

ALCOHOLUS

COMMON NAME & MEANING:

Some of the common names are Life-water [aqua vitae], firewater and spirits. It is also interesting that some of the common names for this substance are names that have a derogative implication for various nationalities. They are not listed here.

The word 'alcohol' comes from the French or Medieval Latin, and originally the Arabic *alkuhl*, meaning collyrium - poultice, eye salve or suppository. The original meaning referred to the fine metallic powder used in the East to stain the eyelids (or for coloring eyebrows as the ancients practiced); this metal was usually powdered antimony (Stibium). From this meaning the word evolved to designate any impalpable powder produced by trituration or especially by sublimation, and by extension to include fluids in the meaning, an essence or 'spirit' obtained by distillation.

SOURCE NOTES:

1. One of a series of organic chemical compounds in which the hydrogen (H) attached to carbon is replaced by hydroxyl (OH); alcohols react with acids to form esters and with alkali metals to form alcoholates. See specific name for individual alcohols not listed here.

2. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; made from sugar, starch, and other carbohydrates by fermentation with yeast, and synthetically from ethylene or acetylene. It has been used in beverages and as a solvent, vehicle, and preservative; medicinally it is used externally as a rubefacient, coolant, and disinfectant, and internally as an analgesic, stomachic, sedative, and antipyretic. Syn: ethanol, ethyl alcohol, grain alcohol, rectified spirit, wine spirit.

3. The azeotropic mixture of $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ and water (92.3% by weight of ethanol at 15.56°C).

Ethanol is the most commercially important member of a class of organic compounds that are given the general name of alcohols. Ethanol is produced in one of three main processes, fermentation of carbohydrates, hydration of ethylene, and reduction of acetaldehyde. Before 1930, all ethanol was prepared by fermentation and this still remains the most important method in most countries today. In fermentation, carbohydrates (usually blackstrap molasses, corn/maize, or other grains and grain products) are transformed to ethanol by growing yeast cells. The resulting

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dilute aqueous solution must then be concentrated by means of fractional distillation. Direct distillation produces 95.6 percent by weight of ethanol. Pure ethanol is a colorless, flammable liquid with an agreeable ethereal odor and a burning taste. It boils at 78.4°C and freezes at -114.5°C; it is infinitely soluble in water, ether and acetone.

Ethanol is the intoxicating ingredient of many beverages produced by fermentation. It is toxic, and it is rapidly oxidized in the human body (first to acetaldehyde and then to carbon dioxide and water). Ingested in even moderate amounts, ethanol lowers inhibitions, impairs coordination and alters personal judgment. Larger quantities can cause dizziness and headaches, and extreme poisonings with ethanol lead to coma and death. Ethanol is addictive and in some persons leads to the disease alcoholism. Denatured ethanol is rendered unfit to drink (by the addition of substances such as methanol, camphor, benzene and kerosene) so that it can avoid heavy taxation and be sold far more cheaply for industrial purposes. Ethanol is used as a solvent, as antifreeze, as a fuel (gasohol), in the preservation of organic specimens, in the preparation of pharmaceuticals and as a source material for many other organic substances.

HOMEOPATHIC GROUPS & MIASMS:

Alcohol Group
Carbon Group
Hydrogen Group
Addiction Group

CLINICAL Focus GUIDE

MIND AND DISPOSITION Focus

AFFABLE

'With enemies'

Lacks jealousy or emotion

Loss of personality and ambition

Lack of character, superficial

'Pre-birth'

SELF-DEPRECIATION

Low self esteem

Lack of character

Unevolved

Loss of spiritual connection - feeling and fear nothing in their center

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ADDICTION

Alcohol, food, gambling

Workaholism

Addiction, overwhelming and precluding personality

Never satiated

CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Co-dependency

'Fix the world'

Violent upbringing or household

BOASTING

Uncontrollable desires

'Big' unrealistic projects

I'm the center of the universe

Self absorbed egotism

Compensation for low self esteem

REVEALING SECRETS

Combination of guilelessness and boasting

Poor impulse control

Loss of moral judgment

LOQUACITY

Mild

Slow loquacity

Monotone (sometimes)

