

## Robiniapseudacacia-Lesser known remedy in cases of GERD

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Traditionally, since many centuries, Robiniapseudacacia has been in use for various gastric disturbances in physiological doses. Robinia was named by Linnaeus after Jean Robin, herbalist to Henry IV of France. The true acacia is the Egyptian tree, Acacia Arabica.

Robinia, the common locust tree of the United States, was first proved in a fragmentary way by Dr. Burt in 1864. The inner bark contains a poisonous protein substance robin, which possesses strong emetic and purgative properties.

Robiniapseudacacia is a cerebro-spinal remedy, affecting especially the pneumogastric nerve, slightly the intestinal tract and glandular system. Through its action upon the base of the brain (medulla oblongata) it produces the most acid state of the stomach of any remedy in the materia medica. The great depression of the vagi produces such excessive acidity that digestion is arrested and there are all the symptoms of indigestion, with flatulence, constipation, and excessive irritability, equal to that of Chamomilla.

The vomited matter is so intensely sour that the teeth are set on edge. The most prominent features of the remedy, next to sourness are a sensation of burning in the stomach and burning between the shoulder-blades. The whole province of this remedy simulates hyperchlorhydria. Starch digestion is impeded.

Stacy Jones says "Robinia pseudo-acacia, in minute doses, taken three times a day before meals is a reliable remedy for Acidity of the stomach".

The special tracts of this remedy is that the modality consisting of the nocturnal aggravation which characterizes the remedy. In the day time the patient is not troubled so much; he moves about doing his day's work without much trouble or worry, but as night dawns his troubles start. Acid vomiting, acid eructations, rumbling, gurgling and heartburn, worry him all night and disturb his rest. Homoeopathic materia medica is full of medicines for heartburn and regurgitation with qualifying modalities/concomitants. However, Robiniapseudacacia maximally covers the symptom syndrome of GERD but has been fragmentarily proved. Robinia is a lesser known remedy listed in the homoeopathic materia medica. Robinia is useful in cases of gastro esophageal reflux disease where heartburn and regurgitation are the chief symptoms.

**Keywords:** Robinia, Homoeopathy, Gastro esophageal reflux disease

Robinia was named by Linnaeus after Jean Robin, herbalist to Henry IV of France. The true acacia is the Egyptian tree, Acacia Arabica.

Robinia, the common locust tree of the United States, was first proved, in a fragmentary way by Dr. Burt.1

Common Name: Yellow Locust.Locust Tree. False Acacia

Source: Plant Kingdom Natural Order - Leguminose

Proverb: Dr. W. H. Burt [1864], Spranger, and Houat [1866]

### Proving Authorities<sup>2</sup>

#### I. Proving's:

Dr. BURT chewed the green bark, and observed the following effects: Constant, dull, heavy, throbbing, frontal headache, much worse on motion or reading, with occasional sharp stitches in temples; from midnight to dawn severe neuralgic pain in: Temple, preventing sleep; white coating on tongue, with red tip; constant eructation's, a very sour fluid being at times regurgitated; nausea for 3 hours, followed by profuse vomiting of an intensely sour fluid, setting teeth on edge, vomiting repeated 3 times; constant distress in epigastria region, with cutting pains in stomach and bowels, and much rumbling; burning distress in stomach and region of gall-bladder; dull heavy aching distress of stomach; very severe sharp pains in stomach, all d. and n. He felt very faint and weary, was low-spirited, and had no ambition for anything.

#### II. Poisonings:

Several cases of poisoning by "locust beans," imported from Egypt, are mentioned in the Med. Times and Gazette for 1857. The symptoms were those of local irritation, within one case, a severe outbreak of urticarial, in another (a child of 20 mos.) great prostration and muscular paralysis. But, on the other hand, many seem to have eaten them with impunity; and administered to animals, they have failed in developing any morbid condition. It is also stated that the pods known by this name belong either to the Ceratonia siliqua, the "Algarola bean" (carob tree, St. John's bread-tree) or to the Hymenaea combaria of the West Indies; neither of which save for belonging to the same natural order and having the same common name can be accounted interchangeable with our Robinia.

