

China Officinalis (Cinchona Officinalis)

Introduction: Debility from exhausting discharges, from loss of vital fluids, together with a nervous erethism, calls for this remedy. Periodicity is most marked. Sensitive to draughts. Seldom indicated in the earlier stages of acute disease. Chronic gout. Chronic suppurative pyelitis. Post operative gas pains, not relief from passing it.

Scientific Name: *Cinchona officinalis*

Synonyms: *Cascarilla officinalis*; *Cinchona academica*; *Cinchona chahuarguera*; *Cinchona coccinea*; *Cinchona colorata*; *Cinchona condaminea*; *Cinchona crista*; *Cinchona lanceolata*; *Cinchona lancifolia* var. *lanceolata*; *Cinchona legitima*; *Cinchona lucumifolia* var. *stupea*; *Cinchona macrocalyx*; *Cinchona obtusifolia*; *Cinchona palton*; *Cinchona peruviana*; *Cinchona suberosa*; *Cinchona succirubra*; *Cinchona uritusinga*; *Cinchona violacea*; *Cinchona weddelliana*; *Hindsia subandina*; *Quinquina officinalis*; *Quinquina palton*; Quinine; Red cinchona; Cinchona bark; Jesuit's bark; Loxa bark; Jesuit's powder; Countess powder; Peruvian bark; *Hindi:* Kunain ka Pair; *Spanish:* Quina; Cascarilla; Cargua cargua; Corteza coja; *French:* Quinquina; *German:* Chinarinde.



Source: The main source of *Cinchona officinalis* is vegetable kingdom. It is a South American tree in the Rubiaceae family. It is native to wet montane forests in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, between 1600–2700 meters above sea level. It is a shrub or slender tree, 7 to 10 meter high, rough, brown, yellow within, with black and whitish marking on the rugose bark and branchlets covered in minute hairs. Stipules lanceolate or oblong, acute or obtuse, glabrous. Leaves lanceolate to elliptic or ovate, usually about 10 cm. long and 3.5–4 cm. wide; acute, acuminate, or obtuse tip; base rounded to attenuate; coriaceous, glabrous above and often lustrous; glabrous beneath or puberulent or short-pilose, especially on the veins. Inflorescences in terminal panicles, many-flowered in rosy colored; hypanthium with short coarse hairs; reddish calyx, glabrous or nearly so, with triangular lobes; pink or red corolla, sericeous, the lobes ovate, acute, the corolla tube being about 1 cm. long. Fruit and oblong capsule, 1.5–2 cm. long, almost glabrous.

Macroscopically stem bark quilled or curved pieces, up to 30 cm or more long and from about 2 to 6 mm thick; outer surface dull brown-grey or grey frequently bearing lichens and mosses; usually rough, being marked with transverse fissures varying in type, according to the species and often numerous; longitudinally either furrowed or wrinkled and fissured, exfoliation of the outer bark occurring in some varieties; inner surface striated and varying in colour, from pale-

yellowish brown to deep reddish-brown; fracture short in the external layers and fibrous in the inner layers.

Microscopically the diagnostic characters of bark are thin walled cork cells; numerous isolated, yellowish, spindle-shaped, striated phloem fibres, upto 90 μ in diameter with conspicuous somewhat funnel shaped pits; small number of starch grain, about 6 to 10 μ in diameter from the parenchyma; parenchymatous idioblasts filled with microcrystals of calcium oxalate; very rare stone cells. The most important alkaloid is quinine.

Parts Used: Bark.

Composition:

***Mother Tincture* θ .**

Drug Strength 1/10

Active ingredient:

Cinchona Officinalis in moderatey coarse powder = 100 g

Excipients:

Purified Water = 200 ml

Strong Alcohol = 824 ml

To make one thousand milliliters of the mother tincture.

Prover Name: Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.

Spheres of Action: China predominantly acts on blood, cardiovascular system, gastro-intestinal tract, liver, spleen, respiratory tract, nervous system, brain and mind.

Pathogenesis: It acts upon the nervous system, producing a condition of general depression and exhaustion and it inhibits enzyme action, thus retarding tissue metabolism. It also destroys the oxygenating power of the blood; alters the quality and quantity of blood; initiates haemorrhage; affects the vegetative system involving liver and spleen, producing congestion, hyperemia and jaundice. Above all, it has got the power to fever of varying types, especially intermittent types.

Clinical: Anaemia, Abdominal disorder, Bilious attack, Catarrhal affection , Constipation, Diarrhoea, Dropsy, Dyspepsia, Deafness, Gall-stone, Colic, Haemorrhage, Headache, Intermittent fever, Jaundice, Labour, Liver complains, pain, Menstrual troubles, Rheumatism, Respiratory troubles, Spleen affection, Vertigo etc.

