



Nightmares: Ominous figures, threatening fears and delusions appear at night.



Autonomy: A golden retriever shows the lantane quality of the nightshade plants.



EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL TITLE TOPIC: NIGHTSHADE

Page 1

Ghanshyam Kalathia  
THREATS FROM AN INVISIBLE FORCE  
Subclass 6 and Solanum tuberosum

Page 4

Susan Sonz  
A DANGEROUS BOY  
Solanum tuberosum in a case of violent aggression

Page 12

FLAG

PAGE 15

Anne Schadde  
THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON  
Solanum nigrum for violent aggression and sleep disorders

Page 18

Friedrich Ritzer und Hans Eberle  
SHAMELESS AND BELLIGERENT  
Hyoscyamus for aggressive behavioural disorders

Page 22

Dinesh Chauhan  
THE FASCINATION OF HORROR  
Mandragora for anxiety states

Page 28

Jonathan Hardy  
HORRIFYING AND VILE  
Mandragora in chronic fatigue and menopausal syndrome

Page 34

Jan Scholten  
THE WAY TO SMALL REMEDIES  
Nightshade family in plant theory

Page 42

Geoff Johnson  
PROUD AND INDEPENDENT  
Dulcamara in veterinary homeopathy

Page 50

Shekhar Algundhi  
FRIGHTENED AND ALONE  
Stramonium in a case of seasonal cough

Page 52

Rajan Sankaran  
WHY NOT LACHESIS?  
Dulcamara in a case of interstitial cystitis

Page 58

Resie Moonen  
FEAR OF THE SHOWER  
Physalis for childhood urinary tract infections

Page 66

Stefanie Naegele  
LOSS OF CONTROL  
Duboisinum for tics

Page 72

Jörg Hildebrandt  
POISONING WITH VITAMIN D  
Solanum malacoxylon – tried and tested indications

Page 76

Franz Swoboda  
BORNE OUT OF NECESSITY  
Atropinum sulphuricum - three remedies in one

Page 82

Massimo Mangialavori  
HOMEOPATHIC FAMILIES  
Doryphora decemlineata – a belladonna-like insect

Page 88

PANORAMA BOOKS  
Didier Lustig  
THE BIG BOOK OF ACTINIDES – THE MUTATION REMEDIES  
Review Jürgen Hansel

from page 98



Mandrake: It is the most mysterious of the magical nightshade herbs.



Violence: Hatred and devaluation are most evident in Hyoscyamus.

Pathology: Solanum malacoxylon, also known as Solanum glaucophyllum, is a poisonous plant that causes chronic disease and is most harmful to cattle.





# A DANGEROUS BOY

Solanum tuberosum in a case of violent aggression

AUTHOR | Susan Sonz

**SUMMARY:** A 9-year-old boy is obsessed with hatred for his younger sister, harassing and tormenting her. Without emotion, he monotonously recounts his violent fantasies of killing her. He only shows emotion when talking about his passion for potatoes. The clear references to the Solanaceae family, combined with his strong relationship to the potato, lead to the remedy Solanum tuberosum.

**KEYWORDS:** Aggression, potato, sensation method, Solanaceae, Solanum tuberosum, source language

This was one of the most frightening cases I have ever taken. When we homeopaths think of the Solanaceae remedies, we usually expect that the patients who need them will have issues of fear and terror. Interestingly, in this case, it was the boy himself who was terrifying. He was a 9 year old boy who his mother described as "troubled". She said he was very jealous of his younger sister who is 6 years old, he tells her he hates her and breaks or hides her toys. He asked his mother "Why can't my sister just die so I can be the only kid?" On one occasion he chased her around the house with a kitchen knife and on another he pushed her out into the street to be run over. He was sensitive to noises and smells, certain smells make him want to vomit. Mom says "It appears that he is either in excitement or withdrawal, rarely in the middle".

**Case taken June 2015:** So I agree to talk to the boy, as his mom sits in with us and takes notes. He speaks to me without emotion and is oddly indifferent, despite his young age. He speaks in a monotone manner, in clipped sentences, telling me he likes playing video games "all day". He talks about various electronics- TV, computer, tablet, xbox, kindle, and cell phone. He tells me his sister is annoying.

