

*Dynamic Materia Medica*  
*Syphilis*



*A Study of the Syphilitic Miasm through Remedies*

SECOND EDITION

**JEREMY YAAKOV SHERR**



**Saltire Books**

*Saltire Books Limited, Glasgow, Scotland*

# Contents

	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
	<i>About the author</i>	xi
	<i>Introduction to First and Second Editions</i>	1
	<i>Commentary to Second Edition</i>	5
1	<i>Perceiving Materia Medica</i>	29
2	<i>Fracastoro's Syphilis</i>	43
3	<i>Androctonus amoreuxii hebraeus</i>	49
4	<i>Aurum metallicum</i>	63
5	<i>Guaiacum</i>	75
6	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	91
7	<i>Hepar sulphuris calcareum</i>	109
8	<i>Mercurius</i>	119
9	<i>Phytolacca</i>	141
10	<i>Platina</i>	183
11	<i>Stillingia sylvatica</i>	199
12	<i>Syphilinum</i>	217
13	<i>Thallium</i>	231
14	<i>Iridium to Plumbum: The Syphilitic Zone</i>	249
15	<i>Conclusion</i>	255
	<i>Appendix: Syphilis the Disease</i>	261
	<i>Index</i>	281



*Androctonus amoreuxii hebraeus*

Saltire Books

## *Androctonus, 'As If One Person'*

### FROM THE PROVING

*Increased irritability, a "How dare you!" feeling. Felt like tearing offenders to pieces with his bare hands. He felt an enormous surge of violent emotions at trifles and had to exercise great control to stop outbursts of violence and impulses to hurt someone. Felt, "Everyone is a creep." Could not be bothered with anyone. Very strong liking and disliking of people – very intense – ranging from immense sexual attraction to extreme hatred. Spoke with hatred and maliciousness about colleagues. Very sarcastic. Felt angry; did not want to speak to anyone. Extreme mental and physical anguish and restlessness; could not be still for a moment. Assertive, impatient, aggressive. Felt resentful and abused. Had no control over her temper. Bellowed and lashed out at everyone. Wanted to kill her husband and children; banged doors and threw things. I feel afraid of what I might do next. My eyes are staring and full of hate. I have no control over my emotions. Black, horrible moods which don't last long, but are frightening in their violence.*

*In the street, he felt aggressive and very strong; he thought that his umbrella was a knife and desired to smash people up. Desire to pick an argument or fight. Desire to fight and kill, to be violent and cruel.*

*It seemed as though he was a different person, very similar to the way he had been in adolescence, but in a much more powerful manner. These emotions were so intense he wanted to rip his chest apart to let them out. He lost all control over his emotions, which seemed to come from a deep and distant part of himself, a darker side.*

*A feeling of great energy and confidence, a magnetic state. His emotions were more intense than ever before. Felt very good in himself, magnetic. Felt very self confident. Self assured, could not care about anyone or anything. "My mind is concentrated on one objective and I push aside all distracting influences." A mental tunnel vision. Extremely efficient in his work. Did not hesitate.*

*Pushed kids out of bed with no compassion. Things she would normally feel guilt about don't bother her. She was not aware of hurting others' feelings and did not seem to care. Could not appreciate anyone else's feelings. She dreamt that she had murdered her grandfather by poking a knitting needle through his eyes while he slept. She felt no remorse.*

*Increase in sexual power and desire. Sexual desire greatly increased; whole body tense with sexuality, which is purely physical. Sexual desire in presence of any woman. Felt as if he would explode with sexuality.*

## *Androctonus amoreuxii hebraeus*

*Evening settles. Orange sun melts into a yellow desert. Craggy rocks, stone and sand form a desolate wilderness, stretching as far as the eye can see. A speckled desert snake, tongue tasting the warm air, has detected its victim. Summoned by keen instincts, the yellow scorpion turns to face her opponent. Now in combat stance, pincers raised, tail arched menacingly, the sharp stinger poises to strike. Defence and attack are one. Concentration and instinct compress time into a single instant as a base force takes charge – survive!*

Designed to face these moments of danger, scorpions are masters of survival. Their form has proved so successful that they have remained unchanged since moving from sea to land four hundred million years ago. Scorpions can endure extreme conditions and live in almost any climate. They can be found on frozen mountain peaks or in the hottest valleys, and can survive for considerable time without food or water.