FEAR OF INSANITY

FEAR/DELUSION FALLING

HARD WORKING

Co-dependent

Doesn't feel enough energy to keep up

Restlessness

Workaholism

AGGRESSIVE PHASE

Anger

Selfishness

Critical

Unfeeling, heedless

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Boisterous

Aversion to work, too unstable to work

Enemies are going to get them

ALTERNATION OF ATTITUDES

Sarcastic towards friends alternating with gushing over them

PHYSICAL FOCUS

FATTY DEPOSITS IN DEEPER ORGANS

Leading to serious Heart, kidney, liver and pancreas pathology

BLOOD VESSEL COMPLAINTS

Atheromatous deposits

SINUS PROBLEMS - CONGESTION AND PAIN

Worse bending Better spicy

food Yellow, bloody
discharge

CARPHOLOG/A

ESSENTIAL TREMOR

Worse on exertion

TWITCHING

TENDENCY TO INFECTION

RECURRING PNEUMONIA

CHLAMIDIA PNEUMONIAE

KORSAKOFF'S SYNDROME

DYSPNEA ON ASCENDING

ADDICTIONS

Alcohol poisoning

Obesity

Workaholism

DESIRES STIMULATING FOOD

Spicy food, ginger, alcohol, sweets, chocolate, bread

Desire or aversion alcohol

OVEREATING

Obesity and morbid obesity

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SELECTIONS
FROM TRADITIONAL
HOMEOPATHIC
SOURCES

From T. Allen's The Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica:

'First Experiment: Took 12 drachms of Alcohol daily for five days. My weight increased from an average of 226.40 pounds to an average of 226.85 pounds, being .45 of a pound difference. During these experiments, my general health was somewhat disturbed.

My pulse was increased to an average of 90 per minute, and was fuller and stronger than previously; there was headache and increased heat of the skin, and my mental faculties were certainly not so clear as on the days when no Alcohol was taken.

There was general lassitude, and indisposition to exertion of any kind.

My appetite was variable.

The amount of flatus discharged from the intestines was sensibly diminished.

Third Experiment: The perspiration was sensibly diminished.

The healthy action of my system was very much disturbed.

Headache was constant, sleep was disturbed, the skin was hot, pulse full and bounding, averaging 98 per minute, and there was on two occasions after eating, slight palpitation of the heart. My appetite was capricious.

Sometimes disgust was created by the mere sight of food, at other times I ate with a good relish.'

From R. Van Zandvoort's Complete Repertory, Millennium Edition:

MIND; ALCOHOLISM, dipsomania (140) : absin., aeon., adon., AGAR., agav-t, ALCO., alum., am-m., anac., ange., anis., ant-c., ant-t., apoc., apom., arg., arg-n., arn., ars., ars-s-f., asaf., asar., aur., aven., bar-c., bar-s., bell., bism., bor., bov., bry., bufo, cadm-s., calc., calc-ar., camph., cann-i., caps., carb-ac., carb-an., carb-v., carbn-s., care., card-m., caust., cham., chel., chim., CHIN., chin-m., cic., cemic., cocc., coff., con., croc., Crot-h., cupr-ar., dig., eup-per., ferr., fl-ac., gels., glon., graph., hell., hep., hydr., hyos., ichth., ign., ip., kali-bi., kali-br., kali-c., kali-i., kola., lac-ac., lac-c., lach., laur., led., lob., lup., lye., mag-c., med., meph., mere., mez., mosch., nat-c., nat-m., nat-n., nat-s., nux-m., nux-v., op., passi., petr., ph-ac., phos., plat., plb., pseuts-m., psor., puls., quas., querc., Ran-b., raph., rhod., rhus-t., rumx., ruta, sabad., samb., sang., sars., sec., SEL., sep., sil., spig., spong., staph., stram., stront-c., stroph., stry., stry-n., sul-ac., SULPH., syph., tarax., thuj., tub., valer., Verat., zinc-o.

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HOMEOPATHIC REMEDY RELATIONSHIPS

REMEDIES MISTAKEN FOR:

*Snake Venoms, Selenium, Sulphur, Hypothalamus, Medorrhinum, Iris
Versicolor, Iris Tenax,*

RELATED REMEDIES:

Crot-h, Lachesis, Sulphur, Selenium, Nitrogen, Dysprosium

VIOLA ODORATA

HOMEOPATHIC ABBREVIATION:

Viol-o.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Viola odorata

There are two rubrics that have prominence (amongst other important ones), when we consider the themes in this remedy. These rubrics and themes have to be put in the context of how the *Viola Odorata* patient presents. The presentation is more on the mild and intellectual side, as opposed to snake venoms, which on the surface could have the same symptoms if one is interpreting Materia Medica in a flat two-dimensional way.

The two significant rubrics are:

'EMOTIONS need to be controlled by the intellect,' also expressed as 'Intellect controls emotions'

and

'Weeping, tearful mood when anything refused.'

In the first theme - 'intellect controls emotions' - the *Viola Odorata* patient could be described as a strongly emotional and passionate individual, yet possessing a highly active and powerful intellect. This creates a conflict between their emotions and intellect in the beginning stages. They may come from a family where intellectual development was held in the highest esteem and emotional needs were subjugated to this, or they may develop this intellectualism initially as a reaction to considerable emotional disappointment or injury.