Constitution:

Physical make-up: Once robust, strong and healthy stout, swarthy person who has become weak, debilitated and exhausted by loss of vital fluids such as haemorrhage, diarrhea, suppuration, lactation, etc.

Temperament: Nervous temperament.

Relation with heat and cold: Chilly patient.

Miasm: Psora is the background.

Diathesis: Haemorrhagic diathesis.

Causation: Fluids, loss of.; Onanism; Chill; Anger; Coryza, suppressed; Tea.; Alcohol; Mercury.

Guiding Symptoms:

1. Ailments: from loss of vital fluids, especially haemorrhages, excessive lactation, diarrhoea, suppuration (Chin. s.); of malarial origin, with marked periodicity; return every other day.
2. After climacteric with profuse haemorrhages; acute diseases often result in dropsy.
3. Pains: drawing or tearing; in every joint, all the bones. Periosteum, as if strained, sore all over; obliged to move limbs frequently, as motion gives relief; renewed by contact, and then gradually increase to a great height.
4. Headache: as if the skull would burst; intense throbbing of head and carotids, face flushed; from occiput over whole head; sitting or lying, must stand or walk; after haemorrhage or sexual excesses.
5. Face pale, hippocratic; eyes sunken and surrounded by blue margins; pale, sickly expression as after excesses; toothache while nursing the child.
6. Excessive flatulence of stomach and bowels; fermentation, belching gives no relief (belching relieves, Carbo v.); after eating fruit (Puls.).
7. Colic: at a certain hour each day; periodical, from gall-stones (Card. m.); worse at night and after eating; better bending double (Coloc.).
8. Great debility, trembling, aversion to exercise; sensitive to touch, pain, to drafts of air; entire nervous system extremely sensitive.
9. Unrefreshing sleep or constant sopor; after 3 A.M., wakens early.
10. Haemorrhages: of mouth, nose, bowels or uterus; long continued; longing for sour things.
11. Disposition to haemorrhage from every orifice of the body, with ringing in ears, fainting, loss of sight, general coldness, sometimes convulsions (Fer., Phos.).
12. Pains are by slightest touch, but by hard pressure (Caps., Plumb.).
13. On hand icy cold, the other warm (Dig., Ipec., Puls.).
14. Intermittent fever; paroxysm anticipates from two to three hours each attack (Chin. s.); returns every seven or fourteen days; never at night; sweats profusely all over on being covered, or during sleep (Con.).

Particulars:

Mind: Apathetic, indifferent, disobedient, taciturn, despondent. Ideas crowd in mind; prevent sleep. Disposition to hurt other people's feelings. Sudden crying and tossing about.

Head: As if skull would burst. Sensation as if brain were balancing to and fro, and striking against skull, receiving great pain (Sulph; Sulph ac). Intense throbbing of head and carotids. Spasmodic headache in vertex, with subsequent pain, as if bruised in sides of head. Face flushed after haemorrhages, or sexual excesses, or loss of vital fluids. Relieved from pressure and warm room. Scalp sensitive; worse combing hair. Aches worse in open air, from temple to temple. Worse by contact, current of air, stepping. Dizzy when walking.

Eyes: Blue color around eyes. Hollow eyes. Yellowish sclerotica. Black specks, bright dazzling illusions; night blindness in anæmic retina. Spots before eyes. Photophobia. Distortion of eyeballs. Intermittent ciliary neuralgia. Pressure in eyes. Amaurosis; scalding lachrymation.

Ears: Ringing in ears. External ear sensitive to touch. Hearing sensitive to noise. Lobules red and swollen.

Nose: Checked catarrh. Easily bleeding from nose, especially on rising. Coryza, sneezing, watery discharge. Violent dry sneezing. Cold sweat about nose.

Face: Sallow complexion. Face bloated; red.

Mouth: Toothache; better pressing teeth firmly together, and by warmth. Tongue coated thick, dirty; tip burns, succeeded by ptialism. Bitter taste. Food tastes too salty.

Stomach: Tender, cold. Vomiting of undigested food. Slow digestion. Weight after eating. Ill effects of tea. Hungry without appetite. Flat taste. Darting pain crosswise in hypogastric region. Milk disagrees. Hungry longing for food, which lies undigested. Flatulence; belching of bitter fluid or regurgitation of food gives no relief; worse eating fruit. Hiccough. Bloatedness better by movement.

