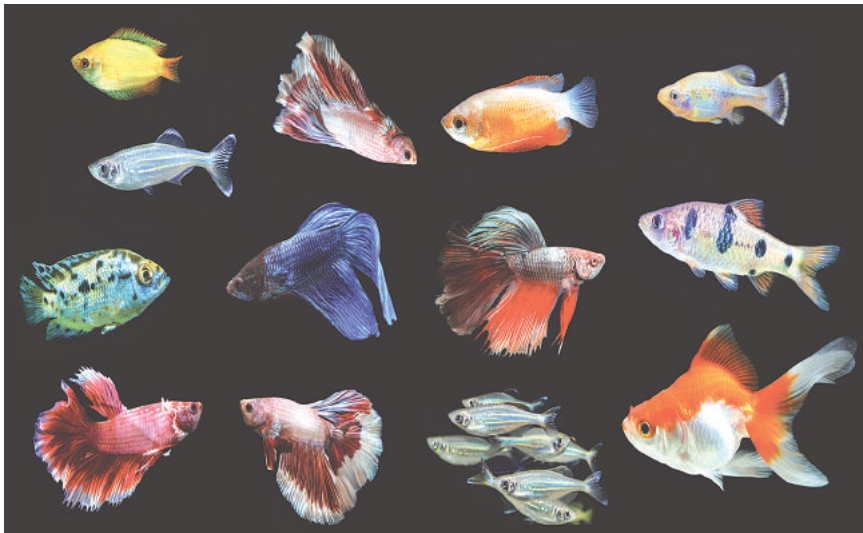


FISH REMEDIES IN HOMEOPATHY

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Saltire Books

Saltire Books Limited, Glasgow, Scotland

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2

THE ANIMAL STATE IN HOMEOPATHY

“Someone is doing something to me!”

In this chapter, we will study the themes and issues which are commonly present in animal cases. The phrases in each section are typical expressions that will be heard time and again among patients who need animal remedies.

Perception of the disease as a malign entity:

It takes over

It's overwhelming

It's dominating me

8 Fish Remedies in Homeopathy

It's overpowering

It's oppressive

I have to fight this condition

The essential quality in animal cases is the perception that some other entity is our problem.

When we need a mineral remedy, we perceive our problem as a lack of ability within ourselves – some lack of structure or function, physical or psychological, which ill-equips us to deal with the specific problems we need to face in life.

Suppose we need a remedy from the plant kingdom. In that case, we will experience our problem as a sensitivity to external stimuli – feeling overly affected by environmental, dietary, or human influences of some kind.

Neither of these are the primary issue in people needing animal remedies. They perceive that some entity separate to themselves – human or otherwise – is their problem. And overcoming the challenge presented by this entity is essential to their success, even survival, in life. It is important to remember of course, that the patient is most often completely unaware that this is how they feel. The experience is felt at a deep subconscious level and is only revealed to the homeopath through the type of expressions and issues which we will consider here.

Perception of life itself as a fight:

Life is a constant struggle

It's a battle

Life is a fight for survival

I'm struggling to stay on top

In the animal kingdom fighting for dominance, struggling to be high enough in the hierarchy, are often the primary aim in life.

Perception of others in their life as the enemy:

She's always putting me down

He's a bully

People are always criticising me

They make me feel small

They ignore me

They make my life hell

Losing out in the struggle for power in the animal kingdom can mean not getting enough food, not finding a mate, not having a suitable habitat, or death.



3

SENSATION IN FISH REMEDIES

A systematic approach

Homeopathic case taking can sometimes feel like being buried under an avalanche. There can be so much information, of so many different kinds, that it is overwhelming. As a result, there can be an impulse to grab at the first bits of data which give us some sense of knowing where we are in the case, which in turn leads to asking leading questions and then we are no longer unprejudiced in our inquiry. How to avoid this happening? One thing we need is courage. There are a number of reasons why courage is helpful if we choose homeopathy as a career, but one of them is that we need to be prepared to stay in that sometimes very uncomfortable place of not knowing what is going on when we have a patient in front of us. We

need to give the process time to allow a pattern to begin to emerge naturally from the patient's own experience.

