

## Berberis Vulgaris

**Introduction:** Rapid change of symptoms-pains change in regard to place and character-thirst alternates with thirstlessness, hunger, and loss of appetite, etc. Acts forcibly on the venous system, producing pelvic engorgements and haemorrhoids. Hepatic, and rheumatic affections, particularly with urinary, haemorrhoidal and menstrual complaints. Old gouty constitutions. Pain in region of kidneys is most marked; hence its use in renal and vesical troubles, gall-stones, and vesical catarrh. It causes inflammation of kidneys with haematuria. Pains may be felt all over body, emanating from small of back. It has also marked action on the liver, promoting the flow of bile. Often called for in arthritic affections with urinary disturbances. Wandering, *radiating* pains. Acts well in fleshy persons, good livers, but with little endurance. Spinal irritation. All Berberis pains radiate, are not worse by pressure, but worse in various attitudes, especially standing and active exercise.



**Scientific Name:** *Berberis vulgaris*

**Synonyms:** *Berberis abortiva; Berberis acida; Berberis aethnensis; Berberis alba; Berberis angulizans; Berberis apyrena; Berberis arborescens; Berberis articulate; Berberis asperma; Berberis aurea; Berberis bigelovii; Berberis coralline; Berberis dentate; Berberis dentata var. capitata; Berberis dulcis; Berberis dumetorum; Berberis edulis; Berberis elongate; Berberis globularis; Berberis hakodate; Berberis heterophylla; Berberis iberica; Berberis innominata; Berberis irritabilis; Berberis jacquinii, Berberis latifolia; Berberis marginata; Berberis maxima; Berberis maximowiczii; Berberis microphylla; Berberis mitis; Berberis nepalensis; Berberis nitens; Berberis obovata; Berberis orientalis; Berberis pangharengensis; Berberis pauciflora; Berberis racemosa; Berberis rubra; Berberis sanguine; Berberis sanguinolenta; Berberis sibirica; Berberis sieboldii; Berberis sylvestris; Berberis violacea; Berberis canadensis dumetorum; Berberry pisifera; Berberry sinensis; Berberis sinensis; Berberis serrulata; Common barberry; European barberry; Barberry; Pipperidge bush; Hindi: Kashmal; French: Epine-vinette; German: Berberitzen.*

**Source:** The main source of *Berberis vulgaris* is vegetable kingdom. It is a shrub in the genus Berberis, family Berberidaceae. It produces edible but sharply acidic berries, which people in many countries eat as a tart and refreshing fruit. The shrub is native to central and southern Europe, northwest Africa and western Asia; it is also naturalized in northern Europe, including the British Isles and Scandinavia, and North America. In the United States and Canada, it has become established in the wild over an area from Nova Scotia to Nebraska, with additional populations in Colorado, Idaho, Washington State, Montana, and British Columbia. Although

not naturalized, in rural New Zealand it has been widely cultivated as a hedge on farms. It is cultivated for its fruits in many countries. It is a deciduous shrub growing up to 4 metres (13 ft) high. The stems have thorny, alternate, angular branches. The leaves are small oval, 2–5 centimetres (0.79–1.97 in) long and 1–2 centimetres (0.39–0.79 in) broad, with a serrated margin; they are borne in clusters of 2-5 together, subtended by a three-branched spine 3–8 mm long. The flowers are yellow, 4–6 millimetres (0.16–0.24 in) across, produced on 3–6 centimetres (1.2–2.4 in) long panicles in late spring. The fruit is an oblong red berry 7–10 millimetres (0.28–0.39 in) long and 3–5 millimetres (0.12–0.20 in) broad, ripening in late summer or autumn; they are edible but very sour, and rich in Vitamin C.

*Macroscopically* bark of the root is yellowish, externally with sometimes orange shade.

*Microscopically root:* transverse section of young root shows, epidermal cells with a thick cuticle, varying in size and showing no hair growth. Cortex consists of 4 to 6 layers of cellulose-walled cells, irregular in shape. Few isolated or small groups of roundish lignified cells are present. Pericycle is of 2 distinct zones of sclerenchymatous and parenchymatous origin. The phellogen develops from cellulose parenchyma. The crescent of fibres behind each phloem is about 3 cells wide in central part. In old roots, cork cells are tabular and lignified. Pericycle represented by inner lacunous walls, with large air gaps. Fibers of 2 types, containing sclerenchymatous sheath and semilunar groups behind primary phloem bundles present. Prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate present.

**Part Used:** The bark of the root.

**Composition:**

**Tincture 0.** Drug Strength 1/10

**Active ingredients:**

Berberis vulgaris, Fresh pulp containing solid 100 gm.  
And Drug moisture aprox. 80 cc. = 180 gm.