## Tell me about your sister!

When I see my sister in school I slap her face. I shoved her off the bench. So what if she got hurt? Of course, I wouldn't feel bad."

## You hit her?

Yeah, slapping works. She's a little annoying thing that sings these songs that annoy me with an annoying tone. Four days after my mother went to the hospital, she came home with a little annoying girl. I have LOTS of pets, 5 goldfish and 2 beta- an aggressive fish. One ate a spider yesterday. My mother flicked it into the tank, said eat it! So the fish ate it. It was hilarious.

## How do you get on with your babysitter?

I don't need a babysitter- it's not like I'd have a party and be swinging from a chandelier or something, it's not as if I did something so wrong that there'd be a swat helicopter outside my window- it's not like I robbed a bank."

## Would you rob a bank?

Yeah, I want money for candy, video games and a NERF gun so I can shoot my sister and not get in trouble for it. I try to stay under the radar. If I robbed a bank I could say to her, I have money and you don't! All girls her age must be bad. I try to make her get into trouble. I tell her to do bad things. It doesn't matter to me if she likes me or not. She punches me but I don't feel it. I punch her hard. I mostly just sit on her head. She's 40 lbs and I'm 60. I lock her in the basement and lock all the doors.

## What if someone did that to you?

I'd be harsh on them- I'd use an AK 47 machine gun, that's my kind of gun!

It is one of those unbelievable cases of luck: A boy with murderous intentions and destructive jealousy could be cured of his destructive emotions with the right remedy Solanum tuberosum.

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**What's that?**

It's a machine gun, rapid fire, no need to shoot, reload, shoot, reload. I'd shoot her and then throw her out the window. Then I'd hang her up and use her as target practice. I'd shoot her til she's dead then I'd hang her up and shoot her non-stop til the thing runs out of ammunition, then there will be nothing left of her. There's a normal kid in school named Henry- he's not my friend not my enemy, and he says he would do the same kind of thing. She's so annoying I want to kill her!

**Comment:** You can imagine how shocked I was to hear this 9-year-old talk that way about his sister, while sounding like a psychopath. I was shocked, and also frightened. Frightened mostly for his sister, because I was certain that if this boy was not successfully treated homeopathically, he might indeed find the opportunity to kill his sister, or other people.

I immediately started thinking about our most violent remedies like Anacardium, and of course Stramonium. But with this being such a serious situation, I wanted to make sure to give this boy a correct remedy- I wanted to find his life history remedy, his "True Simillimum" as I like to call it. And so I kept asking questions and he kept answering, in his monotone way.

**What do you like, and what do you dislike?**

I don't like music!

*(On the side his mother told me this story: "One day, he played a song 'Welcome to a New Day', which is a song from the popular video game Minecraft, his favorite song back then. He started to sing along. He sang so hard that his face turned purple, his eyes shined and got scary looking, with white foam all over his mouth, and then he almost entered into collapse state, sitting on the floor. I felt he had almost turned into another person. Ever since this incident, he could not tolerate this song at all. He would yell and go mad whenever his sister tried to sing it. Music is extremely stressful for him. In fact, ever since he was a baby, he has been extremely sensitive to noise.)*

**What kind of food do you like or dislike?**

I don't like chocolate. I hate toothpaste, and I hate all vegetables, except beans or peas, cucumber, but broccoli, carrots I hate- I guess my favorite vegetable is spinach. The only fruit I like is watermelons, grapes, and clementines. I hate apples, pears, carrots. My mother bought a big huge watermelon and I had a huge slice. I spit the seeds at my sister.

**What else do you like?**

I like cheese, and oh, I LOVE potatoes- I'd eat any kind of potato! *(He jumped out of his seat!)* "Potato, potato, potato! I love anything but raw potatoes, nobody likes raw potatoes. But I like them fried and baked and boiled. Any way you cook them, I love potatoes! But I don't like the skin, especially if it's dirty." *(At this point he went up to my big whiteboard and took a marker and drew a giant, upright, oval and put a smiley face inside and shouted the following:)* "That's me- Potato Man!"

