



# Potentised Remedies for Plants and Soils: A Snapshot of Agrohomeopathy in 2015 in Relation to its Past and Possible Future

Mark Moodie

**Abstract:** Since the 1920s there have been efforts to use homeopathic remedies to address the problems that confront farmers and gardeners. Largely due to the internet these efforts are now being shared in the form of a fledgling *materia medica* and *repertory*.

**Keywords:** Agrohomeopathy, biodynamic agriculture, homeodynamic agriculture.

## Introduction

Repeatable and predictable responses by plants to potentised materials such as homeopathic remedies would have a fundamental impact upon several core issues. One would be a necessary re-evaluation of the placebo explanation of homeopathy. Second would be quality control in the manufacturing process of homeopathic remedies. Third would be research based on ethical and repeatable investigations. Fourth would be addressing problems in the environment, such as farming and gardening, with non-toxic sprays. This short report considers how close such goals are in 2015.

## History

There is some suggestion that von Bönninghausen<sup>(1)</sup> may have applied remedies to his farm but if this is the case no records have been found to date. In the absence of such trails it would seem that the first organised work with potentised materials on plants was done in Germany in the early 1920s. This work was undertaken by Lilly Kolisko with the guidance of Dr Rudolf Steiner and was published as 'Agriculture of Tomorrow'<sup>(2)</sup>. Whilst the research continued

independent of biodynamic agriculture it overlapped and informed this earliest consciously organic European agricultural discipline.

## Biodynamics

Dr Steiner guided Lilly Kolisko's laboratory work but also gave lectures and advice directly to farmers, most notably in his 'Agriculture course'<sup>(3)</sup> of 1924. Some of his indications suggested remedies from the homeopathic pharmacopoeia but others were new both in their original ingredients and preparation. The link to homeopathic potentisation was all but explicit. Dr Steiner also described a pertinent science of 'organics'<sup>(4)</sup> (as opposed to the 'physics' of non-living materials) in which JW Goethe's foundational work on 'The Metamorphosis of Plants'<sup>(5)</sup> suggested he was 'the Copernicus and Kepler' of this new discipline.

## Agrohomeopathy

Around the time of Lilly Kolisko's death (1976) various individuals, seemingly spontaneously, took up the work in far spread parts of the Globe: USA, New Zealand, Australia, Europe, India and Pakistan and South America. These

individuals began to find each other in the 1990s and they cautiously collaborated and compared their experiences and theories. A fledgling *materia medica*<sup>(6)</sup> and *repertory*<sup>(7)</sup> was established in a format suggested and initially populated by V.D. Kaviraj<sup>(8)</sup>. This was made adaptable and broadly accessible at Considera.

## The Present

The *materia medica* at Considera currently has about 900 entries, the majority concerning plants but with others relating to climate, soil, compost and water. 850 'users' have signed up to consult in detail although one assumes this is the tip of the iceberg since no one has to register to browse. 112 remedies have some experiences ascribed to them and there are additional biodynamic and commercial remedies. Each experience is traceable back to its source. One can only hope that more people will try remedies on their pieces of land and will report back on the experiences in the same way that homeopaths have pooled their knowledge for humans to the benefit of all.

However, the author is regretfully aware that many agrohomeopaths do not submit



their work to the *materia medica* and this is almost certainly due, in part, to its shortcomings. The design is necessarily insufficiently flexible to anticipate all the findings it would need to accommodate and the site could use some professional UI (User Interface) design input.

However, there is a more powerful but subtle combination of reasons that together mean that the *materia medica* has not gathered as many experiences as could be wished. In no particular order let us suggest the following: that land workers are not so often those with an inclination to sit in front of computers (although there is an old fashioned postal address for sharing information): farmers and gardeners are aware of a huge variety of factors which combine to raise a healthy crop and to ascribe success to one irrigation with a remedy cannot always be done with confidence: once a plant pathology has been identified it is often too late to remedy: there is little or no finance available to develop this discipline through a thoughtful and well-managed research and development programme. The latter is particularly regrettable considering the urgency of the matter and how many fascinating leads remain to be followed.

From a research perspective the lack of a *modus operandi* is a fundamental problem – as indeed it is for homeopathy for humans. Were it to be clear *how* a homeopathic remedy has an impact on an ailing plant one could move on from working through analogy with the human *materia medica* or from trial and error. Attempts continue to be made to make experiences of efficacy explicable within the material-dominated scientific model despite the many obvious and well-documented

difficulties. Others abandon the three dimensional world in an attempt to ascribe all impacts of remedies to ‘intention’ or other aspects of the homeopath’s inner life. The modern mind would be satisfied with a virtuous combination of these two otherwise polarised positions so that the rigour and precision of the material sciences can be salvaged from one and applied to the wider field of human experience from the other.