**Part used<sup>3</sup>:** Tincture from the fresh bark of the young twigs. The fresh bark of the young twigs is chopped and pounded to a pulp and weighed. Then two parts by weight of alcohol are taken the pulp mixed thoroughly with one-sixth part of it and the rest of the alcohol added. After having stirred the whole well, pour it into a well-stoppered bottle and let it stand eight days in a dark and cool place. The tincture is then separated by decanting, straining and filtering. Amount of drug power was 1/6.

Dilutions must be prepared as directed under Class III.

**Toxic Principle<sup>4</sup>:** Robin, a phytotoxin, robitin, a glycoside, robinine, an alkaloid

The inner bark contains a poisonous protein substance, robin, which possesses strong emetic and purgative properties. It is capable of coagulating the casein of milk and of clotting the red corpuscles of certain animals.<sup>5</sup>

## Preparation<sup>6</sup>:

(a) Mother Tincture Drug Strength 1/10 Robiniapseudacacia, moist magma containing solid 100g, Plant moisture 185ml 285g strong alcohol 840 ml to make one litre of the Mother Tincture.

(b) Potencies: 2x and higher with dispensing Alcohol. Prescribed dose: Third potency. Must be continued for a long time.

## Therapeutic Uses of Black Locust<sup>7</sup>

Various parts of the black locust tree have different uses. Some of the well-known health benefits and therapeutic uses of black locust are as follows:

- A beneficial infusion can be prepared with a teaspoonful of black locust flowers and a cup of water. Drinking this after meals helps to alleviate burning in the stomach and is helpful for people with gastritis.
- The inner bark and root bark of the black locust helps to remove waste from the body. The root bark is sometimes chewed to induce vomiting.

## Physiological action<sup>8</sup>

Through the cerebra-spinal system, Robinia has two special centres of action:

- I. Vagi (Centric) Nausea and Vomiting (Excessively Acid).
- II. Gastro-Intestinal Canal. Indigestion, Excessive Irritability.

## Pneumogastric nerve

The action of Robinia upon the vagi is probably at their origin in the base of the brain.

The vomited matter is so intensely sour that the teeth are set on edge.

## Gastro-intestinal canal

The great depression of the vagi produces such excessive acidity that digestion is arrested and there are all the symptoms of indigestion, with flatulence, constipation, and excessive irritability, equal to that of Chamomilla.

## Digestive organs

Robinia is especially useful in gastric diseases and sick-headache, excessive acidity of the stomach. In infants, the whole child smells sour from the excessively acid secretions. Vomiting of intensely sour fluid setting the teeth on edge. Frequent eructation's of sour fluid; indigestion. Robinia has cured many old, obstinate cases of dyspepsia, with excessive acidity and flatulence.

## Introduction<sup>9</sup>

This is a cerebro-spinal remedy, affecting especially the pneumogastric nerve slightly the intestinal tract, and glandular system. Through its action upon the base of the brain (medulla oblongata) it produces the most acid state of the stomach of any remedy in the materia medica.

## Characteristics GIT Symptoms of Robiniapseudacacia

The whole province of this remedy simulates hyperchlorhydria.<sup>10</sup>

Starch digestion is impeded<sup>11</sup>. "Robinia produces pre-eminently an acid condition of the secretions" (Hale). It is useful in acid dyspepsia, with a constant weight in the stomach, eructations of sour liquid and sometimes with vomiting. The eructation's and vomit us are intensely sour, so sour that they set the teeth on edge and even the breath smells sour. It is of value in sick-headache when associated with this acidity of the stomach.

The most prominent features of the remedy, next to sourness are a sensation of burning in the stomach and burning between the shoulder-blades.

We may have in the indigestion calling for the remedy, lancinating pains extending to the chest or to the top of the shoulder-blades.<sup>1</sup>

Intense acid vomiting; this symptom has been relieved, even when associated with cancer of the stomach; and numerous cases of acid eructation and vomiting have been cured.<sup>12</sup>

Stacy Jones says "Robinia pseudo - acacia, in minute doses, taken three times a day before meals, is a reliable remedy for Acidity of the stomach"<sup>13</sup>

**Desire:** Coffee, sour drinks, spices, "desire for highly seasoned food, which tastes like ordinary food" – Allen; strong liquors; tobacco.<sup>5</sup>

**Worse:** Fats and rich food bread, cabbage, flatulent food, ice cream, meat, milk, pastry, raw fruit, spices, turnips.<sup>5</sup>

**Better:** Salt, amel, stomach symptoms<sup>5</sup>

Excerpts from Hering's Guiding Symptoms<sup>14</sup>

**Mind:** Very low-spirited; excessive irritability, Indigestion.

**Inner Head:** Gastric headache from a sour stomach, caused by fat meat, gravies, flatulent food, cabbage, turnips, warm bread, pastry, ice cream, raw fruit, etc. Sick headache with eructation and vomiting of excessively acid secretions; irritable and desponding.

