The more basic groups are the families that have been developed in the natural sciences, chemistry, botany and zoology." (P. 44)

Summary This article presents an environmental approach to homeopathic case analysis. Rather than focusing on *nature* based familial classifications, it explores the use of *nurture* based biomes. The Desert is chosen as a representative biome and themes, sensations and energies are explored for this particular biome.

Callings as a Measure of the Strength of Perfinity How can we measure the strength of perfinity? One obvious way is to simply use the themes/sensations/energy of a particular perfinity class in practice and see how helpful they are. Another marker of the strength of perfinity is callings. Callings represent the perfinity between man and the natural world. For example, some people are called to the bird family, while others are called to the Rosaceae plant family and others are called to the Desert. In a calling, what is deepest in us resonates with what is deepest in life. These callings can be both haunting and powerful. They are often ignored at our peril or at the cost of our health.

Perhaps that to which man is most called represents that which underlies the deepest or strongest perfinities in life.

Nature Chauvinism in Homeopathic Thinking I believe that there is a *nature* bias within the field of homeopathy. Most of our work and understanding of families has been *nature* based. This is not surprising as it reflects the current predominance of *nature* types of understanding in contemporary scientific circles. This is often described as a conflict between the hard and soft sciences.

Towards a Nurture Classification What would it mean to create "nurture" based family systems? One approach to breaking down environmental families is as follows:



Biosphere → Biomes → Ecosystems → Communities.

The biosphere is a single entity that is planetary. Biomes can be analogized to the concept of kingdoms (plant, animal, mineral etc.). Ecosystems can be analogized to the concept of families (Ranunculaceae, Insecta, Halogens). Communities can be analogized to the concept of genus and species. From a case analysis point of view, biome classifications have the most unity.

Biomes

Biomes have been classified in various ways. The most common classification describes nine biomes:

Terrestrial

Tundra; Taiga; Temperate Forests; Tropical Rain Forests; Desert; Grassland; Savannah

Aquatic

Marine; Fresh Water.

Desert Biome

We have been doing research in recent years on the desert biome. Our feeling was that this would provide one of the easiest biomes to study and perhaps one of the strongest in terms of perfinity. Our challenge was to see if the themes, sensations and energy of *desert medicine* were as strong as other types of perfinities that are used more commonly in homeopathy.

In all, we identified 52 desert remedies. This number will gradually expand over time with further research.

Summary of Desert Themes, Sensations and Energies

Our results have been quite satisfying. We have found a strong perfinity of desert medicines which we believe to be equally strong to that of more "nature" based families [10].

We have pared down the results into seven centres:

1. Water
2. Prolonged torpor followed by intense activity
3. Transformation
4. Desolation
5. Nomad
6. Ambush
7. Underground.

Each centre can then be further subdivided into various levels.

For example the centre of water can be further broken down into six levels (using Sankaran's levels of experience [11]).

Level One (Name): Obesity: Oedema: Diabetes: Weight gain and weight loss: Anorexia Nervosa: Bulimia; Atrophy: Kidney stones: Dryness: Polyuria: Angina: Colic

Level Two (Fact): See rubrics and proving data

Level Three (Feeling): Greediness



Level Four (Theme/Delusion): Water/Dryness; Big and small; Moist interior with hard dry exterior.

Level Five (Sensation): Expansion/Contraction: Fullness/Emptiness; Heaviness/Lightness

Level Six (Energy): Wavelike

Keywords can be identified for each centre. For example, the water centre: Constriction, Contraction, Shrinking, Shriveling, Atrophy, Emaciation, Diminishing, Narrowing, Restriction, Cramping, Small, Emptiness, Lightness, Expansion, Growing, Enlarging, Spreading out; Swelling, Increasing, Dropsy, Bloating, Big, Fullness, Heaviness, Oedema.

Next week:

*A case example of hyperlipidemia is presented using the desert biome classification and the remedy *Carnegia gigantea* (Saguaro Cactus) is prescribed curatively.*

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Complete article, along with bibliography may be found in:

Homeopathic Links, Winter 2007, Volume 20.

SENIOR SEMINAR MAKE-OVER

ACCH is introducing a new format for its Senior Seminar Programme. From 2008, there will be three Senior Seminar days per year. A three-part series will be run over the three morning sessions, followed by stand-alone topics in the afternoons.

The morning sessions are designed to explore case-taking and analysis in depth, using contemporary homeopathic methodologies. This year, the morning sessions will introduce Sankaran's concept of *Vital Sensation* and how to apply it to your case-taking and analysis.

Topics for the afternoon sessions for 2008 are:

✍ Treating allergies with homeopathy

✍ Nosodes and Sarcodes

✍ Using Cell Salts and Bach Flowers.

(Please note these topics may be subject to change.)

In subsequent years, the morning lecture series will include understanding Kingdoms.

The three seminar days for 2008 are **24th May, 2nd August and 1st November**. Each day will run from 9am to 4pm with a lunch break from 12 – 1pm.

Make a note of these dates in your diaries now.

Senior Seminars are aimed at graduate level. Any practitioners are welcome to attend, as are students from any college.

Information about registration, fees and further details regarding the sessions will be outlined in the May newsletter. ACCH seminar attendance is recognised as meeting NZCH continuing education requirements.

If you know someone who would like to be on the ACCH mailing list, please submit their details to the college office (details on Page 1).

Articles for ACCH newsletters are welcome.

Submit your article via email to the editor (Kathy Thomas) at pukekahu@xtra.co.nz. We accept: Letters to the editor; articles on homeopathy and health issues; case studies; book reviews; editorials; photographs and cartoons.