

Insect Groups in Homeopathy and Archetypical Imagery

Insects are a huge and omnipresent group of beings on this planet, whereas in homeopathy they have only played a minor role, Apis and Cantharis being the only real polychrests of this group.

During the last years this situation has started to change with many new provings from this class of animals as there has been a general shift in homeopathy to more awareness of animal remedies. Surprisingly the largest group of insects, the beetles, which is also one of the largest groups under the animals in total, are still much underrepresented although Cantharis as one of the most important insect remedies belongs here.

If we look into Reference Works for classical Materia medica we find: Aphis, Apis, Blatta, Bombyx-chr, Bombyx-pr, Canth, Cimx, Cocci-s, Coc-c, Culx, Dor, Form, Ped, Pulx and Vesp. Most of them show rather little knowledge on our side.

Many insects have recently become available as remedies, although not proved, but with miscellaneous cases in the literature. As there are, to name some interesting ones: Anax imperator – Emperor Dragonfly, Calopteryx splendens – Damsel Fly, Anopheles maculipennis – the Malaria Mosquito, different termites and fleas, a few more ants and locusts, Melolontha m. – the Cockchafer and more beetles like the Carrion Beetle, a few wasps and flies. All in all I could count 90 remedies available, which is quite a lot, but still not much compared to the 160 bird remedies and thousand plants. You find all these remedies mentioned with their manufacturers on www.provings.info. Most have not been proved yet, but are waiting for further research.

In the biosphere of planet earth insects play an essential role. Most ecosystems could well exist without mammals or birds, but none without insects. Insects cannot become very large due to their tracheas as breathing system which have a restricting length and also due to their exoskeleton the weight of which restricts their size. So in the evolution of species on planet earth their role is already defined to stay among the small and numerous. Nevertheless they have started a different evolution in the human mind and imagination, which should interest us as homeopaths who are not only working with the real physical entities but with their archetypical imagery as well. Here we find that in many cases where an alien creature is intended to be hostile towards our race they are depicted as insect-like. We can think of the creatures of the formative movie „Alien“ or those of „Species“ and many others. Even in the spoof movie „Men in Black“ the evil alien creature is a huge cockroach. And Kafka´s story „The Metamorphosis“ chooses a beetle as the horrible end product of change. Insects also populate many horror stories and movies as dangerous mutants, such as killer bees or giant ants („Formicula“). So at least in our fantasies the insects can grow large and compete with other classes. Their hostile image is probably based on their total lack of emotional display and their disregard of individuality. Besides this their exoskeleton gives them a robot-like appearance in our eyes. (Actually science studies the motion of insects to develop moving robot machines.)

After the law of polarity there is also an opposite view to the archetypical symbolism of insects. Butterflies with their awe-inspiring metamorphosis have fascinated all cultures since the beginning of mankind and been one of the major images and metaphors for the metamorphosis of the soul during the process of death. Besides this the ants and bees are carriers of much sympathy especially in children´s stories. And they are models for the cooperation in large groups.

If we are looking for a most popular image of what we homeopathically see as insect-like, we can take Michael Jackson as a perfect model. He was displaying the group picture of insects on stage as if he had studied our materia medica. The shine and glitter of his clothes, the strong emphasis of sexuality without personal attachment, the robot-like dance, the mass choreography with all identical movements. Jackson also used extensively the motive of the alien, of coming from outer space as one not similar to humanity. And he gave much of his life and physis to the attempt of a metamorphosis. This is not the article to go into depth on this issue, but I´m sure further research would give a some more interesting insight.

The uncanny side of this archetypical imagery the insects share with the spiders and scorpions. These two together build the group of the spiderlike animals, the arachnids. And the insects, the arachnids and the crustaceans (the crablikes) together make up the animal division of arthropodes. (All the divisions – like vertebrates, molluscs, worms, sponges etc – together are the kindom of animals.)

