

## HYDROCOTYLE ASIATICA - indian pennywort

This remedy has an affinity to glandular swellings and hypertrophy and induration of connective tissue. Also been very effective in Lupus and Leprosy, making the skin symptoms very important.

Because a sense of shame often accompanies a state of leprosy you will find a great sadness and mental depression and they completely avoid the sight of others, wanting to be alone. They have contempt for others and do not want to get involved with the troubles of anyone else because they are too bound up with their own problems. There is complete indifference to company and they just want solitude.

And yet this is a loquacious remedy, and there is an interesting symptom - 'confiding' - they cannot keep secrets - secrets become burdens, and so they have to talk about them in a loquacious manner to get rid of them. This theme of confiding links with another keynote of this remedy - 'difficulty in maintaining the upright posture.' Cannot hold on to secrets or burdens, has to bend with them, cannot stand straight with them.

This remedy is in the Umbelliferae group and Sankaran describes the main sensations in this group as 'attack and violence' - so it is possible that the secrets they hold and the gloomy depression they cause, are to do with abuse, which also can lead to deep feelings of shame. They desperately want to tell of their secrets but feel guilty doing so.

The main skin symptoms are thickening, crusty and exfoliating but generally dry, intolerable itching - acne, leprosy, elephantiasis, lupus, psoriasis, copper coloured eruptions.

There is a lot of gloom and doom with this remedy with sensations of weight (burdens and secrets) here and there - rectum, uterus, kidneys prostate. They have a poor opinion of themselves, very hesitating in speaking - the speech is impaired (perhaps guilty because they are telling secrets?). Very sensitive, especially to touch (perhaps, again because of abuse?)

Just like the skin they create a crust around themselves.

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