

Materia Medica of *Hyoscyamus* *Niger*

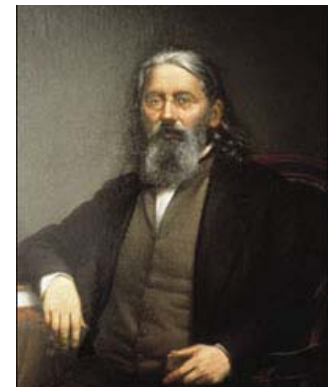


By Luc De Schepper M.D.

*From his forthcoming book:
“Beyond Jung: Delusions, Dreams, Neuroses and
Homeopathy*

The very peculiar delusions of Hyoscyamus will tell us what will go on in the mind of the child, what drives him to do and think what he does and think.

His core delusion is, *he is going to be sold!* In the mind of this child, or adult, it means that he has served his purpose and is no longer needed neither wanted. Mom has only eyes for the newcomer and therefore he “will be given away.” This core delusion was nourished by another delusion: *he is going to be married, and del, of a wedding*, which shows how close he is to a very intimate relationship; in fact it is his ultimate wish, as Hyosc (compare Lith-c) according to the Periodic Table is just as needy for a relationship, even more than the spontaneous, intuitive Natrum who is just plain naïve in her first stage (*Laughs immoderately; laughs and sings all day long, Nat-m*). And just when happiness is going to happen, someone else takes his place. In case of a child, it is especially the next sibling, born after him but also possible another relative who comes and lives in his family. In fact, Hyosc has an immature ego which does not allow for anyone taking the attention away from the subject of his love (mother, father). In case of an adult, it is the immature, co-dependent person who lives and breaths through the other person (lover, best friend, even you the homeopath).



Symptoms from the provings from Hering’s *Guiding symptoms* are in italics throughout the text.

Once these two delusions are present, it seems to be the impetus for other fixed ideas. What is in store for him? He imagines the ways he will be disposed of: *Del, he is about to be poisoned (complaints of having been poisoned; believes himself poisoned); del, he will be murdered; del, he will be bitten; del, he is about to receive an injury, and he is pursued by the police*. No wonder we see in provings

statements like, *received her physician, conversed intelligently, but would not wear a single garment of any kind; refused medicine and cunningly evaded all strategies to give it.*

Of course in his mind, there must be good reasons for that people want to dispose of him. Hyoscyamus' fertile mind has no lack of more delusions: *Del, thinks he is demoniacal; del, he is a criminal; del, he has neglected his duty; del, he has offended people and del, he has done wrong.*

The depth of his grief about being left and about a perceived break is great: *fears to be left alone to del, he is forsaken and del, he has lost the affection of his friends; he is convinced that he injured by his surroundings and that he has suffered wrong and that he is persecuted*

There is of course another reason for being so clingy and dependent: this is an element in Group One, Level Two, so a very dependent and naïve, insecure individual for which the worlds (as with any carbon person) remains a great danger. We see this in his delusions: *Del, of animals; of crabs; will be bitten; sees devils; devoured by animals!* Who would not want to hang on to a dependable source of nourishment, the mother!

How to compensate for all that? How to be able to hang on to the unfaithful lover (*Del, wife is faithless*)? How to turn possible the tables in his favor again? As Jung told us, most of the troubles of "marriage" (which is also the union of the child to the parental figure), consist in a cunning invention of irritating topics, which have absolutely no foundation. Hyoscyamus will go to extreme compensation and as we expect to rather primitive, crude behavior, behavior as old as humankind: sexual expressions! Few characters in the MM are as cunning as Hyoscyamus (except maybe for Tarentula who also uses his sexual powers to attach his victim to him), but extreme thoughts and behavior are routine for Hyoscyamus to catch the attention of the "unfaithful lover," (mother, lover, friend).