**ANALYSIS**

Well, I guess it doesn't get easier than that, right? This is what I call a Source case or Experiential case - one where the patient leads you to the source of the remedy he needs. The entire interview was so lacking in feeling or emotion. This boy spoke in a droning monotone - that is, until he mentioned potatoes! Then he was animated and excited, and was even compelled to draw a potato on the white board.

Now I was able to relax a bit because I could trust that Solanum tuberosum was the exactly right remedy for him. You may know, I always like to see the Big Ideas, Kingdom, Grouping, and Sub Grouping in every case I take, even if it is a Sensation or a Source case. So, first of all, his was an obvious plant kingdom case because of all of his sensitivities, even clearly remembering the day his mother brought home his baby sister when he was only two and a half years old. He was also sensitive to noise, smells, music, and tastes, as well as being sensitive to other people who aggravate him.

So, the Kingdom is plant, and the Grouping is Solanaceae, which was very easy to determine because of his violent tendencies and his fears. By the way, even though he told me he wasn't afraid of anything, his mother reported quite the opposite, saying he is extremely cautious and has to hug his teddy bear to be able to sleep at night. He has many nightmares.

And then, the Sub Grouping was easy to see as well, since talking about potatoes was the only moment during the interview when he responded with energy and enthusiasm, not to mention that he jumped up and drew a potato and said "this is me!" Now that the remedy was obvious, it was time to decide how to manage the case.

The first thing I did was try to scare the mom into being more careful with this child. I told her she needs to limit his activity with video games and to never, ever leave her children alone together! She said "that will be very difficult". And I told her "no, difficult will be visiting your son in a young offenders' institution, knowing that he killed your daughter."

Later that night she said in an email "this is a lot for me to digest. I had a long talk with his babysitter. I told her no video games and don't leave the kids alone. When I told her this she said one day my son tried to hide a knife in his pants because he said he wanted to kill me when I was asleep. After that she would hide all the knives. To have a son like this feels unreal. It's hard to believe I signed up for this, but obviously I did. He is my first child."

**Prescription:** Solanum tuberosum 30c. I was afraid that if I gave him a high potency, he might have too big a reaction, so I decided to be cautious. After a couple of doses, I had him take a daily 30c.

**FOLLOW-UPS**

**July 2015:** Two weeks later I had an appointment with the mother to follow up on her case. She misunderstood and thought it was an appointment for her son. I was a bit annoyed

because I thought it was too early for a follow-up. But I asked him a few questions anyway. I started by asking about his sister. He told me she was busy at day camp, so she wasn't annoying him these days, and that he goes there to watch her compete in sports. He talked about her in a normal way, and in a normal tone, and in fact said she was good at her sport, and got a silver medal. When asked about his favorite sport, he replies, "Eating! I went to the camp with my grandmother in her car - man, that's living the life!" "I ate her bag of potato chips- that's living the life! Potato chips pile up in her car all the time. Every time my grandfather gets out of the hospital he gets potato chips."

Well, at least he confirmed the remedy! And I was pleased to hear that his feelings about his sister had toned down considerably. And he was speaking with emotion for a change, there was no more of that monotone was of talking.

**Prescription:** Stay on Solanum tuberosum 30c daily

**September 2015:** A couple of months later I saw him, and he was definitely calmer and talked again about potato chips. Nothing significant came up. When I asked about his sister, he said: "She's ok, they say she is good at her sport but I don't see it." And when I asked if he had any complaints, he said: "No, well, maybe when my sister tries to come into my room."

**Prescription:** Solanum tuberosum 200c every 3 days

**October 2015:** I saw him just before Halloween. He talked about costumes and candy-lollipops, gummies and dark, dgummies and dark chocolate. He talked about his favorite friends at school (previously he only had that one "friend" Henry who also talked violently). And he said he liked his teacher, "I like her!", he said. I wrote these notes about that visit-: He looks and acts great, and he is speaking in a normal voice. I tried to taunt him into speaking about his sister, but he didn't.

**Prescription:** Stay on Solanum tuberosum 200c every 3 days

**January 2016:** I hear from the mom that lately he is in a dark, intense place that she hasn't seen since the remedy started. I bring him in, and he has definitely slipped back. He tells me his father said that if he hurts his sister, he will be in trouble. He told me they are fighting a lot and he messes up her room and throws eggs out her window. When I asked about dreams he said he had dreams of grilled cheese, mashed potatoes, french fries and pizza. And then he drew me an elaborate drawing showing all the ways he will kill his sister.

