# Plants, Mushrooms and Herbal Supplements

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### A Lesson from History . . .

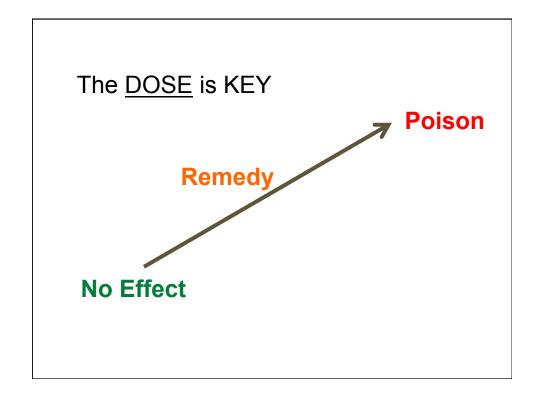
- A young princess ate part of an apple given to her by a wicked witch
- She was found comatose and unresponsive, as if in a deep sleep

### and the **antidote** is . . .

 Mouth to mouth ventilation was performed and she recovered fully

[A contemporary interpretation of "love's first kiss"]







# U.S. Poison Center Data ~2.5 million exposures/year

### *Most common exposures in children < 5:*

- 1. Cosmetics
- 2. Pain relievers
- 3. Household cleaning products
- 4. Foreign bodies
- 5. Skin medicines
- 6. Vitamins
- 7. Antihistamines (eg, Benadryl)
- 8. Cough & Cold medicines
- 9. Pesticides

10.Plants (nearly 40,000 cases – deaths rare)



Froberg: Emerg Med Clin NA 2007; 25:375-433

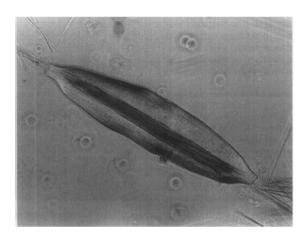


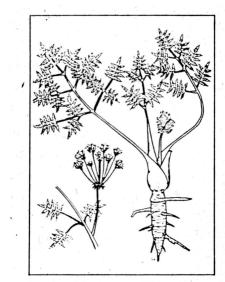
Fig. 3. Idioblast from petiole of *Dieffenhachia*. Some crystals (raphides) have been extruded from idioblast, whereas others remain within cell. (Fresh preparation; original magnification ×520.) (Courtesy of Dr. H.T. Horner, Ames, Iowa)

Gardner: Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol 1994; 78:631-633



Froberg: Emerg Med Clin NA 2007; 25:375-433





**Figure 3.**—Conium maculatum. A young poison hemlock plant with a long, unbranched taproot.

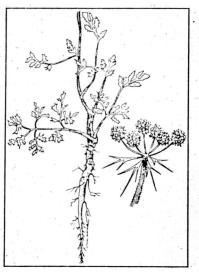
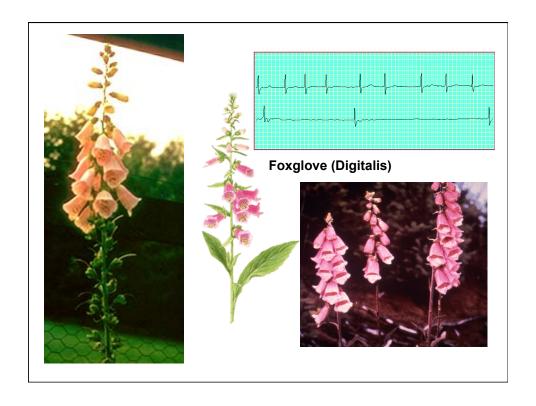
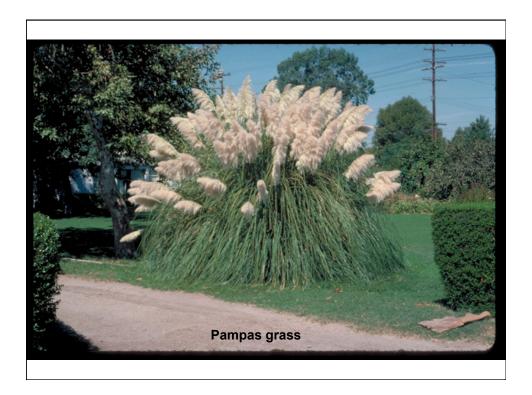


Figure 4.—Daucus carota. A young wild carrot plant with a long, unbranched taproot. Note resemblance of taproot to that of poison hemlock.



