



MUSCARSAN and MUCEDOKEHL

**Two important SANUM Preparations
for Treating Complaints with an Emotional Focus**

by Camilla Fischer, Naturopath

Whilst the vast majority of SANUM remedies support the healing of diseases on the physical level, MUSCARSAN and MUCE-DOKEHL exert a strong influence on the nervous system, and thus, also on emotional problems.

Below, we present both of these remedies to you with their palette of action, and show you the indications for each, and in comparison with each other.

MUSCARSAN

(*Amanita muscaria*, *Agaricus muscarius*, the Fly Agaric)



Fig. 1: *Amanita muscaria*

Botany and Constituents

With its conspicuous white-studded red cap, the Fly Agaric is easy to recognise. Most people know that it is poisonous and are aware of its hallucinogenic action and, in spite of this dangerous property, it is considered to be a bearer of good luck - maybe because of its cheerful appearance.

The botanical name is composed as follows: *Amanita* is a fungal genus of mushrooms. *Agaricus* refers to the country area of Agaria in Dalmatia. *Musca* (Latin for 'fly') and the common name are both based on the fact that, in earlier times, pieces of it used to be put

into milk to attract flies and kill them.

It grows in Europe, and also in Northern Asia and North America, particularly in woods and forests, where it prefers acid soil, often below birches or spruces, and grows to a height of 25 cm. The red caps appear mainly in late summer and autumn. It is possible to confuse it with other, edible fungi (e.g. the Royal Agaric, *Amanita caesaria*), but this tends to happen rarely, which is why Fly Agaric poisonings hardly occur. In *Agaricus*, the highest concentration of poison is found in the white warty studs. This fungus is harmless to snails. Actually, they even seem to prefer it as food, and this hinders its growth. In animals, eating *Amanita* has been observed to cause quite mild complaints, such as nausea, but these quickly wear off.

Poisoning Picture

Agaricus is one of the fungi that have a hallucinogenic action, influencing the central and peripheral nervous systems, among others.

As a parasympathomimetic, Muscarin acts on the secretory and motor terminal fibres of the cholinergic autonomic nerves. This results in the following effects: increased secretion of bile and pancreatic juices and of all real glands, spasms in the muscles of the respiratory tract and in the alimentary canal with colic, bradycardia to the point of cardiac arrest during diastole, expansion of peripheral vessels with a consequent fall in blood pressure. On account of its action on the capillaries, changes take place in the skin sensitivity,

causing paraesthesia.

Muscarin does not cross the blood-brain barrier and is therefore not responsible for the hallucinogenic action on the CNS. This is caused by other constituents, such as muscimol, ibutic acid, muscaridin, and choline. Muscimol (pantherine) crosses the blood-brain barrier and, psychomimetically, can have a stimulant or a damping action.

In the event of a Fly Agaric poisoning, the symptoms depend on the amount of the poison that has been consumed. In Northern Europe, its toxicity is said to be lower than in Southern Europe.

As with alcohol, low concentrations initially have a stimulant action (but can also make one sad or anxious), and large amounts result in disordered consciousness, deep sleep, cramps, or even death. (This demonstrates the validity of the Arndt-Schulz rule: weak stimuli encourage physical reactions, medium stimuli inhibit them and very strong stimuli remove them).

Some 1-2 hours after taking the poison, an inebriated condition occurs: initially, those affected are merry and in a happy mood, but occasionally, they tend to feel melancholy and sad, in other words subject to considerable mood-swings.

The physical and emotional symptoms are accounted for by the activation of the parasympathetic: salivation, burning in the stomach, vomiting, diarrhoea, muscle cramps with tightness in the chest, bradycardia, miosis, delirium, hallu-



cinations and episodes of rage. Following the initial stage of spasm and excitation, there are quasi-narcotic paralyses and somnolence. Those who have been poisoned fall into a deep sleep and on waking are unable to recall their previous state. If substantial quantities of Fly Agaric have been consumed, death occurs after about 12 hours, brought about by circulatory and respiratory collapse.

