

A PRELIMINARY TRIAL TO STUDY THE SPHERE OF ACTION OF FILIX MAS AND GRANATUM IN HELMINTHIASIS

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INTRODUCTION

In the course of our routine work in the Institute's out-patient department it was observed that fairly large number of cases suffering from helminthiasis were attending for treatment.

Homoeopathic literature is quite rich in the treatment of such helminthic infection. Well-proved drugs like Nat. mur., Cina, Teucrium and Sulphur etc. are in common use with beneficial results. However, our materia medica mentions many drugs other than these well-proven remedies such as Filix mas, Granatum, Cucurbita pepo, Kouso, Chenopodium, having similar effect on helminthiasis. The literature does not mention clearly the potency and doses that may be required in the treatment of helminthiasis. Moreover, Boericke mentions physiological doses prescribed for expulsion of worms. Symptoms thus recorded in materia medica become doubtful in the absence of recorded provings.

Filix mas is reported to have been proved by three provers, one drop of 102 potency, 10 drops of 101 potency and one of 101 potency twice by each of them. In this last case there is no mention of the quantity of drug taken for trial. The proving recorded in the Allen's *Encyclopaedia* Vol. IV page 323 does not indicate appearance of any symptoms related to helminthiasis, though Clarke mentions of proving by Beridge to which Allen also refers to, is so different in the pattern of drug picture.

Review of literature shows a casual reference to these drugs by Clarke, Boericke and others. What different types of worms they can eliminate are not clearly mentioned. Helminthiasis that we know today basically comprise all Taenias, i.e. Taenia saginata, Taenia solium, Taenia echinococcus (tape worm), Diphylobothrium latum, Enterobius vermicularis or Oxyuris vermicularis (thread worm), Strongyloides stercoralis, Ancylostoma duodenale (hook worm), Necator americanus, Ascaris lumbricoides (round worm), Trichuris trichiura (whip worm). However, their symptomatology reflects through a fairly common picture and therefore it become difficult to therapeutically differentiate these drugs easily.

Filix mas and Granatum these two homoeopathic drugs are therefore selected in order to complete their drug picture in the treatment of helminthiasis.

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METHODS AND MATERIALS

Filix mas belongs to vegetable kingdom and the tincture is prepared from the fresh root of male fern.

Granatum also belongs to the vegetable kingdom and the tincture is prepared from the bark of the root.

The patients presenting the following pathognomonic symptoms were selected for trial. No age group was selected.

- (1) Grinding teeth at night.
- (2) Itching anus.
- (3) Worms passing through stool.
- (4) Pricking of nose.
- (5) Nocturnal enuresis.
- (6) Irritable temperament.

The use of potency and every patient who was taken under trial was presented ascending order from mother tincture ϕ to 3X to 6X. The dosage prescribed was 5 drops of mother tincture thrice daily for 5 days and in the absence of any improvement the same dosage was further repeated (twice) 5 and 5 days more. When any improvement was noticed at any stage the drug was discontinued and the patient was kept on placebo. If the improvement is found 'status quo' the next higher potency was prescribed.

OBSERVATION

The trial was conducted for a short period of 2 weeks to 20 weeks depending upon the relief obtained in individual case.

The total number of cases observed under drug No. A (Filix mas) are 17 (out of 34 cases under trial only 17 cases continued uninterrupted for trial).

Total No. of cases under drug No. B (Granatum) are 14 (out of 22 cases under trial only 14 cases uninterruptedly continued for trial).

The improvement level was decided only by disappearance of the signs and symptoms.

Under drug A—6 cases are markedly improved,
3 cases are moderately improved,
6 cases are slightly improved,
2 cases showed no improvement.

Under drug B—4 cases are markedly improved,
6 cases are moderately improved,
4 cases are slightly improved.

Clarke in his *Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* under Filix mas pages 780 and 781 (Vol. I) mentions that a fragmentary proving with 15 to 20 drops tincture given to a diseased woman has been recorded by Allen in his Appendix and adds that the patient was relieved of bloated abdomen with new symptoms such as prolapse of vagina, severe tenesmus and pain in bladder with frequent micturition with pain.

