

The Antimonium crudum Child

Stibnite, Antimony sulfide Sb_2S_3

Mineral remedy

“Contrary”

Origin

Antimonium crudum is a mineral that has long been used in homeopathy. It is a compound of the metal antimony (stibium — Sb) and sulfur (sulfide). The pure form of antimony, *Antimonium metallicum*, has only recently been used in homeopathy.

In terms of its effects and its external form, the metal has many similarities with arsenic. It's a silver-white, highly shiny, brittle, metallic substance that is easily pulverized, and mostly occurs as a compound of sulfur (sulfide) or oxygen (oxide). Nowadays, we use antimony sulfide in lead-antimony batteries, zinc alloys, pyrotechnics, and for the manufacture of textiles, rubber, and glass.

Antimonium crudum is extracted from a natural mineral, needle antimony (stibnite). In the Ichinokawa mine on the Japanese island of Shikoku, stibnite is found in the form of crystals up to 2 feet (60 cm) high and 2 inches (5 cm) wide. Due to their shape, they are often used in Japan as fence posts. The crystals characteristically form at right angles to the earth's magnetic field. The name “antimony” comes from the Greek “*antimonos*,” which means “against loneliness.” Antimony was discovered in 1450, when chemists were still alchemists.



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Irritable babies

Antimonium crudum has various different aspects. Children who need this remedy are sentimental and vulnerable. But as long as they still can't speak, they express their discontent very intensely. They can react furiously to any kind of attention and contact, and they do not want to be washed. Their digestive tract is very sensitive and works very slowly, so that they often belch and even vomit breast milk. When they are being weaned, they often won't tolerate anyone else in the room. They suffer from contagious impetigo, skin rashes on the head, and chronic inflammation of the eye. For newborns with these symptoms together with ill-temper and irritability, *Antimonium crudum* is well-indicated. *Antimonium crudum* regulates their digestion and their mood also improves, since they're basically yearning for love and attention.

Dreamers

When *Antimonium crudum* children are feeling well, they can have fabulous daydreams and are very romantic. Their favorite clothes are tasteful and correspond to their sensitive character. Their dreams are not unrealistic, but are often hard to realize in this difficult world. When they get a little older — although even very young children can feel these emotions strongly — they like fantasizing about being in love. Moonlight reinforces their sentimental feelings.

A gift for music

Most *Antimonium crudum* children are musically gifted or at least receptive to music. When they can freely choose a music instrument, they frequently opt for the flute. The “crosswise” or “contrary” aspect of this instrument is something we find reflected in all other areas.

It's important for these children to be able to develop their musical or other creative talents. The longing to demonstrate their artistic side to the public is very strong — also because in this way they can win the attention and love that they yearn for.

In everything that they do, it's important to them to do it properly. In their creativity, they demand the best of themselves and are not

easy to please. Deep inside, they fear that they can't perform as necessary to fulfill the role expected of them.

Self-Critical

This anxiety makes them sensitive to the least criticism. They have the feeling that others are getting in their way and are offended by the slightest thing. Since they're very self-critical, a trifle can be enough to make them feel rejected. For this reason, they're extremely sensitive to the behavior of their parents and teachers. Disapproval feeds their inner doubt and arouses resistance, whereas encouragement strengthens their self-image.

Antimonium crudum children have a strong will, and can become "eccentrics" if they're unable to act according to their own judgment.

Stubborn and contrary

When they feel offended by negative criticism or rejection, they throw in the towel. Nothing satisfies them and any attention, every look or touch, can arouse rage. Their anger is directed to the outside world, and then no one can do anything right. *Antimonium crudum* helps these gifted people to love themselves once more!

The tendency to challenge is a leitmotiv of their lives, just as the stibnite crystal arranges itself crosswise — or in a contrary way — to the earth's magnetic field. "Contrary" also means being different from other people or being a one-off (one of a kind). It's characteristic that they choose something as unique as the flute. So long as they're in balance, this "being unique" is a character trait that distinguishes them; as a reaction to inner frustration, however, it can lead to isolation.

Loneliness

It's impossible to say with certainty whether the oversensitivity of an *Antimonium crudum* child is innate or is due to trauma. The behavior of *Antimonium crudum* children can easily lead to loneliness, from which they find it hard to emerge without help. Behind their moody, irritable and rude exterior, there is often a hidden sadness, which they express more easily after a dose of *Antimonium crudum*. While

Antimonium crudum

researching the remedy for this book, it became quite clear to me why the alchemists called this metal “against aloneness.”

Physical symptoms

Antimonium crudum children are often quite stout, coarse, and tend toward being overweight. Complaints occur frequently on the left side.

They tend not to tolerate warmth so well since they are by nature mostly warm. They react poorly to radiant heat in particular. The warmth from an oven can give them a headache or cause coughing. They prefer fresh air and they sweat at the least exertion.

On the other hand, they can get all sorts of complaints from being chilled by cold water, such as headaches, vomiting, or diarrhea.

When *Antimonium crudum* children don't feel well, they tend to eat far too much, which can cause stomach and gut symptoms. One typical symptom of this remedy is a tongue with a thick white coating. Further complaints that can occur are an excessive production of saliva, bleeding gums, and mouth ulcers. A unique symptom, very typical for *Antimonium crudum*, is the simultaneous occurrence of pains in the stomach and in the legs.

Antimonium crudum has a strong effect on the skin and is known for its curative effects in hardening and hornification (thickening) such as (painful) calluses on the soles of the feet, corns, and warts. Cracks at various places, such as the nostrils, frequently occur. It's as if the skin were building a shield against the outer world.

Food and Drink

Antimonium crudum children often have a pronounced preference for certain foods, yet paradoxically react to them with oversensitivity. They have a strong desire for sour food, especially for cucumber and pickled gherkins. They also like fruit, raw food, alcohol, sweet things, fat, spices, and cold drinks. They often have an aversion to eggs and bread.