The antidote to muscarin is atropine, which has a parasympatholytic action.

Agaricus in Folk Medicine

Various peoples have used Fly Agaric as a means of intoxication. It has been given orally in nervous diseases, e.g. in various kinds of paralysis, chorea or epilepsy, as well as in diarrhoea and muscular twitching. In the Rhineland, dishes which included Fly Agaric used to be recommended as a cancer remedy (Mezger). Thus, a case history exists, in which a female patient with uterine cancer consumed quite large quantities of this fungus, the outcome being successful.

Use was also made of external applications in rheumatic-type complaints, wounds, chilblains and ulcers.

The Homœopathic Remedy Picture

It was Hahnemann who first carried out provings of *Amanita muscaria*

Its main action affects the CNS, skin and circulatory system; most of the symptoms can be attributed to irritation of the parasympathetic.

Patients of a lymphatic or tuberculinic constitution respond well to this remedy.

Children requiring *Agaricus* exhibit late development: they are late in learning to walk and talk. This is attributable to inhibition of brain functions, among other things. (In *Calcarea carbonica*, the cause of the delay is rooted more in the bone metabolism.)

Mind and Emotions: As with other intoxicants, *Amanita* suppresses the ego, the individual soul. Thus, it inflicts „ego-damage“. In such a state, the person knows neither inhibitions nor shame.

Central and Peripheral Nervous System: Apparently, contradictory symptoms show up in the nervous system in particular, similarly to Fly Agaric poisoning, in which the amount consumed is critical: on the one hand, those affected are cheerful, in high spirits, ecstatic as if intoxicated, even to the point of rage; uncoordinated twitching occurs, particularly in the area of the head, epileptiform spasms, maniacal rage and hallucinations, the provers were talking confused, unconnected rubbish. On the other hand, reduced activity may predominate, with listlessness, slowness, depression, despair and noticeable weakness, even to the point of unconsciousness.

There are drawing pains in every part of the body; electric shocks shoot through all the limbs.

Head: Congestive episodes with redness of the face, manifesting also

at the nostrils and aural meatuses, as well as mouth and eyes.

Eyes: Here, the disorders generally resemble the complaints that occur after over-use of the eyes, e.g. from extended periods of work at the computer screen:

Twitching of the eyelids, feeling of pressure and burning, double vision, photophobia, disorders of accommodation and vision, everything looks blurred. In most cases, there is miosis, although mydriasis is also possible. Objects appear larger than they are (DD *Glonoin*), the eyes are constantly shifting.

Skin: A cold sensation, like needles of ice, although the skin is generally warm to the touch. The capillaries adapt poorly to temperature changes (which is caused partly by the constituent choline); formication (DD *Secale cornutum*); paræsthesias; intolerance of warm covering, despite a great feeling of coldness.

Circulatory System: Initially, the heart-rate is raised, and later lowered; as a result of capillary stenosis, the blood is centralised, resulting in cyanosis. Heart complaints are worse in the morning and ameliorated by movement.

Thyroid: Possible thyrotoxicosis.

Respiratory Tract: Spasmodic cough, dyspnoea as a result of bronchospasm.

Digestive Organs: Salivation, diarrhoea like cholera, nervous diarrhoea; great thirst, gastrocardiac

disorders (Rœmheld's disease), with amelioration from belching or stool.

Urinary Organs: Diminished renal function, paralysis of the bladder from nerve paralysis, e.g. in M.S.; bed-wetting in hectic children; coldness and excitement clearly aggravate the symptoms.

Genitalia: Here again, we see the two extremes of Fly Agaric. Whilst there is strong sexual excitement, this wanes quickly.

Musculo-Skeletal: The muscle tone may be increased or weakened, finding expression in unnaturally increased muscular strength or complete lack of energy with a swaying gait. The muscles feel as if they were on fire and often tremble, which is particularly noticeable in the hands. Such symptoms are found e.g. in diseases such as Parkinson's, intermittent claudication and restless legs syndrome.