It is interesting that from the moment is aware of his sexuality, that this becomes his main weapon. When can we see this sexual awakening? C. Jung divided libido into three periods: "a pre-sexual phase which ends at about the age of three; a stage at which boys normally develop the Oedipus complex and girls develop the Elektra complex. In the third phase, the adolescent should direct his libido away from the family. If it leaks incestuously backwards, regression and neurosis ensue (*A Life of Jung, Ronald Hayman, 1999, Norton & Company, p157*)."

This is what happens to the Hyoscyamus person: there is no turning away libido wise from the mother or father figure. More than any other remedy, overt sexual behavior is evident in what for Hyoscyamus should be a positive compensation. "I give myself fully to you," is the message. I want to be on the most intimate base with you, and no one should come between us." Her ways of sending not so subtle messages to her lover are manifold: *Lies naked in bed and prattles; loves smutty talk; sings amorous and obscene songs; erotic mania accompanied by jealousy; onanism since childhood; has always been attracted to the opposite sex and prematurely busied himself with thoughts of marriage (del of a wedding); lascivious mania, uncovers body, especially sexual parts; goes about nearly naked, will not be covered; constantly throwing off bedcovers or clothes; entire loss of modesty; he lies in bed nude and walks in a fur during summer heat; desires to be naked and especially inclined to unseemingly and immodest acts, gestures and expressions; amativeness, nymphomania and erotomania.*

What about if this compensation does not work? Are there any other “positive” compensations available to Hyoscyamus? Certainly, attention is demanded by talking constantly to the source of affection; if it is not about sex he is talking, it is more like *constant unintelligible chattering and talks about imaginary wrongs and makes abrupt, short answers to imaginary questions; also sings constantly and talks hastily, but indistinctly*. Of course it looks like foolish behavior, another compensation in which the Hyoscyamus patient excels to draw attention: *Foolish laughter; does foolish things, behaves like one mad; comical alienation of the mind and ludicrous actions like monkeys; makes ridiculous gestures like a dancing clown, like one intoxicated*.

One can imagine that this sexual and foolish behavior turns old and starts annoying people and parents alike, especially when this is done very much in the open, seemingly without any shame and inhibition. I had Hyoscyamus boys who would try to force themselves in the shower with their mother; talk continuously about sex and wanting to marry their mother in presence of others or would drop a towel in front of their mother coming out of the shower. Some threatened to kill their father and little sister so the way was free to marry their mother. When having therapy from the psychotherapist, through the help of videos, the psychotherapist finally found out that the video he was always requesting was stimulating him sexually. Other foolish behavior of such children is walking naked in front of their mother to aggravate her. The Hyoscyamus child will do anything to shock (sycosis!): will ask family members if they sleep with other women; sticks his tongue out, tells his mother she does not love him, that she hates him and calls her a liar if she says the opposite. They don't like it if their friends play with someone new and if they are sick, they are clingy but refuse often to take the medicine, wake up in the middle of the night, go to the room of their parents and Hyoscyamus kisses his mother and goes back to bed. Putting them on time out does not help: they are actually worse from it and I heard once through the phone the Hyoscyamus boy screaming and banging on the garage door in which he was locked up.

The desperate parent cannot handle such child at such time and punishing does not help, neither does the mother (it is usually that parent) has enough patience and stamina to continuously deal with this suffocating behavior. Seeing that his sticky and shocking behavior does not work, the Hyoscyamus child now follows the negative destruction way with the opposite of that extreme amorous behavior. *He wants to kill somebody or himself; ungovernable rage with exhibition of unusual strength; is violent and beats people; bites, scratches and nips everyone interfering with them; tries to injure those around him; convulsions after trying to swallow; strikes at keepers and can scarcely be restrained; looking very wild, use of straight jacket necessary*. These fits of passion are often followed by *melancholia, lack of appetite, restless nights, timorous, hides himself, being speechless and exhibiting a loss of strength*. We see clearly in these stages the syphilitic miasm at work.