But how to make a coherent whole from all that disparate data without trying to compartmentalize it into what is already familiar to us? We must avoid doing that because every patient is unique and some will need remedies we have never prescribed before. We need to be open to what is strange, rare and peculiar in the patient's narrative. But at the same time, it is possible to be systematic: we can achieve that by having a structure to our homeopathic knowledge and case analysis. This is what this book is about. We cannot know the detail of all our remedies, but we can have structures in our mind which work to make sense of all the information the patient gives us at the very time that we are receiving it.

These structures are the common themes and sensations found in the kingdoms and the remedy groups within each kingdom. These are mostly common sense and easily comprehended and assimilated. They often relate to everyday knowledge of the source material of remedies or at least can be understood with a moderate amount of study. Once absorbed into our minds they empower us to automatically compute the data we are gathering, without us having to consciously direct the process. We begin to get more and more firm impressions of a certain kingdom and a group within that kingdom. At the same time, we can also be alert to the patient's expressions, attitudes and experiences which are striking and sometimes even different to anything we have ever heard before – these will be pointers to the exact remedy. The case analyses shown in this book are arranged in this hierarchical format: kingdom, family, specific remedy. And with other categories as well: prey or predator, solitary or group animal, etcetera. This is how our minds work: from the general to the particular and it can therefore feel natural to use this approach in our case taking and analysis.

Our patients give us data on many different levels. They tell us stories about their lives, complain of symptoms of many different types, describe the joy or more often the sorrow they experience in relationships, relate what other health practitioners have told them and the results of investigations. Then there is more subtle information. We observe how they dress, how they move, their manner. And we listen out for clues to what is going on under the surface. What is their inner reality, the subconscious state which influences everything they say and do? This inner state is hinted at by incongruous statements, repeated words or expressions, words which come with their opposites – in a polarity, and anything which is spontaneously denied.



6

GOLDFISH (*CARASSIUS AURATUS*)

Meditation proving by Palmer.
(Published in *Prometheus Unbound* in 1998.)

History of human relationship with the Goldfish

Various species of Carp have been bred and reared for food for thousands of years in East Asia. Some of these normally grey or silver species have a tendency to produce red, orange or yellow mutations.

About fourteen hundred years ago it became popular to raise carp in ornamental ponds and water gardens in China. People began to selectively breed the coloured varieties instead of the silver variety.

During the 1620s, goldfish were highly regarded in southern Europe because of their metallic scales, and symbolized good luck and fortune. It became a tradition for married men to give their wives a goldfish on their first anniversary, as a symbol for the prosperous years to come.

As fish, they can be described as “friendly” towards each other. Very rarely does a goldfish harm another goldfish, nor do the males harm the females during mating.

Like all fish, goldfish do not like to be petted. In fact, touching a goldfish can endanger its health, because it can cause the protective slime coat to be damaged or removed, exposing the fish’s skin to infection from bacteria or water-borne parasites. However, goldfish respond to people by surfacing at feeding time, and can be trained or acclimated to taking pellets or flakes from human fingers.

The practice of using bowls as permanent fish housing originated from a misunderstanding of Chinese “display” vessels: goldfish which were normally housed in ponds were, on occasion, temporarily displayed in smaller containers to be better admired by guests. Such fishbowls are detrimental to the health of goldfish and are prohibited by animal welfare legislation in some countries.

Rubrics from proving grouped in themes

1. Cheerful

mind; OPTIMISM

mind; HOPEFULNESS

mind; POSITIVENESS

mind; CHEERFULNESS

mind; LAUGHING

The basic attitude found in many fish patients of positivity and cheerfulness is exemplified most strongly in Carassius.

2. Playful

mind; DREAMS; parties, of pleasure

mind; PLAY; desire to, playful

mind; DANCE, desires to

mind; CHILDISH behaviour

mind; SING, desires to



8

ROUND STINGRAY (*UROLOPHUS HALLERI*)

Proving by Todd Rowe in 1998

Biology

These small stingrays are almost circular in shape. They are greyish brown in colour, either plain, mottled, or spotted with dark blotches, on the dorsal surface, fading to a pale yellow, orange, or white underside. It has a smooth skin, lacking the tubercles often found on other species. While they can grow to over 55 cm. in length, they average only about 25 cm. generally. The Round Stingray has a venomous serrated spine that is located halfway down the length of the tail, allowing for a powerful stinging reflex.