Sleep: Sleepiness in the daytime, restlessness and pain at night. Sleep is either restless and interrupted by anxious dreams, or the sleep is deep and comatose.

Modalities:

Amelioration: discharge of stool and flatus, sleep, slow movement, after urination.

Aggravation: thunderstorms, sexual intercourse, cold, mental exertion, touch, in the morning, semi-luxury foods.

Administrative Forms and Areas of Use

MUSCARSAN is produced from *Amanita muscaria* in the 6X potency, and is available in the form of tablets and in liquid potency. As prescribed in the homœopathic pharmacopœia, reg. HAB 3a, the liquid potency contains 50% vol. of alcohol.

The main realm of use for MUSCARSAN is that of physical and mental nervous system complaints. On the one hand, these include degenerative diseases such as senile dementia, Parkinson's or Multiple Sclerosis (according to Schlegel *Agaricus* is a very successful remedy in the treatment of the weak bladder which often occurs in this complaint; the remedy picture also shows many further parallels with the symptomatology of MS); on the other hand, diseases of some other or vague genesis, such as Sydenham's chorea, epilepsy, trigeminal neuralgia, herpes neuralgia, muscular tics and tremor (e.g. restless legs syndrome). MUSCARSAN will work all the more successfully, the more closely the remedy picture and the patient's symptom picture correspond.

As well as the physical illnesses, MUSCARSAN is also indicated for disorders with emotional derailment, e.g. in manic states, over-excitability, delirium tremens and drug abuse. In disaccustoming, following abuse of medicines, food or semi-luxury substances, MUSCARSAN helps to alleviate withdrawal symptoms that may appear. In one study, Dr. Konrad Werthmann showed that MUSCARSAN

can help in removing an apparently banal addiction, namely addiction to chocolate. (Dr. Konrad Werthmann: „The Treatment of Hyperacidity and Addictions – a Course of Homeopathic Treatment with MUSCARSAN“).

In children suffering from ADHD, MUSCARSAN should be thought of as one of the suitable remedies, since the clinical symptoms in particular frequently come up in connection with addictive eating disorders.

In these modern times, when the eyes are the sensory organs most in demand, MUSCARSAN is a suitable remedy when the symptoms fit.

MUCEDOKEHL

(*Mucor mucedo*, the common pinmould)

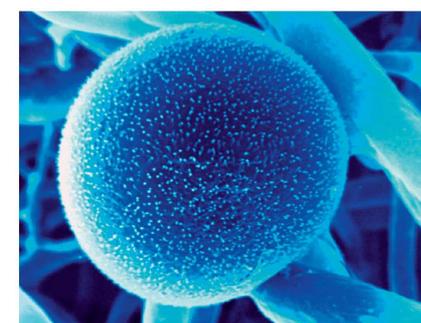


Fig. 2. *Mucor mucedo*

Compared with *Agaricus muscarius*, the Fly Agaric, which was proved by Hahnemann, *Mucor mucedo* is a real newcomer on the medicinal field, having only been introduced into Homœopathy in 1955 by the French doctor Pommier de Santi.



The Fungus

Mucor mucedo is a close relative of *Mucor racemosus* (MUCO-KEHL), both being members of the mould family.

It is found worldwide and frequently appears on spoilt food, inter alia on fruit, vegetables, cereals and cheese. (It is particularly dreaded in cheese dairies, as it spreads almost everywhere and causes considerable damage to the ripening process.) Pin mould multiplies in damp dwellings in the house dust, or in damp areas (refrigerator, bread bin, etc.); in stables it is found in dung (as a decomposing agent) and in the air. It is capable of breaking down cellulose, so that in nature it can break down dead plants and even wood.

Generally pin moulds grow saprophytically, i.e. they live on dead material by eating decayed matter, without causing damage to their host; only rarely does parasitic growth occur and damage the host organism.