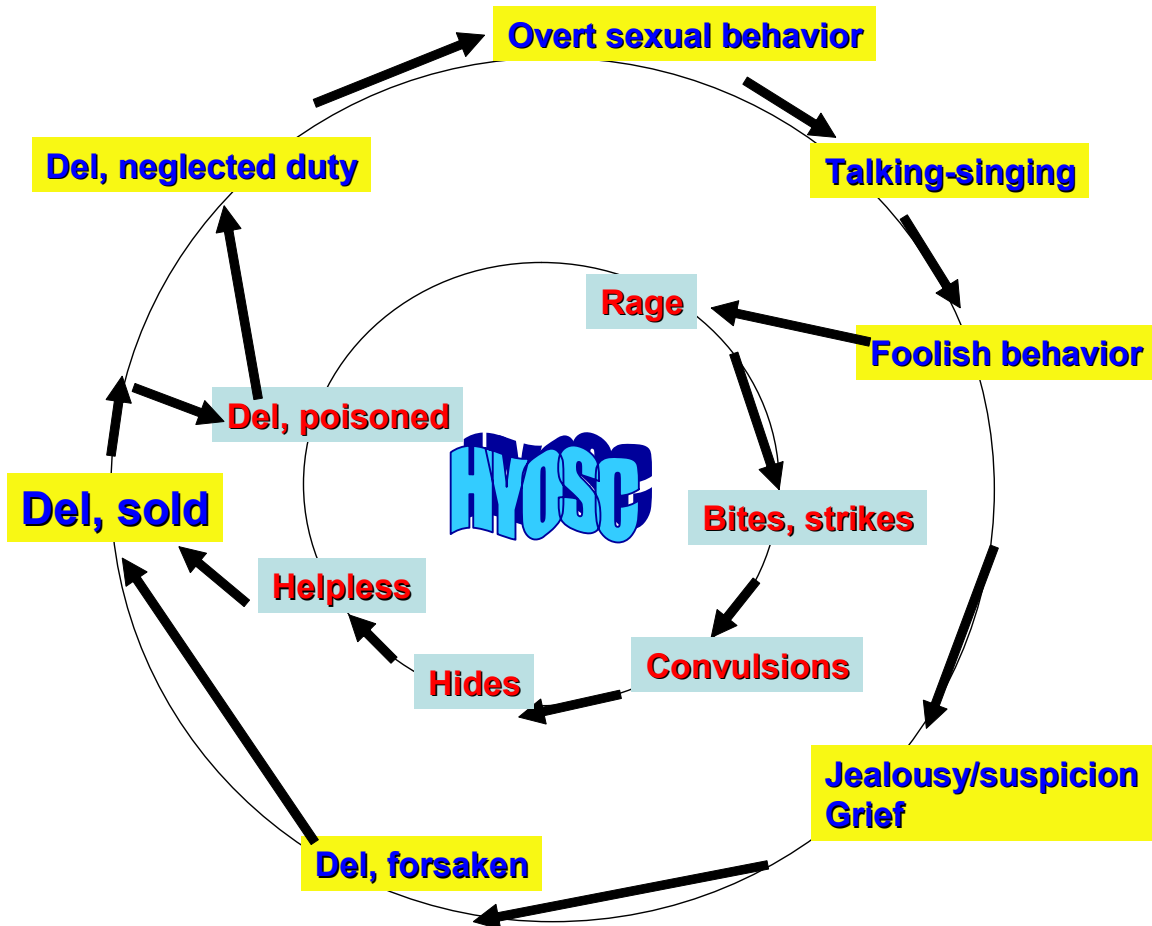
At this point, can you imagine anything more that the exasperated parents would love to sell this child, which leads to a completion of the compensation ways to a return to the core delusion, del, is going to be sold!

Causality (NWS):

● **serious illness from jealousy and grief about a faithless lover (3):** *a gentle, lovable woman became extremely jealous (S) of her husband and although fully realizing that she did him injustice, she was so filled with grief that she found no rest day or night, and could neither drink or eat (L).*

- disappointed love (3)
 - fright (2): also in D.T: “trembling allover, looking very wild and constantly pointing to serpents which she saw creeping up towards her and fancied they were in bed approaching her.
- DD with Puls especially and Tarent, which are discussed further!