**Excipient:**

Strong Alcohol = 537 cc.  
Distilled Water = 420 cc.

To make one thousand cubic centimeters of mother tincture.

**Prover Name:** Dr. Hesse.

**Spheres of action:** Its act especially upon the kidney, urinary bladder, liver and gall bladder. It is a left sided drug.

**Pathogenesis:** Its action on urinary organs, results in irritation and subsequent inflammation and formation of renal stone; it produces gall-stone colic. It also has marked action on the liver

promoting the flow of bile or when there is stasis of bile, production gall-stone. Therefore, it is an excellent medicine for jaundice and gall-stone.

**Clinical:** Biliary colic. Bilius attack. Bladder affections. Calculus. Duodenum, catarrh of. Dysmenorrhoea. Fevers. Fistula. Gall-stones. Gravel. Herpes. Irritation. Jaundice. Joint affections. Knee, pain in. Leucorrhoea. Liver disorder. Lumbago. Ophthalmia. Oxaluria. Renal colic. Polypus. Rheumatism. Sacrum, pain in. Side pain. Spermatic cords, neuralgia of. Spleen, affections of. Tumours. Urine, disorders of. Vaginismus.

**Constitution:**

**Physical make-up:** Berberis vulgaris is especially suited to those people who are pale, having earthy complexion with sunken cheeks, having blue rings around eyes.

**Diathesis:** Bilius diathesis; Cases where renal or vesical symptoms are prominent.

**Guiding Symptoms:**

1. The renal or vesical symptoms predominate.
2. Gouty concretions in the auricle, becoming very painful, with tearing stinging pains.
3. Very valuable for hepatic diseases; with indigestion, eructation, salivation, heartburn, vomiting of food, etc., after eating.
4. Soreness in the region of the liver.
5. Pale, earthy complexion, with sunken cheeks and hollow, blue-encircled eyes.
6. Colic from gall-stones. Bilius colic, followed by jaundice; clay-colored stools; fistula in ano, with bilius symptoms and itching of the parts; short cough and chest complaints, especially after operations for fistulae (Cal. p., Sil.).
7. Diarrhoea, painless, clay-colored, with burning and smarting in anus, sallow complexion, tenderness over region of liver and pain extending around back and abdomen.
8. Burning and soreness in region of kidneys. Stitching, cutting pain from left kidney following course of ureter into bladder and urethra (Tab., - r. kidney, Lyc.).
9. Renal calculi and renal colic, pain extending from kidneys along ureters to bladder, with burning in urethra, bladder, etc.
10. Renal colic. < left side (Tab. - either side), with urging and strangury. (Canth.). Rubbing sensation in kidneys (Med.).
11. Numbness, stiffness, lameness with painful pressure in renal and lumbar regions.
12. Neuralgia of spermatic cords and testicles (Clem., Cimicif., Puls.).
13. Uterine symptoms, with leucorrhoea, associated with painful symptoms in urinary organs. Dysmenorrhoea, with pains radiating in every direction, down thighs, into abdomen, etc. (Cimicif.; Berb.).
14. Vaginismus, with inflamed kidneys, etc.

15. Urine: greenish, blood-red, with thick, slimy mucus; transparent, reddish or jelly-like sediment. Movement brings on or increases urinary complaints.
16. In lumbago one of our most valuable remedies; pains extend from back around body and down leg, with red and mucous sediment in the urine, etc.
17. Pain in small of back; very sensitive to touch in renal region; < when sitting and lying, from jar, from fatigue.
18. Rheumatic and gouty complaints, with diseases of the urinary organs.
19. Neuralgia under finger-nails, with swelling of finger-joints.

**Particulars:**

**Head:** Listless, apathetic, indifferent. Puffy sensation, feeling as if becoming larger. Vertigo with attacks of fainting. Frontal headache. Chilliness in back and occiput. Tearing pain in auricle, and gouty concretions. Sensation of a tight cap pressing upon the whole scalp.

**Nose:** Dry; obstinate catarrh of left nostril. Crawling in nostrils.

**Face:** Pale, sickly. Sunken cheeks and eyes, with bluish circles.

**Mouth:** Sticky sensation. Diminished saliva. Sticky, frothy saliva, like cotton (Nux mosch). Tongue feels scalded, vesicles on tongue.

**Stomach:** Nausea before breakfast. Heartburn.

**Abdomen:** Stitches in region of gall-bladder; worse, pressure, extending to stomach. Catarrh of the gall-bladder with constipation and yellow complexion. Stitching pain in front of kidneys extending to liver, spleen, stomach, groins, Poupart's ligament. Sticking deep in ilium.