Oleander





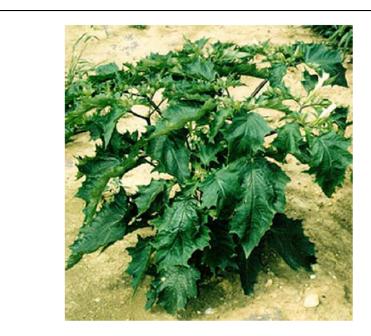
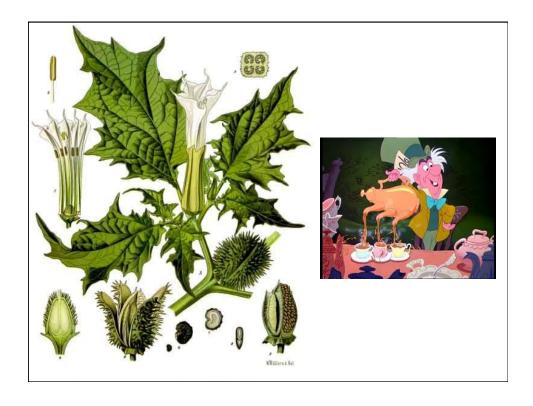
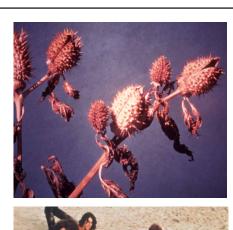


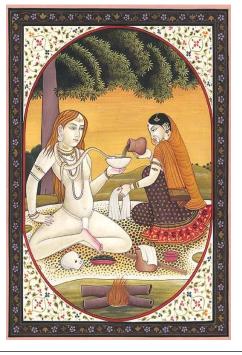
Fig. 29. Datuna stramonium (jimson weed).











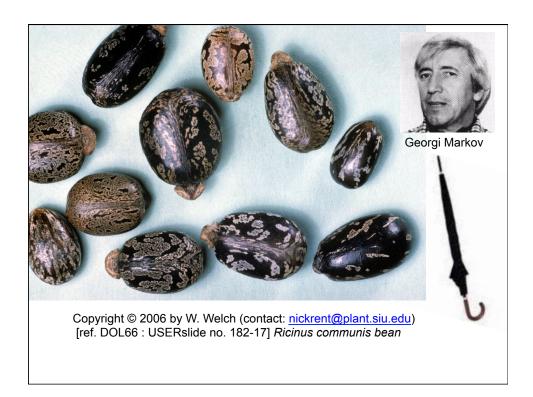
# **Anticholinergic syndrome**

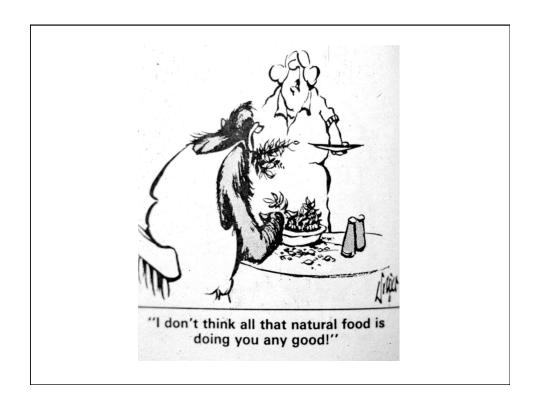
- Mad as a hatter
- Blind as a bat
- Red as a beet
- Hot as a hare
- Dry as a bone





http://ispb.univ-lyon1.fr/cours/botanique\_old/photos\_dicoty/dico%20Q%20a%20Z/Ricinus%20communis%202.jpg