## Hiccough, Belching, Nausea and Vomiting

Heartburn and acidity of stomach at night on lying down. Regurgitation of acid and bitter substances everything turning to acid. Water taken before eating at night, returned in morning green and sour. Vomiting of intensely sour fluid, setting the teeth on edge.

## Scrobiculum and stomach

Heartburn and acidity of stomach at night on lying down. Dull heavy aching distress in stomach. Acidity of stomach; food turns sour soon after eating; constant feeling of weight, fullness and tension in stomach; eructation accompanied by a sour liquid, and at times portions of ingesta; burning pain in stomach and between scapulæ; thirst, constant frontal headache; water taken before retiring at night, returns in morning green and sour; cannot eat more than one meal a day, it puts her in such agony. Fullness and oppression in pit of stomach; bitter, flat or foul taste, excessively acid eructation; long-continued nausea, finally greater by vomiting, which is so fatiguing that it may cause fainting; constant

inclination to stool, finally black, fetid stools, with great relief., Gastric derangement. Dyspepsia manifesting itself at night and preventing sleep.

## Stools and Rectum

Desire for stool, but only flatus passes; finally constipated stools; from undigestion.

Heat and pressure in epigastrium; cramps in extremities; weakness and extreme prostration; acid dyspepsia.

## Touch, Passive Motion, Injuries

Contact: Neuralgia in face less than from food; integument of temple and side painfully sensitive.

## Stage of Life, Constitution

Young man suffering four months acidity of stomach. Miss L., æt. 26, temperament nervo-bilious, with a little of the lymphatic; menstruates every three weeks profusely; pains in stomach. Mrs., æt. 45, dark eyes and hair, nervo-bilious temperament, mother of eight children; suffering since fourteen years old, attacks at first every Spring and Fall, continuing for about three months, for last fifteen years suffering almost continuous ; pain in stomach, etc. Man, æt. 45, suffering three years from enlargement of liver and sympathetic cough ague.

Choudhari says "All that has been mentioned does not particularly individualise Robinia. There are a host of other remedies like Aethusa, Calc. carb, Carbo veg., China, Kali sulph., Lycop., Magn. carb, Natrum carb., Rheum and Acid sulph that can present symptoms greatly similar. What then are the special tracts of Robinia it is the modality consisting of the nocturnal aggravation that characterizes the remedy. In the day time the patient is not troubled so much; he moves about doing his day's work without much trouble or worry, but as night dawns his troubles start. Acid vomiting, acid eructation, rumbling, gurgling and heartburn, worry him all night and disturb his rest."<sup>15</sup>

**Relations:** Compare: Bryon, Cinchon., Carbo veg., Lycop., Nuxvom.

## Generals

- Aggravation.

Motion, Pressure; afternoon, and at night.

- Worse by touch, (neuralgia from contact of food). Worse by reading, (headache), worse lying down, (heartburn and acidity).Worse being raised from the horizontal, (nausea and vomiting).

- Amelioration.

Quiet and in the morning

**Clinical experience of Clarke<sup>16</sup>:** Sour stools of infants, with sour smell of body and vomiting of sour milk. Heartburn and acidity coming on when lying down at night and preventing sleep, March, 1899, H. W.,

xxxiv. 373) relates a case of hyperchlorhydria treated with Rob: Mrs. S., 40, had had stomach troubles many years, for which she had had bitter tonics, stomach douchings, electric massage. She had acid eructations and vomitings of intensely sour food; extreme appetite, but gastric pains an hour or two after meals; stomach and bowels distended with gas almost constantly, and flatulence was extremely irritating. Craved meats, but could not tolerate vegetables; craved solid food, but did not dare take it. Emaciated and cachectic: Meat, eggs, and milk was the diet prescribed. 3x was given every two hours, and steady improvement occurred in all particulars, till health was practically restored.