The name *Mucor* (= pin mould) derives from the shape of the sporangia - the „containers“, in which the spores are formed.

Colonies of *Mucor mucedo* grow up to a height of 25mm in darkness and are yellowish-grey in colour, whereas in the light, on a natural substrate, they can grow to a striking height of up to 15 cm. The colour of the fungal weave changes from white initially, to orange or yellowish-brown later. This mould grows all the year round in temperatures of 2-30°C, with a preference for about 22°C. In any

case, it requires a relatively high degree of humidity in the air in order to develop.

So far, *Mucor* has not been shown to form any mycotoxins.

Mucor as a Pathogen

Varieties of *Mucor* are frequent and significant triggers of allergies all the year round, the spores being carried large distances by water and in the air. In recent years, the significance of *Mucor mucedo* in the pathogenesis of various diseases has increased, particularly, when it occurs in closed spaces. The spores penetrate the body via the respiratory or digestive tracts and, by growing into blood-vessels and nerve tissue, can cut off the supply of nutrients or oxygen to the affected tissue. Particularly, when the nasal or facial areas are attacked, this may even result in tissue necrosis. If sprouting occurs into the blood-vessels supplying the liver or kidneys, then the reduced blood-supply may result in disordered organic function. Mould also favours the development of bronchial asthma.

It has been shown that, where *Mucor mucedo* occurs, in most cases heavy metal intoxication (mercury, copper, cadmium, palladium) is present.

In patients with reduced immunity (e.g. diabetes mellitus, treatment with cytostatics or cortisone), there have been isolated cases with a fatal outcome.

The Homœopathic Remedy Picture

The principal action is directed at

the superior centres of the autonomic nervous system: limbic system, hypothalamus, pituitary, and thus, the entire endocrine and autonomic regulatory apparatus. The limbic system harbours our unconscious control centre for survival (fight or flight).

Generally, there is great weakness, exhaustion and lack of energy.

Mind and Emotions: Autonomic imbalance with anxiety and shivering, also depressive mood.

Head: Tonsillitis, sinusitis, rhinitis, otitis, glandular inflammation during dentition.

Skin: Skin, hair and nails are constantly dry.

Blood, Circulatory and Lymphatic Systems: Asthenia, emaciation and anaemia, lymphatic congestion.

Thyroid: Hyper- or hypofunction.

Respiratory Tract: Bronchial catarrh, bronchial asthma

Urinary Tract: Increased elimination of phosphates.

Locomotor System: Degeneration of bones and joints.

Sleep: Restless, disturbed.

Modalities:

Amelioration: Long stays at the seaside (preceded by initial aggravation).

Aggravation: Spring and autumn.



Administrative Forms and Areas of Use

MUCEDOKEHL is available in various administrative forms (drops, injectables, capsules and suppositories). Potencies are from 3X and 5X.

This remedy is suited to the treatment of psoro-sycotic conditions (Julian).

Mucor mucedo is indicated in diseases in the area of the head, inter alia.

These include, on the one hand, organic disorders such as sinusitis, otitis, rhinitis, tonsillar hypertrophy, adenoidal growths, and dental inflammations. Disordered blood-supply, e.g. in tinnitus or migraines, are further areas where *Mucor mucedo* may be of service.

On the other hand, MUCEDOKEHL is the remedy of choice in imbalances of the autonomic nervous system. It restores the balance between sympathetic and parasympathetic, which explains why it is able to regulate both depressive moods and restlessness/anxiety. These include disturbed sleep and other complaints arising from stress, in which the patient cannot find rest (DD Valeriana off. or Humulus lupulus).

MUCEDOKEHL is especially helpful in all emotional problems, e.g. phobias, neuroses, fears of all kinds (Dr. Konrad Werthmann: „Anxiety and Isotherapy in the Treatment of Somatic Complaints“), and also for the relief of the tremendous fears experienced by patients with a serious illness (DD

Arsenicum album).