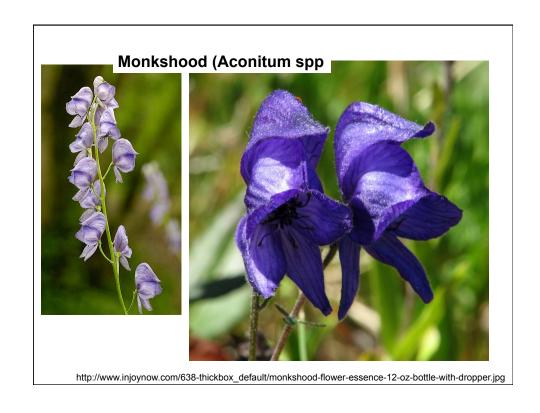






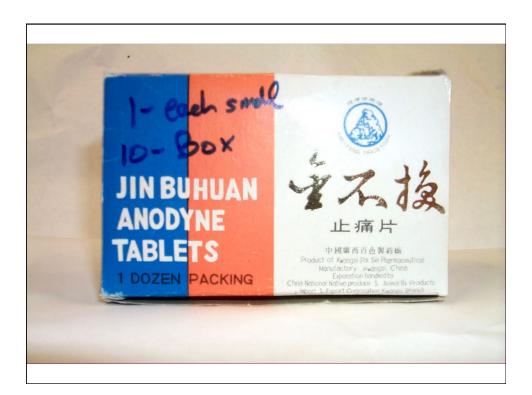


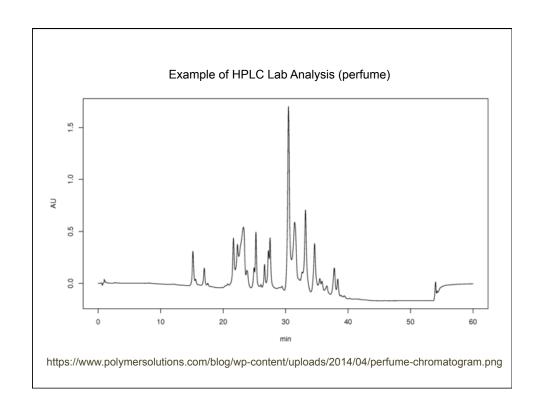


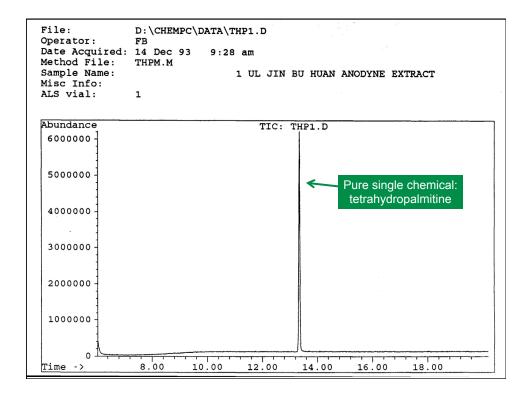


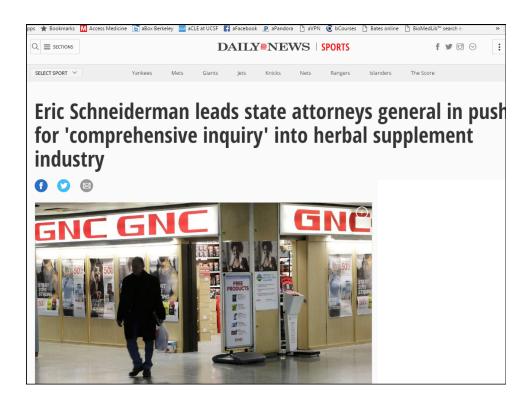
# Herbals not always herbal

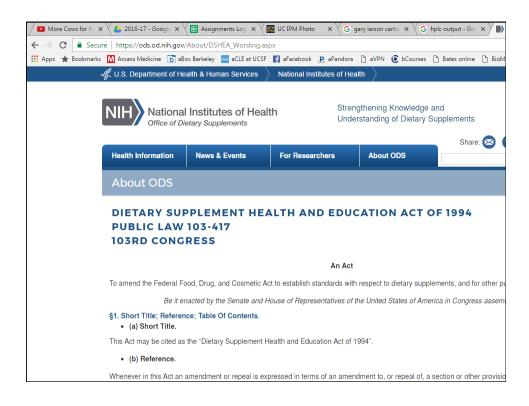
- 42 yo woman previously in good health
- Presented with acute hepatitis
- Had been taking an "herbal" remedy for insomnia