Feared by many for their nasty sting, scorpions are formidable fighters. Built like tanks, their tough exoskeleton serves as armour. They grasp their prey with strong pincers and inject a powerful venom with their lance-like tail. Scorpions are lone warriors, always on guard and ready to attack any potential enemy.

The *Androctonus* remedy was prepared from a small, but very virulent, yellow scorpion: *Androctonus amoreuxii hebraeus*. As may be expected, this remedy exhibits extreme anger and violence. Provers spoke rudely and enjoyed being abusive and sarcastic, reacting with great indignation to the slightest offence. One prover felt an urge to rip people apart with his bare hands. Others stalked the streets in anger, provoking violence. This anger intensified to a desire to kill – even their own children. These intense emotions were described as a black thunder bursting from the chest.

In order to survive, a scorpion needs to hide. Its normal preference is under rocks or stones. One clinical prover had a desire to put her hands under stones or to hide under rocks. Another case had dreams of stones and used stones as weapons in a street fight. This affinity for stones and rocks symbolises the unfeeling and hardhearted attitude of *Androctonus*.

*Feeling of separateness. Felt disconnected from the human race, as if everyone was another species. Totally detached – not from self but from surroundings. “I feel entirely alone, that I am viewing the world through one hole, for it all seems just a picture, and the rest of the world shares a different view finder together. I don’t want to join theirs.” She felt separated, detached, disconnected and unreal. Desire to be out in the country; intense desire to be on the rocks. Desire to feel the rocks, to stick her hand beneath the rocks, to crawl into or behind rocks. Pains: short, sharp, strong, stabbing, poking. Sharp pains in joints of arms, elbows, legs, right hip, knee. Sharp pain in ears, down canal, as if a sharp pencil was pushed down into the ear. Small horny-like growth with spikes on right little toe. Contraction of muscles and tendons. < Evening. < 6–9 pm. Extreme dryness. Skin cracked. Thirst. Aversion to sunlight. Flashes of blue pin points. Strabismus. Retinitis pigmentosa.*

## ***Saddam Hussein***

Like many dictators throughout history, Saddam Hussein was a good example of the Androctonus pathology. He portrayed the worst of Scorpion qualities: cold heartedness, cruelty, cunning and violence. Throughout his life, he displayed total lack of care for the fate of his fellow human beings. In many instances he was willing to kill so as to get his own way. As a child he beat animals and potential enemies with an iron bar. Eventually he murdered his own family members.

These killings were not the results of a hotheaded rage, as in Stramonium or Belladonna. Rather, they were a cold-blooded determination to survive in the world he had created, surrounded by enemies from within and without. In Saddam’s paranoid mind every one of his ministers, generals and staff became a potential threat. He showed no remorse or hesitation in murdering them, often personally with a knife. His wife described him as having a heart of stone.

A single-minded determination to fight and win is characteristic of Scorpion. During the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein never deviated from his goal, regardless of the effect that his actions had on family, countrymen, ecology and world opinion. Although he was surrounded by superior armies using the latest laser guided missiles with pinpoint accuracy, he survived. Always one step ahead of his enemies, he directed a masterful campaign from the safety of his underground bunker, hidden deep beneath the desert rock. Scud missiles provided the sting in his tail with which he held his enemies in a state of constant fear. With charismatic magnetism he mesmerised and forced his subjects to follow him into a war he could not win, but did survive. Many of the allied forces have been permanently poisoned by chemicals, vaccinations and fumes. As befitting an Androctonus character, the deposed dictator was eventually captured hiding in a small hole under the ground.

Imagine your surprise after innocently picking up a rock and finding an ominous looking scorpion underneath or, even worse, being stung by it. The first reaction is sudden and intense fear. The fear that is generated by *Androctonus* is a reflection of the fear they feel, and the anger they display is often based on this fear. Provers experienced intense fear of being attacked on the street, of driving, dogs, or psychic attacks. There was much suspicion and paranoia, with one prover trying to outwit friends who he felt were out to get him.

The *Androctonus* constellation of emotions may characterise adolescents in the stage of alienation and rebellion. They feel like defiant outsiders in a hostile environment. Police, social workers, even all adults are perceived as the enemy. One prover expressed these emotions as: "I felt like a different person, very similar to when I was an adolescent, but in a much more powerful manner. My emotions were so powerful I wanted to rip my chest open to let them out. These feelings came from a deep and distant part of myself, a darker side." Like *Tarentula*, there is a sensitivity to music with frenzied dancing lasting all night.