He tells me, "I really feel like I want to kill her!" Pretending to hold a gun, "but I don't want to lose points, so I'm nice to her. I don't go watch her do sports but they can't leave me home alone or the firemen would be there when she gets home. I would try to cook, start a fire, can't put it out, call 911, but instead I dial 119, and by the time they get home the house is burned down."

**Prescription:** I warned his mother! And started him on Solanum tuberosum 1m right away.

**FLAG****PUBLISHER**

Emryss Publisher  
Wientjesvoortseweg 10  
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The Netherlands  
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**PRICES**

Single volume € 22  
Subscription (2 issues) € 38  
plus postage costs

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Preview of next issue of

Spectrum II / 2025

Cover picture: Chronic Fatigue

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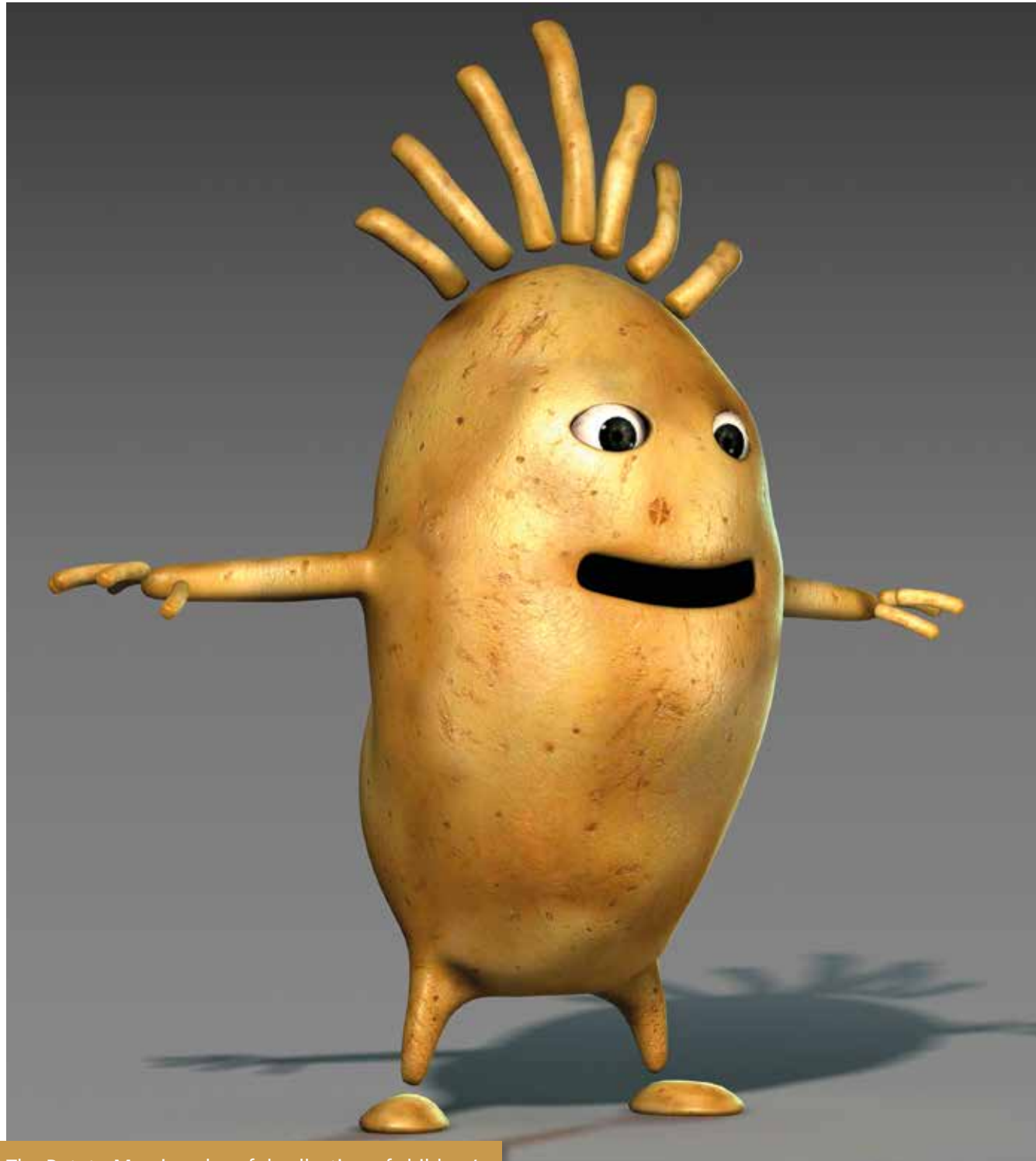
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The Potato Man is a cheerful collection of children's songs in German. Less nice is the Chinese video of the potato man, from which this photo is taken.