Compatible remedies: Phos often cures lasciviousness when Hyoscyamus fails and Bell, Puls, Stram and Verat-a follow well when indicated!

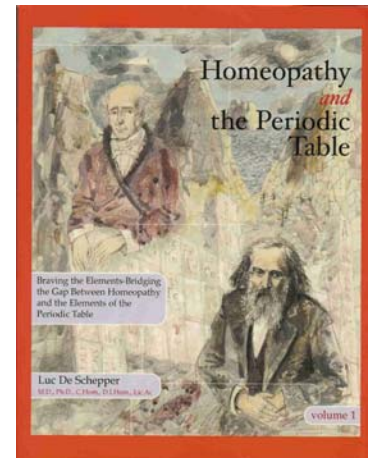
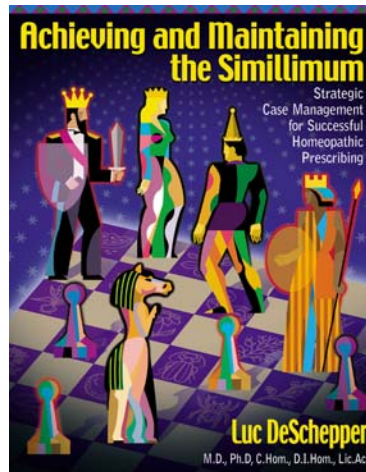
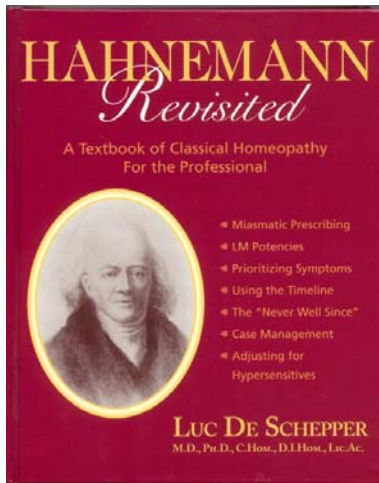


Example Hyoscyamus (rubrics are in parenthesis, black type)

A boy was five years-old when his sibling was born. On the top of it they took his little blanket away because he was now a “big boy (Del, he is going to be sold; del, he lost the affection of his friends; del, he has suffered wrong).” He had many ear infections for two years, all treated with antibiotics. Jealousy and mild anger were present since age 2, but this anger increased after using a nebulizer for recurrent cough. He shows incredible anger and rage towards his family, especially the younger sibling. He swears, he hits, throws, kicks, and screams when angered but sometimes causeless, but especially when he perceives that the younger sibling has interrupted his time with his mother (cursing; desire to break things; bite, desire to; rage, fury, tries to kill people; mania with rage). He cannot stand the attention taken away from him; he loves the attention for anything (jealousy with rage). He will laugh when

someone else is being reprimanded (**laughing at serious things**). He talks inappropriately for his age (7). He asked if his uncle slept with his girlfriend and in conversations makes sexual comments (**smutty talk; lewd talk**). He walks around naked especially in front of his mom to aggravate her (**shameless, exposes the person; lascivious, uncovers sexual parts**). He tells his mother constantly that she does not love him, that she hates him. The mother reassures him that she loves him, but he tells her she is a liar (**del, lost the affection of friends**). When he plays with his little brother, he tells him he is going to kill him. When I was talking to his mom, he quietly came in to give her a kiss and whispered in her ear that she was stupid and stuck his tongue out at her (**foolish behavior**). He is jealous over his friends and does not like it when they play with someone else (**jealousy**). When he is sick, he is clingy and wants his mom to sleep with him (**desire for company, fears to be alone**). The one thing that sticks out that he always refuses to take any medicine, even when he is sick he puts up a battle (**refuses to take the medicine**). He is very sensitive when he is one on one, he weeps when he hears soft music and worries about his family. He prays every night with his mom, especially if he knows she is mad at him, he will do it for her (**religious affections**). He is extremely restless and impatient and cannot concentrate at school and has a horrible time waiting for his turn! He has been sad lately (**sadness, despondency, from disappointed love**).

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