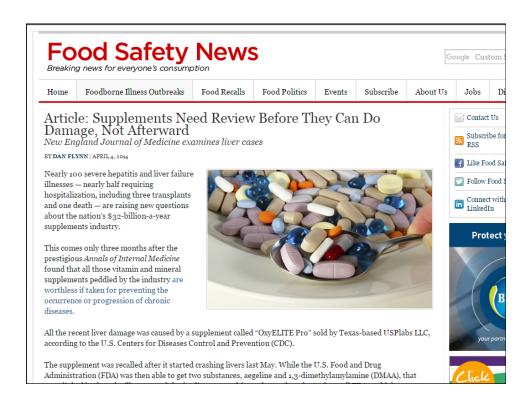






### DSHEA (1994) limits the FDA

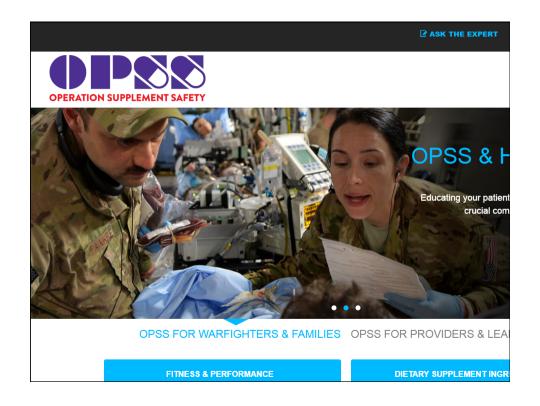
- Dietary supplements do not need to be proven safe or effective before they are marketed
- Burden of proof is on the FDA before a dangerous product can be removed
- Marketers cannot claim a specific disease treatment, but they can promote "nutritional support" (eg, "supports eye health")

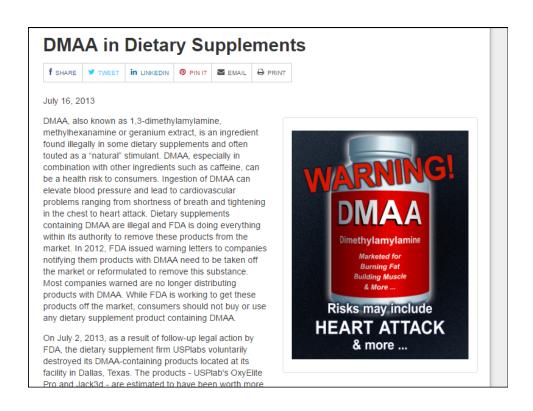


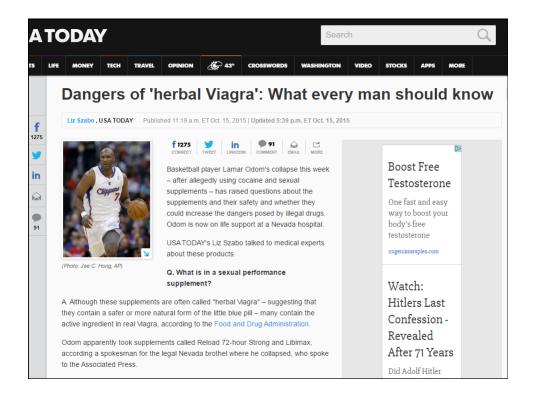




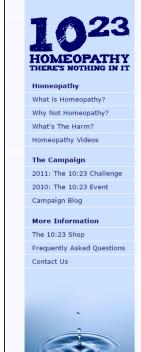












#### What is Homeopathy?

Contrary to popular belief, 'homeopathy' is not the same as herbal medicine.