Powerful and charismatic, *Androctonus* may become a leader of men in times of danger, mesmerising others with a magnetic personality. Unfeeling and cruel leadership makes sure authority is maintained, while sharpened instincts penetrate the enemy's mind, predicting and intercepting every move.

*Androctonus* attitudes are often fuelled by the Hollywood fantasies of lone commandos surviving against all odds by violence and wit. *Clockwork Orange*, *Rambo* and *Natural Born Killers* are films that glorify such warriors. This remedy relishes the intense rush of excitement generated by such movies.

This combative stance often develops in inner cities, where conditions of extreme hostility prevail. Police have confiscated packages of crack cocaine stamped with a scorpion emblem, depicting the sting in this drug's tail. The increase in drug abuse has escalated urban violence and intensified the battle for survival. Staying alive depends on constant alertness, sharp senses and lack of scruples. Jaded drug addicts and dealers torture or kill without remorse. There is no room for sympathy in their confined reality.

Naturally, not all people living under these circumstances are *Androctonus* patients. On the contrary, a person living in a seemingly peaceful environment, who perceives the world through the narrow perspective of fear and hate, is exhibiting a more peculiar, and thus deeper, state of *Androctonus*.

The defensive *Androctonus* behaviour may be excited by betrayal, grief or disappointed love, resulting in a "Nobody will do this to me again!" attitude. The intensely sexual *Androctonus* may react with a series of promiscuous relationships, which they quickly and harshly terminate to avoid being hurt.

## ***Androctonus anecdotes***

Androctonus has a strong aggravation at 6 pm, 6–9 pm, or twilight. On the circle of elements this is the area between Earth and Air. This area is associated with dryness, constriction, yellow, or yellow brown, and the time of approaching death. These are all strong features of Androctonus.

We find much dryness in the Androctonus. The skin and mouth are dry, and there is great thirst. These symptoms relate to the yellow colour of this scorpion and its desert habitat.

Constriction and contraction are general themes, as well as sharp pains. These aspects were typified in the case of a very short, 75 year old man who received a dose of Androctonus. He was in a constant battle with his neighbours. After receiving Androctonus, he reported that his toes, which had been contracted and curled up for his whole life, had uncurled and expanded. As a result he had to buy a larger size of shoes. He also threw away his glasses that he had worn for many years.

The scorpion's need to fight, as well as its toxicology, indicate an effect on the immune system. There have been some positive results with Androctonus in HIV and AIDS cases, which often include an intense sexual component. Recent allopathic trials have experimented with scorpion venom to combat brain tumours.

Astrologically, Pluto, Scorpion and Eagle resonate as a trio. Together, these three form a series of the same vibration in various evolutionary phases. The planet Pluto governs the sign of Scorpio, while the god Pluto rules over the shades of the dead in the Underworld. Scorpions are one of the few living creatures to survive in the proximity of nuclear explosions. In ancient times, the sign of Scorpio was represented by an eagle. Scorpio must emerge from under the rocks to fight the battle of life, so that the ashes of its ego can transcend into the mighty eagle. In this context, it is interesting to compare the remedies Plutonium, Androctonus and Haliaeetus.

Looking beyond the emotional portrait of *Androctonus* we may focus on the inner nature of this remedy. Like a scorpion's sharp stinger, the central theme of *Androctonus* is the narrowing of consciousness into a point. For the purpose of survival the whole awareness of *Androctonus* is concentrated into a single point. This excludes the wider range of 'useless' humane emotions that would impede a battle of life and death. Morality, sympathy and guilt are unnecessary diversions. While other violent remedies may experience sorrow or misgivings, *Androctonus* has no time for compunctions. Unfeeling cruelty and lack of remorse are strong features of this remedy. One prover had a desire to attack people with an umbrella, imagining the point was a knife. Another had a dream of sticking knitting needles into the eyes of her grandfather as he slept.

Another aspect of the constricted consciousness of *Androctonus* is a sensation of viewing the world through a narrow tunnel or viewfinder. Anyone who does not fit into her point of view belongs to a different species, an enemy to be regarded with suspicion. This gives rise to a sensation of isolation, of being alone in the world and disconnected from the human race. This feeling of separation may extend to a detachment from his own symptoms, and he becomes an outsider observing his own condition.