The initial conflict of intellect and emotions creates problems in that, when they concentrate their intellect, their emotions are pushed aside (or 'dominated'); when not concentrating the intellect, the emotions come to the forefront in an 'explosive' way. There is little balance and their internal life feels constantly 'chaotic' and tense. Their solution is usually to 'control' their emotions and increase the intellect - the intellect dominates the emotions.

Eventually they can become someone who reacts out of intellect with the emotions fully repressed. They become completely disconnected from their emotions, thus the rubric "Weeping, Causeless". They can suddenly have strong emotions without any seeming exciting cause. You may think of this remedy for someone who has been in therapy for years and has intellectualized all of their emotional reactions without deeply connecting with them. Thus you may get pages of notes with little emotional content. In this sense, they may intellectualize all their passions and their sexuality. They develop sexual fetishes or get into sadomasochistic sexual practices both as a dominant and submissive partner.

In a completely different area there can be a conflict that is created in their work. They seek jobs or careers that involve intellectual work or ones that

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involve dominating others' emotions. They need intellectual stimulation. Yet they also have this other emotional side, and frequently the conflict between mothering and career or even fathering and career play a prominent role. The career can also mean a constant desire for furthering their intellectual development through school and courses and new ideas that expand their intellect.

This repression of emotions (similar to the *Magnesiums* but not for the sake of harmony) also creates a constant sensation of tension in the body, particularly the head in conjunction with sudden complaints. They can also have sudden outbursts of symptoms and pains - as in someone who is repressing or stuffing down their emotions.

This leads to the second theme of weeping when anything is refused. This has to do more with *disappointed expectation*. In *Viola odorata* patients there is a need to control their emotions and expectations. But they easily make a deep emotional connection with both people and material objects of desire. When these are not obtainable or are refused, there is a larger reaction than expected, since they have made such a deep and passionate connection with the object. The reaction is weeping with severe depression and moroseness, even for days and weeks. The object of affection can be something others would consider inconsequential or a person that others would say is not worth the effort. Eventually, they develop spending addictions and acquiring material things since others around them know that by refusing anything that they desire, (even if it is unaffordable) creates a reaction.

In some ways, we could also look at this remedy reflected in the depth and mystery of the colour violet and also in the common name of 'sweet violet' - the beneficent odor the name generates. As well, violets have become a symbol for disappointed affection and forgiveness. '*Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.*' So in spite of what can seem like petulant or even aggressive behaviour, these individuals engender a feeling of affection from others and seem rather sweet, but in their heads (intellect). For the most part, adults, through years of intellectual control and the desire to appear or 'smell good/ can appear mild and composed.

In children, the composure is not so prominent and the strong emotions are expressed. The 'weeping when anything refused' can even be shrieking and temper tantrums. In children, one could even say 'shrieking when anything refused'. These children have a great sense that they know what they want and get very demanding, shrieky and even bite when they don't get it. They can be disobedient and restless children, yet on the other hand

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very sweet and gentle with a great attachment to their parents. They are children who make very deep connections with those around them and with their toys and objects of affection. They do poorly (shrieking) when they are told to leave an activity that they like or are attached to.

The conflict I've described as the initial phase eventually shifts to a split between emotions and intellect which creates a loss of content or substance in thoughts. This leads to the typical adult patient whose head is full of ideas and thoughts with a need to express them in some way. They can become writers. In more pathological terms there can be a problem with so many thoughts. The thoughts come up, and their substance is quickly lost. These patients may therefore at this stage appear 'flighty/ and it can be difficult to have a conversation with them.

There is eventually an instability of thoughts or sense that they can't grasp their thoughts, with persistent or an overabundance of rapid thoughts creating a confused and incomprehensible state of mind.

COMMON NAME & MEANING:

Sweet-scented violet. *Viola* is the Latin word for the violet flower, and for the color violet; *odorata* is also derived from the Latin, meaning scented, odorous, sweet-smelling, fragrant.

PLANT FAMILY:

Violaceae (Violet Family)

SOURCE NOTES:

Viola odorata is a low, downy, creeping perennial, native to the woods, scrubs and hedge banks of France, Belgium and the Channel Isles (and introduced to Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark). Many violet species have leaves that are more or less heart-shaped, but sweet violet has rounded leaves which grow in a tuft. After the period of springtime flowering, March to May, these leaves enlarge. Flowers are solitary (one per stem), and consist of 5 unequal petals, the bottom one having a distinct spur. They are pleasantly fragrant and are colored usually blue-violet or white, but lilac, pink or yellow variations are possible. Like some other violet species, *Viola odorata*, may occasionally flower for a second time in the autumn.