**Stool:** Constant urging to stool. Diarrhoea painless, clay-colored, burning, and smarting in anus and perineum. Tearing around anus. Fistula in ano.

**Urinary:** Burning pains. Sensation as if some urine remained after urinating. Urine with thick mucus and bright-red, mealy sediment. Bubbling, sore sensation in kidneys. Pain in bladder region. Pain in the thighs and loins on urinating. Frequent urination; urethra burns when not urinating.

**Male:** Neuralgia of spermatic cord and testicles. Smarting, burning, stitching in testicles, in prepuce and scrotum.

**Female:** Pinching constriction in mons veneris, vaginismus, contraction and tenderness of vagina. Burning and soreness in vagina. Desire diminished, cutting pain during coition. Menses scanty, gray mucus, with pain in kidneys and chilliness, pain down thighs. Leucorrhœa, grayish mucus, with painful urinary symptoms. Neuralgia of ovaries and vagina.

**Respiratory:** Hoarseness; polypus of larynx. Tearing stitches in chest and region of heart.

**Back:** Stitches in neck and back; worse, respiration. Sticking pain in region of kidneys radiating thence around abdomen, to hips and groins. Numb, bruised sensation. Stitches from kidneys into bladder. Tearing, sticking with stiffness, making rising difficult, involving hips, nates, limbs, with numbness. Lumbago (Rhus; Tart em). Metatarsus and metacarpus feel sprained. Post-operative pain in lumbar region; soreness with sharp pain following course of circumflex iliac nerve to bladder with frequent urination.

**Extremities:** Rheumatic paralytic pain in shoulders, arms, hands and fingers, legs and feet. Neuralgia under finger-nails, with swelling of finger-joints. Sensation of cold on outside of thighs. Heels pain, as if ulcerated. Stitching between metatarsal bones as from a nail when standing. Pain in balls of feet on stepping. Intense weariness and lameness of legs after walking a short distance.

**Skin:** Flat warts. Itching, burning and smarting; worse, scratching; better, cold applications. Small pustules over whole body. Eczema of anus and hands. Circumscribed pigmentation following eczematous inflammation.

**Fever:** Cold sensation in various parts, as if spattered with cold water. Warmth in lower part of back, hips, and thighs.

**General Modalities:**

**Aggravation:** From motion, walking or carriage riding and sudden jerking or movement.

**Relationship:**

**Compare:** *Ipomea-Convolvulus Duratinus*-Morning Glory. --(Pain in left lumbar muscles on stooping. Kidney disorders with pain in back. Much abdominal flatulence. Aching in top of right shoulder renal colic; aching in small of back and extremities), Aloe; Canth.; Lycopod; Nux; Sarsap; Tab.,. *Xanthorrhoea arborea* (severe pain in kidneys, cystitis and gravel. Pain from ureter to bladder and testicles; pain in small of back returns from least chill or damp). *Xanthoriza apifolia*-Shrub Yellow Root--contains Berberine. Dilatation of stomach and intestines, atony, enlarged spleen.

**Antidotes:** Camphor; Bell.

**Botanical relations:** Podo., Caulo., Berb. aq.

**Antidote to:** Aco. An occasional dose of Lyc. helped action of Berb.

**Follows well after:** Arn., Bry., Kali bi., Rhus, Sul. in rheumatic affections.

**Dose & Administration:** Mother Tincture 04 or 05 drops mixed with water or as directed by the Homoeopathic Physician.

**Side Effects:** No significant side effect has been observed in proper dosage.

**Contraindication:** There is no known contradiction.

**Use in Pregnancy:** The safety of this medicine in pregnancy has not been studied; therefore it should be used with caution during pregnancy. If necessary consult with Homoeopathic Physician.

**Storage:** Keep out of reach of children. Keep away from sunlight. Store in a cool and dry place.

**Presentation:** 30 ml, 100 ml & 450 ml in bottle.

**References:**

1. HOMOEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA by Dr. William BOERICKE, M.D.
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>
3. Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of M. BHATTCHARYYA & CO.'S
4. Seven Hundred Red Line Symptoms from Comperthwaites Materia Medica
5. Text Book of Materia Medica by Dr. S. K. Dubey.
6. Keynotes and Characteristics with Comparisons of some of the Leading Remedies of the Materia Medica by Henry Clay Allen, M. D.
7. A DICTIONARY OF PRACTICAL MATERIA MEDICA by Dr. John Henry CLARKE, M.D.
8. Infallible Mother Tincture and Indian drugs by Prof. Dr. A. K. Chaklader.
9. Encyclopedia of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia by Dr. P.N. Varma & Dr. Indu Vaid.