Looking at the insects as a group we see a major difference between two sub-groups: one uses an incomplete metamorphosis (*hemimetabolism*) and the other uses a complete metamorphosis (*holometabolism*) as a means of development. Incomplete metamorphosis means that the larvae look

much like the adult insect, but are smaller, cannot fly (most of the time) and cannot reproduce. Growing they shed their skin several times until they reach the size of the adult. Shedding the skin is necessary as the chitin exoskeleton cannot grow. Complete metamorphosis means that the larvae look totally different from the adult and live a life that usually has nothing in common with the adult stage. The grubs, maggots or caterpillars spend their life phase more or less only with eating and develop into a passive pupal stage, during which their body is totally dissolved down to the cell level and then reconstructed to let a new entity leave the pupa. Everyone knows this impressive kind of metamorphosis to occur with the butterflies, and the flies, bees, ants and beetles also have it. But by far not all the insects evolve by complete change, like the locusts, cockroaches, lice and many others. The dragonflies are a very archaic form of insects not belonging to either of the two groups mentioned.

(As in many other groups of creatures the taxonomy of insects is currently subject to constant change while more and more genetic data are discovered.)

Let us now have a look at the newer provings we have of different insect groups. (German provings only given where there is no English version available.) The older provings that we already find in Allen's Encyclopedia and Bradford's Index and all classic Materia medica are not mentioned here. These cover the classical remedies mentioned above.

Dragonflies

Enallagma carunculatum	Tule Bluet Damselfly	Enal-c	Grimes, Melanie	en	Reference Works
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with hemimetabolism

Lice

Pediculus humanus capitis	Head Louse	Ped	Mure, Benoit	en	http://www.remedia.at/homoeopathie/archivsu che.html?PHPSESSID=371v1ffkc4094mhhln nabaj3h6&catid=0&author=Mure+B
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Locusts and related

Mantis religiosa	Praying Mantis/ European Mantis	Mant-r	Glück, Walter	de	Dees Journal für Homöopathie. 15, no.4/1996, S.294 A proving of American Desert Locust, The Desert World: A Homeopathic Exploration. Desert Institute Publishing, Phoenix, Arizona, 2006, ISBN 0-9720224-1-4
Schistocerca americana	American Desert Locust	Schist-a	Rowe, Todd Norland, Misha and Fraser, Peter	en	2006, ISBN 0-9720224-1-4
Schistocerca gregaria	Plague Locust	Schist-g		en	http://www.hominf.org/schistoc/locfr.htm

Cockroaches

Blatta orientalis	Indian Cockroach	Blatta	Gray, Alastair	en	Experience of Medicine Vol.2, Emryss Publ., ISBN 978-0-9757982-1-8 http://www.hominf.org/blatta/blatfr.htm
Blatta orientalis	Indian Cockroach	Blatta	Thakar, Munjal	en	and: ISBN 81-7467-140-3 http://www.remedia.at/homoeopathie/archivsu che.html?PHPSESSID=371v1ffkc4094mhhln nabaj3h6&catid=0&author=Mure+B
Blatta americana	Cockroach	Blatta-a	Mure, Benoit	en	

with holometabolism

Butterflies

Acherontia atropos	Death's-head Hawkmoth	Acher-a	Neuhöfer, Otmar/ Feltes, Evelyn	de	www.provings.info
Acherontia atropos	Death's-head Hawkmoth	Acher-a	Le Roux, Patricia	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Apeira syringaria	Lilac Beauty	Apei-s	Müller, Karl Josef	de	Sieben Schmetterlinge, Verl. Karl-Josef Müller
Bombyx mori	Silk Moth	Bomb-m	Müller, Karl Josef	de	Sieben Schmetterlinge, Verl. Karl-Josef Müller
Euphydryas aurinia	Marsh Fritillary	Euphy-a	Le Roux, Patricia	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Gonepteryx rhamni	Common Brimstone	Gonep-r	Neuhöfer, Otmar/ Feltes, Evelyn	de	www.provings.info
Gonepteryx rhamni	Common Brimstone	Gonep-r	Le Roux, Patricia	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Graphium sarpedon					Blue Triangle Butterfly (Graphium Sarpedon) Choredon: A Homeopathic Proving, ISBN 0646466003
Graphium choredon	Common Bluebottle	Graphi-s	Wedd, Heidi	en	and: www.provings.info
Graphium agame mnon	Tailed Jay	Graphi-a	Shukla, Chetna N.	de	Sieben Schmetterlinge, Verl. Karl-Josef Müller,

