

Research Article

Chelidonium-A Magical Remedy in Homoeopathy

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Abstract Chelidonium majus has been known as medicinal species since the very Antiquity. Medicinal properties of Chelidonium majus were described by Dioscorides and Pliny in the first century AD. It was a famous medicinal plant during the Middle Ages, mostly used to treat eye diseases, for throat cleansing, treatment of ulcers, skin eczema, colic and jaundice. Chelidonium majus is a perennial herb from papaveraceae family found commonly in European countries which emits yellow exudates from its parts like stems, leaves, roots when cut which resembles closely to bile and hence it acts remarkably for hepatobiliary disorders. It was introduced in Homoeopathic world by Dr. Hahnemann for the first time in Materia Medica Pura for hepatic, gastric and abdominal complaints. It is very efficacious for the treatment of right sided complaints and disorders like jaundice, gallstone, cholecystitis, right scapular pain, bilious vomiting, pneumonia of right lung, constipation etc. It is characterized by constant pain under the lower and inner angle of right scapula, tongue thickly coated yellow, desire for very hot drinks and foods, constipation when stool is hard, round balls like sheep`s dung etc. There is yellow pigmentation of face, forehead, whole skin, tongue, eyes, nose, mucous membranes and whole skin.

Introduction

Chelidonium majus is an erect perennial herb belonging to family Papaveraceae commonly known as Celandine and mainly found in European countries. It produces a distinct bright yellow latex which is used for various liver diseases. Chelidon means "YELLOW", after breaking stems, leaves, roots and other parts, it emits bright yellow juice which resembles to bile. Alchemic physician considers this "Doctrine of signature" of its usefulness to super stifle the jaundice. It was recommended as a remedy in jaundice by Galen and Dioscorides on the ground of resemblance of its yellow juice to bile. It has achieved notable results in case of liver diseases given in tincture, material and semi material doses on the broad ground of organ-therapy. It acts upon the liver and portal system. Its yellowishness and bilious disturbances are marked features. This remedy seems to act throughout the system but almost always along with it the liver is involved and it is suitable for what the doctor's called "Biliousness". It is a prominent liver remedy covering many of the direct reflex system of diseased conditions of that organ. The jaundiced skin and especially the constant pain under inferior angle of right scapula is certain indications. Crude extracts of various parts such as the root, shoot and leaves have been reported to have several is quinoline alkaloids such as sanguinarine, chelidonine, chelerythrine, berberine and coptisine. Both crude extracts of Chelidonium majus and purified compounds derived from it have been reported to exhibit anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, anti-

microbial properties and has been known for treatment of many liver diseases including hyperbilirubinemia. It promotes the formation of healthy bile and increases the bile flow, thus making liver healthy.

General Description of *Chelidonium Majus* Plant

NOMENCLATURE- According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the name celandine comes from the Late Latin *chelidonia* or *Chelidonium*, from the Greek (*chelidon*), meaning "swallow", hence the common name "swallowwort". The flowers are said to bloom when the swallows (a bird) return and wither when they leave. The special Latin epithet *MAJUS* means bigger.



COMMON NAME- Greater celandine, nipplewort, tetterwort or simply "celandine".

HABITAT- This plant is distributed all over Global including Europe, Germany, France, Asia (Asian temperate and subarctic regions), North America. It is native to Europe, West Asia and Central Asia. It grows in the foothills of lowlands and dense forests, bushes, parks, gardens, roadsides and around buildings, wet to dry forests, bushes, fields, wastelands, fences and near antique buildings. It is planted as a perennial herb garden flower or naturally grown as a weed in disturbed areas and naturalizes the mountains. [2,9,10,12]

CULTURAL CONDITIONS- Light: dappled sunlight (shading through the upper canopy all day long). In a cool place (less than 2 hours without direct sunlight). Partial shade (direct sunlight only for part of the day, 2-6 hours). It grows best in a cool place, but it can tolerate a lot of sunlight in a cool climate. [10,12]

SOIL TEXTURE- It requires clay, loam (silt) or sandy soil with a high content of organic matter. There should be a good drainage system. This beautiful yellow flower plant likes to grow in moist soil, but not completely wet soil. It can tolerate a variety of soils, but prefers fertile loamy soil, especially nitrogen-rich soil. [10,12]

Roots- Fusiform, several heads, reddish brown. The underground part is a short tap root with many slender lateral roots. The roots are harvested and dried between August and October. Fresh rhizomes are also used. The above-ground part is harvested during the flowering season, with high temperature and dryness. Produces acrid juice. [10,12]

Stem- It is a perennial herb with an erect habit, reaching a height of 30 to 120 cm (12 to 47 inches). Green colour, no fragrance. The stem surface is waxy with sparse hairs, covered with powdery flowers (glaucous). It is very brittle, with orange-yellow sap, emit yellow to orange latex or sap after injury. The whole plant contains yellow to orange latex. [10,12]

Leaves: -- Blue-green leaves are pinnate with lobed and wavy edges and are 30 cm (12 inches) long. The leaves can be compound (pinnate, bipinnate, palmately). The phyllotaxy can be alternating or rosettes. Its shape can be obovate, ovate or pinnate. The alternate leaves are light blue at the bottom and green at the top.