Self centred and egotistic, the *Androctonus* world contracts unto itself. Attack is the essence of his being, to be enjoyed with no regrets. Intensely focused on his own survival, he has no concern for the well being of others. He feels no need to help his fellow man, nor does he desire their favour.

This narrowing theme is also expressed as a highly focused concentration, the ability to focus on one thing to the exclusion of all others. This was described as a 'mental tunnel vision'. Interestingly, there have been reports of scorpion ashes being used to cure retinitis pigmentosa, a disease characterised by tunnel vision.

It is well to remember that, as in all remedies, *Androctonus* may display a totally opposite state. Like a retired soldier, the unfocused *Androctonus* may suffer from lack of concentration, disorientation and dullness. Many of the dreams in *Androctonus* are of being in strange houses, confused. He becomes directionless, clumsy and ineffectual, losing interest in his surroundings. Distant and apathetic, he stares at the window for hours, as time floats slowly by.

Other *Androctonus* cases may present as helpless victims of cruel and unfeeling tormentors, who, for 'some unknown reason', are always attracted to them. Under constant attack and abuse, they feel isolated and surrounded. In these cases the prevalent mental pathology is reflected by the environment. These victims may respond by learning to fight or by becoming violent.



*Aurum metallicum*

Saltire Books

## *Aurum Corresponding Symptoms*

*Key to letters:*

(A) = *The Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica* by TF Allen

(C) = *The Complete Repertory* by R van Zandvoort's

Aurum – Follows well after: Syphilinum (C)

Syphilinum – Follows well after: Aurum (C)

Aurum – Similar action: Haliaeetus, Platina, Syphilinum (Sherr)

Mountain sickness. (Schmidt P.)

Ambition: much, ambitious (C)

Motion: ascending: aggravation (Knerr)

Pain: general: heart: ascending stairs agg. (C)

Very intense, idealistic, want to be the best and set high goals. (Morrison)

Workaholic, industrious; ambition. (Vermeulen)

Sadness, despondency, dejection, mental depression, gloom, melancholy: sighing: with (C)

Haughty (C) Audacity (C)

A perfect confusion of ideas. (A)

Platina/Aurum – Similar action (C)

Mind; Ailments from; love; disappointed, unhappy (C)

Mind; Suicidal disposition; love, from disappointed (C)

Dreams, falling from high places (C)

Succeeds, never (C)

**Joy: death, when thinking of (C)**

**Melancholy, unfit for world, longs for death, which he contemplates with intense delight. (A)**

Delusions, imaginations: succeed, that he cannot, does everything wrong: unfit for this world (C)

Despondent melancholy, imagines he cannot succeed in anything. (A)

He feels discouraged and despondent; he imagines he does everything wrong and cannot succeed in anything. (A)

Delusions, imaginations, fail, everything will (C)

Always disposed to feel anxious for future, even when their prospects are ever so bright. (Teste)

Desires to jump from a height. (Hering)

Pain makes her desperate so that she would like to jump out of window, or dash herself down. (Hering)

Escape, attempts to: window from (C)

Dreams: darkness: being in, all night (C)

Fear: falling, of: heights, from (C)

Motion: descending: amelioration (Knerr)

Constant, sulky seriousness and reservedness. (Hahnemann)

## *Aurum metallicum*

*Syphilinum climbs  
eagle soars  
mountain summits  
I'll achieve more;*

*Up, up, up to the sun  
striving to climb one more stair  
top of the ladder  
career and fame  
another deep sigh  
I'm almost there.*

*Perfect women  
love Platinum men  
the essence of falling  
is climbing again,*

*for the kick that I get  
at the peak of success  
is nothing compared  
with the sweet taste of death,*

*and the time tested way  
to sink into pleasure  
undertake much  
succeed never,*

*jump from high windows  
into dark nights  
hitting rock bottom  
through fear of heights,*

*love of dejection  
savouring pain  
resuming the journey  
I'm climbing again,*



Saltire Books

Peevish dejection; discontent with all his circumstances; he imagines that he finds everywhere some obstacle in the way; at one time he thinks that this is owing to an unlucky fate, at another that he himself is to blame for it; when the latter was the case he was particularly mortified and dejected. (Hahnemann)

Disposed to fly into a passion. (Hering)

And all the people took off the golden ear rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. . . . And he received them from their hand, and fashioned with a graving tool a molten calf; and they said, These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (Exodus 32:3–4)