It is always interesting to share thoughts on how this rigorous science of the spirit can be forged so that the best of both approaches can combine. Then one might approach both the

the necessary elements in place: an epistemology, a disinterested geometrical discipline, a set of research techniques, the potential for conscious appreciation of the problem and solution within a consistent framework. With the admirable exceptions of Glen Atkinson<sup>(10)</sup> and Enzo Nastati<sup>(11)</sup>, the anthroposophical path does not, unfortunately, seem to be being travelled with sufficient diligence to harvest the potential. Although the author is most familiar with this path there are, without doubt, other disciplines with the necessary elements in place for the same outcomes, requiring only a ‘Rosetta stone’ to be accessible from parallel paths.

“

From a research perspective the lack of a *modus operandi* is a fundamental problem – as indeed it is for homeopathy for humans.

”

creation of remedies and their appropriate application with ever greater clarity. However, one must acknowledge that often this adventure gives rise to the worst of both: a gooey mess of untestable hypotheses and bland dogmatic mantra.

I can only speak from my own experience in relation to this: that such a path is well established by anthroposophy – the collected works and approach outlined by Dr Steiner<sup>(9)</sup> This has so many of

In the absence of such a translator the terms of different paths can be a hindrance to wider understanding and so the *materia medica* is limited to uncontentious terms that are transparent to any person with healthy sense organs or a basic familiarity with botanical terms. So if one were to find that a plant is not thriving one might observe, for example, that there is a mould on the leaves and look that up via the search engine or classic hierarchical repertorisation



methods. Results can be filtered by plants or countries/region, or to reveal on the submissions from trusted contributors to the *materia medica*.

## Conclusion and Summary

So how close are we to being able to meet the potential of the four issues mentioned above in the introduction? Together with the excellent laboratory work done in Switzerland by Stephan Baumgartner and his team<sup>(12)</sup> one can be confident that there is an objective impact of homeopathic remedies on plants and, thus, that the placebo effect - whilst undoubtedly a reality - is no more the sole reason that homeopathic remedies are able to change organisms than it is for substantial doses. Some companies are already using the 'Kolisko method'<sup>(13)</sup> in order to test their batches of remedies. Research is in place using plants as opposed to mammals for testing remedies although naturally this requires interpretation to come back to usefulness for human therapy. Unfortunately, in relation to the last question – taking the burden for agricultural woes from chemicals to the non-polluting homeopathic remedies – the work is far from mature. The collection of experiences in the *materia medica* is not yet of sufficient volume and quality to enable confident prescription towards timely remediation. Whilst the reasons for this have been discussed one can hardly think of a more urgent and desirable aim.

## References:

1. Bradford T.L. The Lesser Writings of Boeninghausen. [Internet]. Available from: <https://archive.org/details/lesserwritingsc00unkngoog>

2. Holistic Agriculture Library. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.soilandhealth.org/01aglibrary/01aglibwelcome.html>
3. The Agriculture Course. [Internet]. Available from: [http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA327/English/BDA1958/Ag1958\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA327/English/BDA1958/Ag1958_index.html)
4. Steiner R. Goethean Science. [Internet]. Available from: [http://wn.rsarchive.org/Books/GA001/English/MP1988/GA001\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Books/GA001/English/MP1988/GA001_index.html)
5. Goethe J.W. The Metamorphosis of Plants. MIT Press. September 2009 [Internet]. Available from: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/metamorphosis-plants>
6. Materia Medica Agricultura. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.considera.org/matmed>
7. Repertory to the materia medica agricultura. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.considera.org/rep>
8. Kaviraj V D. Homeopathy for Farm and Garden. Mark Moodie Publications. 2006
9. The Rudolf Steiner Archive. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.rsarchive.org>
10. Glenopathy - The Glen Atkinson method. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.garudabd.org>
11. Enzo Nastati's work. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.moodie.biz/enzo.html>
12. Stephan Baumgartner. [Internet]. Available from: [http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stephan\\_Baumgartner](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stephan_Baumgartner)
13. <http://www.truebotanica.com>

## About the Author

*Mark Moodie is responsible for the Considera project (considera.org). He is also an author and translator/publisher with more than forty publications relating to agrohomoepathy and the anthroposophically inspired agricultural approaches known as biodynamics and homeodynamics. He has organised conferences and given lectures on the subject around the world.*