Inachis io	Peacock Butterfly	Inach-i	Kohlrausch, Stefan	de	Sieben Schmetterlinge, Verl. Karl-Josef Müller,
Inachis io	Peacock Butterfly	Inach-i	Le Roux, Patricia	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Limenitis bredowii californica	California Sister	Lim-b-c	Herrick, Nancy	en	Animal Mind, Human Voices, Hahnemann Clinic Publ., ISBN 0-9635368-1-8 Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Macrothylacia rubi	Fox moth	Macroth-r	Le Roux, Patricia	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Morpho peleides	Peleides Blue Morpho	Morpho-p	Le Roux, Patricia	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Nymphalis urticae	Small tortoise shell butterfly	Nympha-u	Le Roux, Patricia Neuhöfer, Otmar/	en	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Papilio machaon	Tailed Jay	Papi-m	Feltes, Evelyn	de	www.provings.info Sieben Schmetterlinge, Verl. Karl-Josef Müller,
Pieris brassicae	Cabbage White	Pie-b	Müller, Karl Josef	de	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Pieris brassicae	Cabbage White	Pie-b	Le Roux, Patricia Neuhöfer, Otmar/	en	
Polyommatus icarus	Common blue	Polyo-i	Feltes, Evelyn	de	www.provings.info Sieben Schmetterlinge, Verl. Karl-Josef Müller
Thaumetopoea processionea	Procession Moth	Bomb-pr	Müller, Karl Josef	de	Le Roux, Patricia - Butterflies ISBN 978-3-939931-78-2
Thaumetopoea processionea	Procession Moth	Bomb-pr	Grandgeorge, Didier	en	

Diptera

Culex pervigilans		Culx-pe	Gray, Alastair Shah, Nandita/	en	Experience of Medicine Vol.4, Emryss Publ., ISBN 978-0-9757982-3-2 and: www.provings.info
Culex musca	Mosquito	Culx	Anand, Sunil/ Shah, Jayesh	en	http://www.hpathy.com/provings/culex-musca.asp
Musca domestica	Common Housefly	Musca-d	Sonz, Susan/ Stewart, R.	en	http://www.nyhomeopathy.com/provings.htm and: www.provings.info
Musca domestica	Common Housefly	Musca-d	Müller, Karl Josef	de	Verlag K-J. Müller, Maxstr. 11, 66482 Zweibrücken, 978-3-934087-23-1

Hymenoptera

Bombus sylvarum	Wood Bumble Bee	Bombus-s	Kottirsch, Martina	de	Homöopathische Einblicke 30/97, S. 33ff Formica rufa - Die rote Waldameise, Freiburger Homöopathie Tage, Habsburger Str.81, 79104 Freiburg Proc 42nd LMHI Congress Virginia USA 1987 152-7
Formica rufa	Red Ant	Form	Becker, Jürgen	de	
Propolis	Bee-glue	Propo	Urban, Eberhard	en	
Vespula germanica	German Wasp	Vesp-g	Becker, Jürgen	de	Homöopathische Einblicke Nr. 32

Flees

Cimex lectularius	Bedbug	Cimx	Wahle, W.	de	http://books.google.de/books?id=mJoYAAAA MAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=ernst+stapf& source=gbs_book_other_versions_r&cad=6
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Beetles

Lamprohiza splendidula	Glow Worm	Lampr-s	Müller, Karl Josef	de	Verlag K-J. Müller, Maxstr. 11, 66482 Zweibrücken http://www.homeopathycourses.com/pdf/Hom eopathicProvingFirefly.pdf
Lamprohiza splendidula	Glow Worm	Lampr-s	Begin, Marty Chamurliyska,	en	
Coccinella septempunctata	Ladybird	Cocci-s	Ekaterina	en	www.provings.info

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