Homeopathy is based on three central tenets, unchanged since their invention by Samuel Hahnemann in 1796.

#### The Law of Similars

The law of similars states that whatever would cause your symptoms, will also cure those same symptoms. Thus, if you find yourself unable to sleep, taking caffeine will help; streaming eyes due to hayfever can be treated with onions, and so on. This so-called law was based upon nothing other than Hahnemann's own imagination. You don't need to have a medical degree to see the flawed reasoning in taking caffeine - a stimulant - to help you sleep; yet caffeine is, even today, prescribed by homeopaths (under the name 'coffea') as a treatment for insomnia.

#### The Law of Infinitesimals

Following on from his 'law of similars', Hahnemann proposed he could improve the effect of his 'like-cures-like treatments' by repeatedly diluting them in water. The more dilute the remedy, Hahnemann decided, the stronger it will become. Thus was born his 'law of Infinitesimals'.

#### The Law of Succussion

While transporting his remedies on a horsedrawn carriage, Hahnemann made another 'breakthrough'. He decided that the vigorous shaking of a homeopathic remedy would further increase its potency. This shaking process was named 'succussion'. When ritually preparing a homeopathic remedy, the homeopath will shake or tap the preparation at each stage of dilution, in order to 'potentize' it. 1.5K

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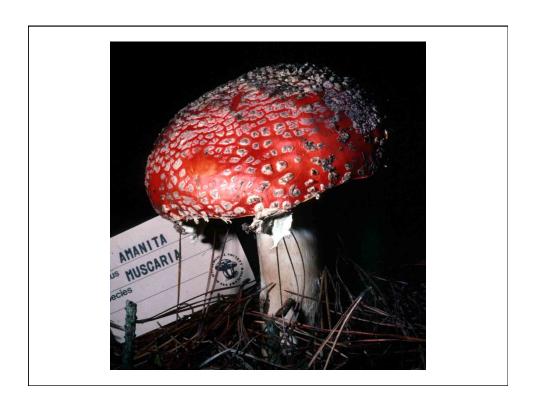
Modern homeopaths believe that this 'potentization' process allows the water to retain the 'memory' or 'vibrations' of the original substance, long after it has been diluted away to nothing. Of course, there is no good scientific evidence to suggest that water has such an ability, nor any indication of how it might be able to use this 'memory' to cure a sick patient.

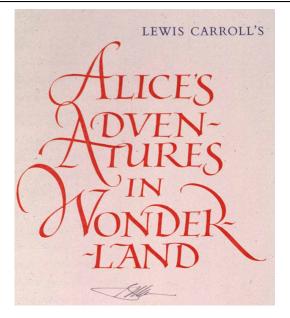
#### Does it work?

Despite being rooted in supersition, ritual and sympathetic magick, the laws devised by Hahnemann are still in use by homeopaths today.

For Hahnemann's Laws to be correct, we would have to toss out practically everything we have learned over the past







A brief review of the literature . . .



However, at last she stretched her arms round it as far as they would go, and broke off a bit of the edge with each hand.

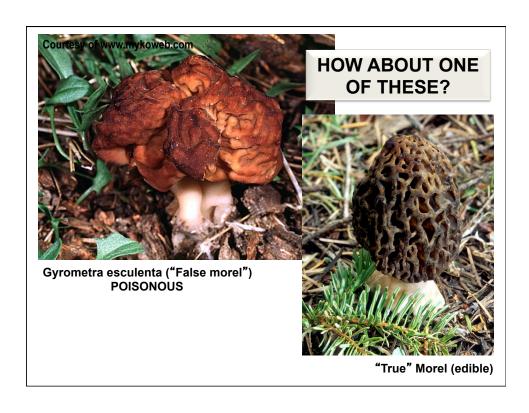
... the Caterpillar said, "One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter."



## Amanita phalloides

- The "death cap"
- Very common mushroom in Bay Area
- Reportedly very tasty
- Causes severe vomiting and diarrhea, followed by liver failure
- Death or liver transplant in ~20% of patients
- Many unproven "antidotes"







# Poison Information Hotline

1-800-222-1222

24-hours/day