## Reportorial Analysis

We have many rubrics relating to the symptoms of GERD for Robiniapseudacacia as mentioned below.

Important rubrics which indicate Robiniapseudacacia in GERD:

## Kent's Repertory<sup>17</sup>

- Stomach-Disordered
- Stomach- Distention
- Stomach-Eructations
- Stomach-Eructations- Fluid
- Stomach- Eructations- Food (Regurgitation)
- Stomach-Eructations- Sour
- Stomach- Fullness, Sensation of.
- Stomach-Heartburn
- Stomach-Heat, Flushes
- Stomach- Heaviness, Weight, Oppression
- Stomach-Pain
- Stomach-Pain-Eating,After
- Stomach-Pain, Burning.
- Stomach-Pain, Cutting
- Stomach-Pain, Pressing
- Stomach-Thirst
- Stomach-Thirst, Extreme
- Stomach- Vomiting, Sour
- Stomach-Vomiting, Water

- Stool-Black
- Stool-Frequent
- Stool-Green
- Stool-Odour, Sour
- Stool-White
- Stool-Yellow
- Sleep- Restless
- Sleep- Sleepiness
- Sleep-Sleepiness, Heat, During The
- Generalities-Faintness, Fainting
- Generalities-Food-Fat, Agg

#### **Boger Boenninghausen's Characteristics & Repertory**<sup>18</sup>

- Teeth-Edge, As if on
- Eructation-Acrid (Sharp,Biting)
- Eructation-Sour
- Waterbrash and Heartburn- Heartburn
- Waterbrash and Heartburn-Regurgitation
- Nausea and Vomiting- Vomiting In General-Sour,Acid
- Nausea and Vomiting- Vomiting In General- Watery
- Stomach-Acidity, Sour Stomach
- Stomach- Burning
- Stomach-Chest, Extending To
- Stool-Urging To

#### **Single Medicine Rubrics for Robinia:**

#### **Rubrics from Schroyens F, Synthesis Repertorium Homeopathicum Syntheticum**<sup>19</sup>

- Mind- Fear - Disgrace; of (1) Rob.
- Stomach - Digestion- Rapid; Too - Albuminoid (1) Rob.
- Stomach - Heartburn - Night - Lying Down Agg. (1) Rob.
- Stomach - Pain - Extending To - Digestive Tract; Whole The (1) Rob.
- Stomach - Pain - Extending To - Digestive Tract; Whole the - Burning (1) Rob.

- Abdomen- Discoloration – Greenish (1) Rob.
- Chest-Pain- Mammae-Under-Cutting Pain (1) Rob.
- Generals - Weakness - Motion- agg- horizontal position; when moved from (1) rob.

#### **Kent's Repertory**<sup>17</sup>

- Mind- Fear - black, everything (1) rob.
- Stomach- Heartburn - Night - Lying Down, On (1) Rob.
- Abdomen- Discoloration, - Greenish (1) Rob.
- Chest- Pain-Cutting (Sudden Sharp Pain)-Mammae-Under (1) Rob.
- Generals - Weakness,cenervation - motion,from - when moved from horizontal position (1) rob.

#### **Clarke's Clinical Repertory**<sup>20</sup>

- Clinical - H - hyperchlorhydria (1) rob.
- Clinical - I - indigestion - nocturnal (1) rob.

#### **Murphy R, Homeopathic Medical Repertory, a Modern Alphabetical Repertory**<sup>21</sup>

- Headaches - alternating, headaches with - heartburn (1) rob.
- Perspiration - odor, general - sour - stool, during (1) rob.
- Sleep - insomnia, sleeplessness - night - indigestion, from (1) rob.
- Stomach-heartburn, general - night - lying down, on (1) Rob.
- Stomach - PAIN, stomach - cardiac, orifice - night - lying down, on (1) rob.

#### **Conclusion**

Through this article, we studied the exhaustive materiamedica and reportorial analysis for Robiniapseudacacia. It is useful in cases of GERD where it is clinically manifested in form of heartburn and regurgitation.

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