Although wounds are not life threatening to humans, they can be very painful. This species is found in the Eastern Pacific.

Adult round stingrays feed primarily on bottom-dwelling invertebrates such as shrimp and crabs, and to a smaller extent on worms and small fish. They rely on olfaction and vision in the search for prey items. This ray has been observed to scoop out large holes in the muddy or sandy bottom by “waving” its pectoral fins. This action serves to expose any buried worms, crabs or small fish. They are ambush predators, like many snakes, remaining motionless while allowing their prey to move within range of their strike.

Mating of round stingrays takes place during the winter months. Reproductively mature females emit localized positive electric fields which attract males. Males often bite the posterior of the females’ discs. The females often escape, resulting in failure of copulation. However, when a male bites the anterior portion of the female’s disc, the female does not attempt to free herself. This biting behaviour functions to maintain contact between the pair during copulation.

Development of the round stingray is ovoviviparous, resulting in live birth. After a gestation period of approximately 3 months, a litter of three to six young are born in shallow waters. Each newborn measures about 6–8 cm in width. The young rays will remain in shallow habitats, which provide rich feeding grounds as well as protection from predators, until they are large enough to move out into deeper water.

The main predators of the round stingray are the northern elephant seal and the black sea bass. Its other predators include large carnivorous fish, including sharks.

Materia medica

Todd Rowe has presented his excellent proving very clearly. Fish themes and sensations are strongly represented, alongside distinctive unique features. Below are the main themes elicited by the proving, with additional material largely from Margerie Blackie’s interesting clinical experience with the remedy.

1. Poor memory and Disorientation

DELUSIONS, imaginations; lost

mind; CONFUSION of mind; location, about; loses his way in well-known streets



11

YELLOW OR COMMON SEAHORSE (*HIPPOCAMPUS KUDA*)

Provings:

Chetna Shukla 1996 and Susan Sonz, Robert Stewart and Sonam Kushner (New York School of Homeopathy) 2001

The Yellow Sea Horse (*Hippocampus kuda*)

The Yellow Seahorse is a small fish that can reach a length of 17–30 cm. The head is relatively large compared to the body. The snout is short and thick. The Seahorse possesses a tail which is used primarily for gripping and anchoring itself to objects in its environment. It is a prehensile tail, meaning it can grasp and hold on, much like a monkey's tail can grasp

branches. The tail is not used for swimming: Seahorses rely on their dorsal and pectoral fins for propulsion and to direct their movement.

Yellow Seahorses inhabit estuaries, lagoons, harbours, littoral zones, and coastal seagrass beds, where they are found in shallow waters of up to fifty-five meters in depth. They are not strong swimmers. Seahorses are generally solitary creatures, only coming together to mate. While young Seahorses might form small groups, adults tend to live alone, establishing territories that may overlap with their mates. They use their tails to anchor themselves to objects and often stay within their defined area, only interacting with each other during courtship and mating rituals.

The species is completely monogamous. Males and females engage in a courtship ritual before mating. The male will change its colour patterns and dance around the female while making a clicking sound. Eventually, the tails of the male and female intertwine and the female will place up to one thousand eggs into the male's ventral brood pouch via an ovipositor. Male seahorses carrying eggs is a very unusual phenomenon in the animal kingdom, found only in the family Syngnathidae, which includes seahorses, seadragons and pipefish. This specialized form of male pregnancy, with the male holding the fertilized eggs in a closed brood pouch and providing nutrients and oxygen, is a defining characteristic of these fish. The eggs take between twenty and twenty-eight days to develop. The timing of birth depends on monsoon patterns, lunar cycles, and water temperature. Males typically go into labour during a full moon, delivering live young. These babies have an average length of seven millimetres.

Seahorses are omnivores, feeding on minuscule organisms such as larval fishes and zooplankton. They use their snout like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up the prey. They lack teeth and must disintegrate their food as they eat. Due to their inefficient digestive system and lack of a stomach, they eat frequently, often multiple times a day. Seahorses are in turn predated by crabs, rays, tuna, and sea turtles, as well as humans.

Materia medica

We are fortunate to have been given two excellent provings.

It is instructive to study them together as there is significant correlation between the two, but each has distinctive features.