Abdomen: Much flatulent colic; better bending double. Tympanitic abdomen. Pain in right hypochondrium. Gall-stone colic (*Triumfetta semitriloba*). Liver and spleen swollen and enlarged. Jaundice. Internal coldness of stomach and abdomen. Gastro-duodenal catarrh.

Stool: Undigested, frothy, yellow; painless; worse at night, after meals, during hot weather, from fruit, milk, beer. Very weakening, with much flatulence. Difficult even when soft (Alum; Plat).

Male: Excited lascivious fancy. Frequent emissions, followed by great weakness. Orchitis.

Female: Menses too early. Dark clots and abdominal distention. Profuse menses with pain. Desire too strong. Bloody leucorrhoea. Seems to take the place of the usual menstrual discharge. Painful heaviness in pelvis.

Respiratory: Influenza, with debility. Cannot breathe with head low. Labored, slow respiration; constant choking. Suffocative catarrh; rattling in chest; violent, hacking cough after every meal. Haemorrhage from lungs. Dyspnoea, sharp pain in left lung. Asthma; worse damp weather.

Heart: Irregular with weak rapid beats followed by strong, hard beats. Suffocative attacks, syncope; anaemia and dropsy.

Back: Sharp pains across kidneys, worse movement and at night. Knife-like pains around back.

Extremities: Pains in limbs and joints, as if sprained; worse, slight touch; hard pressure relieves. Sensation as of a string around limb. Joints swollen; very sensitive, with dread or open air. Great debility, trembling, with numb sensation. Averse to exercise; sensitive to touch. Weariness of joints; worse, mornings and when sitting.

Skin: Extreme sensitiveness to touch, but hard pressure relieves. Coldness; much sweat. One hand ice cold, the other warm. Anasarca (Ars; Apis). Dermatitis; erysipelas. Indurated glands; scrofulous ulcers and caries.

Sleep: Drowsiness. Unrefreshing or constant stupor. Wakens early. Protracted sleeplessness. Anxious, frightful dreams with confused consciousness on waking, so that the dream cannot be rid of and fear of dream remains. Snoring, especially with children.

Fever: Intermittent, paroxysms anticipate; return every week. All stages well marked. Chill generally in forenoon, commencing in breast; thirst before chill, and little and often. Debilitating night-sweats. Free perspiration caused by every little exertion, especially on single parts. Hay fever, watery coryza, pain in temples.

General Modalities:

Worse: Slightest touch. Draught of air; every other day; loss of vital fluids; at night; after eating; bending over.

Better: Bending double; hard pressure; open air; warmth.

Relationship: Botanical, Coffea, Ipec., Galeum, Mitchella.

Antidoted by: Ferr., Arn., Ars., Nat. m., Carb. v., Aran. d., Eup. perf., Ipec., Merc., Nux, Puls., Rhus, Sep., Sul., Ver.

Antidote to: Ars., Calc., Cham., Coff., Fer., Hell., Iod., Merc., Sul., Ver. Is useful in bad effects of tea-drinking and after abuse of chamomile tea (uterine hæmorrhage).

Compatible: Calc. phos., Fer.

Incompatible: After Dig., Selen.

Complementary: Fer.

Compare: Ars. (prostration without pain, black stools); Carb. v. (flatulence, diarrhoea, great weakness; Chi. stool is caused by every attempt to eat and drink); Coloc. (beer intoxicates easily); Cedr., Caps., Cupr. acet. (black, thin stools); Pso. (rapid exhaustion following acute diseases; Pso. has despair of recovery); Puls. (bitter taste. < Eating at night. As if food lying in œsophagus); Caust. (Menière's disease); Salic. ac. (Menière's disease); Phos. ac. (lientery; seminal emissions; diarrhoea—but this does not exhaust with Phos. ac.); Merc. (chronic salivation); Stram. (black stools); Sul. and Sul. ac. (sensation as if brain were balancing to and fro and striking against skull, occasioning the pains). In aversion to be looked at (Ant. c., Cham., Stram.); < from brandy (Ars., Carb. v., Nux); diarrhoea immediately after eating (Ars., Alo., Lyc., Pod., Staph., Tromb. –Fer. whilst eating); hepatitis with great tenderness (Aco., Ars., Lyc., Merc.); hunger after meals with empty feeling (Lauro., Calc.).

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

Side effects: Generally shows no side effects. But large amounts, cinchona is **UNSAFE**.

Contraindication: There is no known contraindication.

Use in Pregnancy and breast-feeding: 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:

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7. Encyclopedia of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia by Dr. P.N. Varma & Dr. Indu Vaid.