The first trituration of Gold was made by Moses out of the remains of the golden calf of the Israelites, and he made the children of Israel drink it in water (Exodus 32:20). Hence it is also the first Aurum potable on record. (Burnett)

The causes of this state of insanity are prolonged anxiety, unusual responsibility, syphilis and loss of property. (Kent)

Ailments from: responsibility: unusual (C)

Cares, worries: full of (C)

Responsibility, duty: strong (C)

Delusions, Imaginations: Neglected: Duty, his (C)

Music ameliorates (C)

Dejected and full of melancholy. (A)

Brooding, melancholy (Kent)

Delusions, imaginations: deserted, forsaken (C)

Love, unfortunate (Boenninhausen)

Hopefulness (C)

Grief: financial loss, from (C)

Ailments from: financial loss (C)

Ailments from: business: failure (C)

Mental labor affects him very much; he feels very much exhausted. (Hahnemann)

Memory, impaired (A)

Prostration of mind, mental exhaustion, brain fag (C)

Reproaches himself (C)

Pining boys; low spirited, lifeless, weak memory. (Boericke)

Travel, desire to (C)

Melancholia, tedium vitae. (Hering)

Ennui, tedium: entertainment amel. (C)

Suicidal disposition; shooting, by (C)

Suicidal disposition; hanging, by (C)

Mind; praying (C)

Religious mania, prays all the time. (Hering)



13

*Thallium*

Saltire Books

## ***Toxicological Information***

Second to pure provings, toxicological data is the most rewarding source of symptoms in our remedies. It is interesting to note that much of the information in our materia medica comes directly from poisonings. Especially useful are reports of organic pathology that do not arise in provings. In the past this information was gathered diligently from medical journals, books, personal accounts and herbal medicine.

Now that we live in the 'information super-highway' age of computers, a vast amount of toxicological data has become available. It is our duty to tap in to this unlimited source of symptoms so as to enrich our materia medica. This information can stand alone or be added to proving symptoms to form a complete picture. Once collected, the data should be arranged according to the homoeopathic schema and converted into repertory language.

Much of this toxicological information is a result of the extreme misery that humankind has inflicted on itself. Drugs, pesticides, radiation – all have caused disease, pain and suffering. This seems all the more so when poisonings have been used with malicious intent, as in the case of thallium. As homoeopaths we possess the power to convert poisonous lead into the golden knowledge needed to heal our planet.

JS

## Thallium

### CHARACTERISTICS

Thallium is a bluish-white metal first discovered by William Crookes in 1861. It sits between mercury and plumbum in the sixth period of the Periodic Table. In nature thallium occurs in trace amounts in the form of salts and is found with many of the earth crust heavy metals, especially copper, gold, silver, antimony, bismuth, barium, zinc and cadmium. Commercially it is extracted from lead; however, the United States and many other countries no longer produce thallium.

Thallium takes its name from the Greek, *thallos* (green bud) because it produces a green line on spectral analysis. Chemically it resembles both lead and aluminium and often combines with bromine, chlorine, fluorine and iodine.<sup>1</sup>

### USES

The first application of thallium was as a medicine to treat night sweats in tuberculosis patients and as a topical salve for ringworm; later it was a therapy for syphilis, gonorrhoea, gout and dysentery.<sup>2</sup> When it became apparent that thallium was a potent toxin, it was used worldwide as rat, ant and cockroach poison. The United States banned thallium as a pesticide in 1965.

Today thallium is primarily used in the semiconductor industry and in the manufacture of photocells, infrared detectors and fireworks. Because of its refractory ability, thallium is a component in the production of optical glass, coloured glass and imitation precious stones, which sparkle from the presence of thallium. In extremely cold climates it is used as an anti-freeze in mercury thermometers. Doctors employ thallium in cardiac scanning tests, injecting a small amount of a radioactive thallium isotope into the blood, where it replaces potassium and attaches itself to the heart muscle.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENCE

Most of the thallium in the environment enters as a byproduct of coalburning power plants, smelting operations and cement factories. Thallium may be inhaled, eaten or absorbed through the skin by those living near cement factories and other industrial operations or near hazardous waste sites containing thallium. It pollutes water by leaching from ore processing operations. From the water thallium is consumed by fish and shellfish and from the soil it is absorbed by plants, such as food crops and tobacco.<sup>2</sup>