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**April 2016:** Things calmed down, but he is still negative about his sister and misbehaving at home. Things continued to improve on 1m, and a year later his mom said he is more aware, more reasonable and very resilient. When I saw him he is still talking about French fries and potato chips. But he told me dogs really make him happy, and he spends his time with friends who

## POTATO

*Solanum tuberosum* is a crop plant from the nightshade family (Solanaceae). In common parlance, potatoes are usually referred to as the tubers that grow in the ground, with which the plant reproduces vegetatively and which are the only parts of the plant that are edible, as they contain little solanine.

Potato skins and greened potatoes contain several times more alkaloids than peeled normal potatoes, especially solanine, which is typical of the nightshade genus, as well as chaconine. It is found in all parts of a potato plant. Potatoes stored in daylight turn green, which is a sign of an increased solanine content. For this reason, potato peelings, green potatoes and potato sprouts should not be used for food or feed.

There are around 7000 potato varieties worldwide. These varieties have been bred because of the many different uses and the geographically widely separated growing areas. In addition, further varieties are constantly being developed.

In Germany, the potato was voted Poisonous Plant of the Year (2022) in 2022, as the plant contains the poisonous solanine in its above-ground parts.

have dogs. "I really want a dog!" I suggested to the mom that it might be a good idea to get a dog. It took a while, but eventually she did get a dog for him.

**December 2016:** His mother emailed me and said: "Yesterday he tensed up his body muscle, and closed his eyes and shook for two seconds, it almost looked like a pretended convulsion. He kept doing this yesterday and he would not stop. Finally, at bedtime, he said 'weren't you suppose to fight it'? I asked: 'Fight what?' He couldn't put it into words. He described it as something dark, something evil."

So, I called him into my office and he did it in front of me. I asked him why do you do that? He said, "To vibrate, but I have to bite down on my teeth to make it happen. It makes me relax".

**Prescription:** *Solanum tuberosum* 1m now twice a month. I asked the mother to order a 10m, but she is hesitant.

**2017:** His behavior improved and remained stable for most of 2017. He is really interested in his fish, and he really loves his dog (which his parents finally bought). At one point all of his fish died and he was devastated, but his mom said that a dose of 1m helped him cope. He says he wants to get a diving certificate and become a marine biologist. I'm happy to hear him discuss the future in a positive way, and his mother is happy that she and her son are able to have chats before bedtime now. After this she doesn't bring him in very often, but she stays in touch via email when necessary.

**June 2018:** She writes to say things are going pretty well. She gives him the 1m once a month. She has still not ordered the 10m.

**October 2022:** After 2020, I stop hearing from her, so I email her to see how he is doing. She says: "Thank you for thinking

of us. He is now a junior in high school, and did well on his SAT tests. The "shadow" is mostly gone now, we even do family meditation. Our family dog, loved by all, has been with us for over 6 years. Thanks for your recommendation. It helped tremendously! He now has a connection to this world. I haven't had to use the remedy since he had Covid this year- it helped him get through the illness easily. Again, thank you for thinking of me, and thank you for being with me during the darkest days in my life."

**Conclusion:** That was 3 years ago, and now he is in college, and doing well. Imagine, a boy who was so intensely violent and so descriptively homicidal before homeopathy, and then after treatment, calming down and having a regular life. Isn't homeopathy wonderful?



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