Because of its harmonising action on the autonomic nervous system, MUCEDOKEHL can also be employed to „open doors“ where there are blocks to treatment, since physical complaints are mostly linked with basic emotional problems.

Patients with thyroid illnesses (both over- and underactive) respond well to MUCEDOKEHL. The reason for this may well be that the thyroid is closely linked to the superior centres of command in the brain. Apart from this, it is susceptible to heavy metal intoxication. In this connection, an interesting observation is that MUCEDOKEHL has a regulating action along the whole course of the stomach and spleen-pancreas meridians, where there are functional disorders. We are familiar with many complaints where „our throats feel tight“, or where we „cannot swallow“; as well as thyroid hypertrophy, these also include asthma, nausea, gastro-intestinal tract illnesses or situations that fill us with fear.

Finally, MUCEDOKEHL can be put to use as a supporting remedy in all cases of faulty hormonal regulation of the organism, since it has a balancing action on the hormonal and autonomic control centres.

Comparison of MUCEDOKEHL and MUCOKEHL

Mucor mucedo (MUCEDOKEHL) and *Mucor racemosus* (MUCOKEHL) are closely related and therefore display many parallels.

It is easier to choose between the two remedies if one keeps sight of the essential features of the way in which they act.

MUCOKEHL particularly influences the blood and the vascular system, thus regulating the blood supply and the organism's balance of oxygen, energy and nutrients. Viewed in the wider sense, this also includes the lymphatic system and the Pischinger space.

MUCEDOKEHL intervenes in the superior control centres of the brain and acts on the organism more via the hormonal and autonomic lines of control. *Mucor mucedo* improves the blood supply particularly in and around the head; thus it may be regarded as specialising in disorders of that area.

Comparison of MUCEDOKEHL and MUSCARSAN

Both of these remedies influence the functions of the central and peripheral nervous systems.

The symptomatology of MUSCARSAN is based on excitation of the parasympathetic nervous system, whereas MUCEDOKEHL balances out the two antagonists, the sympathetic and parasympathetic, and acts on the central hormonal and autonomic regulation.

MUSCARSAN is more suited to aggressive symptoms and addictive conditions; in MUCEDOKEHL, on the contrary, we find general exhaustion and an effort to achieve harmony.

The MUSCARSAN patient tends



towards quasi-intoxicated extreme states (mania or depression, „from heavenly rejoicing to the slough of despond“), all their complaints exhibit a certain aggression or destructive tendencies, whether the spasms of an epileptic seizure on the one hand, the strong withdrawal symptoms when coming off a drug or, on the other hand, poisoning oneself as a consequence of paralysis of the bladder or the life-threatening aspects of progressive circulatory deceleration.

By comparison, the MUCEDO-KEHL patient's symptoms appear rather more gently and softly. Admittedly he also has depressive

states, but they are mostly less aggressive and destructive. The only excess for which we can reproach the MUCEDOKEHL patient is an inability to channel his energies.

Bibliography:

Gerhard Madaus: Lehrbuch der biologischen Heilmittel (= Manual of Biological Remedies); Thieme Verlag; also available on the Internet.

Internet:
<http://212.185.118.226/publlehrbuch/>

Bœricke: Homöopathische Arzneimittel und ihre Wirkungen (= Homœopathic medicines and their Actions), Verlag Grundlagen und Praxis

SANUM-Post No. 52: Dr. Heidl: MUCEDOKEHL - eine Arzneimittel mit großer Wirkungsbreite (= a medicine with a broad spectrum of action)

O. Julian: Materia Medica of the Nosodes

www.pilzepilze.de/piga/zeige.htm?name=amanita_muscaria

First published in the German language in the SANUM-Post magazine (83/2008)

© Copyright 2008 by Semmelweis-Institut GmbH, 27318 Hoya (Weser), Germany

All Rights Reserved