Flowers: -- are small, yellow, with pedicels and umbilicus in axillary racemes. The flower consists of four yellow petals, each about 18 mm (0.71 inches) long, with two sepals. The flowers appear from late spring to summer from May to October. The flower colour can be golden/yellow. Its inflorescence is an umbel.

Fruits: -- The fruit are capsule, about 13 inches long and ≤ 1 foot wide. It is a pod like, multi-seeded, cracked capsule with two valves. The harvest time is autumn and summer. [10,12]

Seeds: -- The seeds are small, black, shiny, ovoid, present in long cylindrical capsules. They have an Eliaison which attracts ants for its dispersal(myrmecochory). [10,12,16]

Pharmacology of Chelidonium Majus

It belongs to the vegetable kingdom, family Papaveraceae, synonymous with Calandine and Tetterwort. Parts used- whole plant (H.P.I.). Mother tincture is prepared in Class 1 (most juicy plants). It is made with equal parts by weight and alcohol. Drug Power 1/2. The whole plant is toxic in moderate doses because it contains a variety of is quinoline alkaloids. So, its use in herbal medicine requires sufficient dosage. The main alkaloids present in herbs and roots are berberine, methylidihydro sanguinarine acetate, allocryptopine, stylophine, protopine, norchelidonine, berberine, chelidonine, Sanguinarine, chelerythrine and hydroxy sanguinarine.

Chelidonium Majus As A Liver Remedy

It is one of the most commonly known folk remedies for treating jaundice and liver diseases such as inflammation, spastic conditions and gallstones. In Poland, infusion made from the young leaves of celandine is used as a choleric and it regulates the action of the digestive tract. If jaundice occurs, Jacques recommended an infusion made of half of a teaspoon celandine per cup. Throughout Poland, it is common to bath in celandine children with jaundice and drink celandine tea

Repertorial Approach of Chelidonium Majus From

Synthesis Repertory [Se9.2]

MIND- Stupor- Jaundice, in

MIND- Unconsciousness- Jaundice, in

ABDOMEN- INFLAMMATION- Liver- hepatitis A (=catarrhal jaundice/ epidemic catarrhal icterus/ epidemic hepatitis)

CHEST- LUNGS, complaints of the- accompanied by- jaundice

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- (= jaundice)

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- accompanied by- stones, obstruction with

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- catarrhal

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- children, new born

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- chronic

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- heat, during

SKIN- DISCOLORATION- Yellow- rheumatism of arms, with

GENERALITIES – Aggravation-RIGHT SIDE.

GENERALITIES - Chilly.

GENERALITIES - Aggravation- COLD, WET WEATHER, Change of weather.

GENERALITIES- Aggravation- 4 A.M., 2 or 4 p.m.
 GENERALITIES- Aggravation-Morning on waking.
 GENERALITIES- Amelioration- Eating.
 GENERALITIES – Amelioration-Warm drinks, food, warm milk.
 Food and drinks- Desire- DAIRY PRODUCTS, cheese, warm drinks/food.
 Food and drinks- Aversion-Cheese, spinach.
 Head- HEADACHE, RIGHT SIDE. Pain over right eye.
 Pressing as from a band above eyes, amel. closing eyes.
 Eye- Orbital neuralgia, agg. right side.
 Eye- Yellow discoloration.
 Nose- Flapping of wings.
 Face- Neuralgia right side, extending into teeth, eye; with liver problem. Yellow.
 Mouth- Tongue yellow with imprint of teeth.
 Mouth- Bitter taste.
 Stomach- Stomach pain amel. warm drinks, especially milk; temporarily amel. Eating
 Stomach. - Nausea and vomiting amel. warm drinks.
 Abdomen- LIVER AND GALL BLADDER complaints, gall-colic, acute hepatitis, jaundice.
 Abdomen- PAIN RIGHT HYPOCHONDRUM EXTENDING TO RIGHT SCAPULA.
 Abdomen- Pain abdomen amel. eating, stool, warm drinks, lying on left side legs drawn up.
 Abdomen- Pain extending transversely.
 Rectum- Constipation alternating with diarrhea.
 Urine- Yellow.
 Female genitalia- Burning in vagina, each day precisely same hour.
 Chest- Rattling.
 Cough- As from dust.
 Expectoration- Much rattling, little expectoration
 Expectoration- Mucus flies from mouth on coughing.
 Chest- Right lung affected. Stitching pain agg. inspiration, motion, coughing.
 Chest- Intercostal neuralgia, agg. right side.
 Back- PAIN INFERIOR ANGLE OF RIGHT SCAPULA, right shoulder.
 Back- Pain as if back would break, on stooping.
 Extremities- COLDNESS ONE HAND OR FOOT.
 Extremities - Coldness fingertips.
 Extremities - YELLOW DISCOLORATION OF HAND PALMS.
 Extremities - Rheumatism agg. lower limbs, especially right ankle.
 Sleep- Position: On LEFT SIDE.
 Sleep- Unrefreshing.
 Sleep- Dreams of funerals, corpses.

Conclusion

Many research works have been done for the recognition and actions of bioactive compounds contained in the extracts of *Chelidonium majus* and their actions for various disorders. A lot of reports have been published about its efficacy in treatment of various complaints such as gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary disorders and cutaneous ailments caused by pathogens. There are many scientific reports which indicates the beneficial effect of it. It has been well proved that it is a remedy for every case where liver is invalids sequaleae.

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