15 to 20 drops of mother tincture given to a person become a physio-

logical dose and symptoms produced thereof would be the toxicological symptoms and not the homoeopathic proving.

The data collected during the trial is recorded in the Table I. Column 1 shows the signs and symptoms on the basis of which the drug was prescribed. Column 2 shows the various signs and symptoms that were removed during the trial either in all the patients or in a few of them. Column 3 shows the signs and symptoms that were present in the patient associated with the one mentioned in column 2, but then the symptoms in column 2 disappeared but those in column 3 did not. Column No. 4 are those signs and symptoms which disappeared during the course of trial but were not found in any earlier provings.

Table I
DRUG-A (FILIX MAS)

Column	1	2	3	4
(1)	Itching of nose	Itching of nose	Itching all over the body	Grinding teeth at night
(2)	Nausea & sick feeling after taking food		Salivation	Itching anus
(3)	Boring pain in abdomen after eating sweets		Hotness of the palm and sole	Thread worm passing with stool
(4)	Diarrhoea with constant vomiting		White spot	Nocturnal enuresis
(5)	Ineffectual urging for stool, pappy stool		Griping pain in lower abdomen	Anorexia
(6)	Worm symptoms specially with constipation	Worm symptoms with constipation	Canine hunger	Speaks during sleep
(7)	Tape worm			Acidity
(8)	Glands (cervical) palpable	Cervical glands palpable		Headache
(9)				Water brash

DISCUSSION

(1) From the observation it will be seen that to give the conclusive utility of these drugs on a moderately small sample may not be suitable. But we can give fairly good picture of probable potentiality of these drugs.

(2) Almost all the patients under trial have shown improvement from low to moderately high improvement rate.

(3) The improvement is most markedly seen in those patients who were kept on 3X and 6X potencies than those kept on mother tincture.

(4) Symptoms found in proving of Filix mas mentioned by Allen in

Table II
DRUG-B (GRANATUM)

Column	1	2	3	4
(1)	Salivation with nausea and vertigo	Salivation and nausea and vertigo	Stammering	Thread worm passing with stool
(2)	Canine hunger		Liverspot	Nocturnal enuresis
(3)	Pain in stomach worse about umbilicus	Pain in upper abdomen (stomach)	Idiocy	Feverishness
(4)	Itching at anus	Itching at anus	Susceptibility to catch cold	Gurgling sensation in abdomen
(5)	Itching at nose	Itching of nose	Enlarged cervical glands	Bleeding from the nose
(6)	Itching at palms		Anorexia	Frequency of micturition
(7)	Itching of genital organ	Itching of genital organ	Craves for sweets	Speaks during sleep
(8)	Burning of rectum			
(9)	Diarrhoea			
(10)	Grinding teeth	Grinding teeth		

Encyclopaedia were not seen in the patients under trial.

(5) However in Granatum the symptoms were present particularly those which are recorded by Allen in his *Encyclopaedia*.

(6) 3 symptoms of Filix mas and 6 symptoms of Granatum (Coln. 2) have been clinically verified.

(7) Many symptoms related to Helminthiasis found present in the trial subjects but not mentioned in the recorded proving also disappeared, which shows the drug has also the power to eradicate the symptoms. These may be treated as clinical symptoms and can be added to the existing drug picture of these drugs.

(8) There are also a few symptoms present in association with the helminthic infection which did not disappear. This may indicate that these drugs may not have the necessary sphere and depth of action in respect to these symptoms. However, a large sample if taken may clarify this point.

(9) The books have predominantly expressed the removal of tape worms, but in the present series we found along with tape worms the drug has also power to eliminate thread worms. This enlarges the scope of application of these drugs.

CONCLUSION

(1) Comparing from available data of these two drugs, with observations made by us during trial, we feel that much more useful data in respect of these

two drugs can be collected by undertaking thorough proving. Its scope and depth of action can be assessed only then.

(2) The literature mentions mostly about their activity on tape worms but our trial has shown their utility in expelling various other types of Helminthic infection (apart from taenia).

(3) Drug is more useful in 3X and 6X potencies than ϕ .

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