

SURVIVAL

A close-up photograph of a green snake's head, showing its eyes, nostrils, and open mouth with a forked tongue. The snake is positioned in the upper half of the frame. In the lower right, a bird's wing with brown and white feathers is visible, partially overlapping the snake's body. The background is a blurred green, suggesting a natural habitat.

the REPTILE
volume 2

Rajan Sankaran with Meghna Shah

SURVIVAL

the Reptile

Rajan Sankaran with Meghna Shah

Volume-I



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Preface

I wish to emphasize that the sensation method is not different from classical homoeopathy. I continue to hold my strong background and training in classical homoeopathy as the foundation of my practice, research, and writings. The repertory and materia medica continue to be the cornerstone of my practice and my work. All my research and innovations aim to deepen and widen the scope of classical homoeopathy and are not meant in any way to negate, bypass or replace it. In every one of my books I have repeatedly emphasized this point and have cautioned my students, cautioned the readers, not to veer from our established foundations.

What, then, is the originality of my work? First of all what is the intention? The intention has always been to make our task of remedy selection simpler, more consistent, more definite and more predictable. The method that I used was to see if there are patterns in the materia medica that could be identified and utilized.

The idea was to find patterns within the various kingdoms. Even a cursory look at the materia medica's remedies in terms of plant, animal and mineral—looking for patterns—begins to vibrate with something interesting.

For example, if we consider the plant remedies like *Ignatia*, *Pulsatilla* and *Staphysagria*—what can we say that the people who need them have in common? We can say that they are extremely sensitive people, extremely reactive people.

If we look at three well-known mineral remedies—let's say *Natrum muriaticum*, *Argentum nitricum* and *Baryta carbonicum*—what do we see common? We see that these remedies perceive a problem in relationships, performance and capability. We see that they have as their main issue not the sensitivity and reactivity of the plant remedies but, rather, the feeling that something is lacking or lost.

If we look at three animal remedies—let's say *Lachesis*, *Lac caninum* and *Apis mellifica*—what do we see in common? We see issues of jealousy, competition and hierarchy.

These three patterns—sensitivity, survival and structure—correspond to what we observe in nature in plants, animals and minerals, respectively. The plants and, by extension, plant remedies have to do with sensitivity and adaptability. Minerals and mineral remedies have to do with the formation and breaking

of structure. Animals and thus the remedies made from them have to do with competition and survival.

This was the beginning of my study of the kingdoms. This kingdom approach to homoeopathy figures out how the patterns observed within a group of remedies can be applied in the clinical setting to find a patient's remedy.

Though the understanding of disease will always advance, my approach to the patient and the disease—the homoeopathic method as practiced by me—actually integrates new ideas quite seamlessly, for knowledge of remedy and of kingdom, of symptoms and of systems, complement each other and take the homoeopath to a point where there is no difference.

When we study *Lachesis* from our materia medica and we read such symptoms as sensitivity around the throat, tongue darting in and out, extrasensory perception, sensitivity to extremes of heat and cold, etc., are we not hearing the voice of the snake? The knowledge of *Lachesis* from our materia medica helps us to understand snakes; similarly an understanding of snakes helps us see *Lachesis* more clearly and we can see it as a part of a group of reptiles. By considering a remedy source as a member of a related group, we are naturally led to consider the nuances that differentiate the group's members, and this allows a more intricate discrimination of related, close remedies. Thus, the possibility for a closer prescription increases, and our remedy selection is much more exact.

This applies in equal measure to plant families and the study of the rows and columns of the periodic table of the mineral kingdom. The study of individual remedies gives us the idea of the whole group to which they belong and this understanding does enhance, broaden and deepen our understanding of other remedies of the group, both well-known and lesser known. This exponentially expands the scope of remedy choice, understanding and selection.

With these advancements we are now able to deliver a truly homoeopathic cure to many more than we could earlier. I see this work as a deepening and widening of traditional homeopathy and not as a replacement to it. A firm foundation in the Repertory, the Materia Medica and the Organon of Medicine is at the basis of this. Without such a foundation a new student can be carried away. With such a foundation, he will find this work very useful. The cases in this volume represent the way I work, using the new with the old and seeing them as one.

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Mumbai, India
2010

We know that all reptiles have underlying feelings of needing to remain concealed, being at a disadvantage, hidden violence, sudden change of form, attacking from a hidden position, deception, violence, etc. Each order will have different shades or gradations of these themes. There could be a very strong prominence of one feature, where it completely stands out. For example in testudines the feeling of being defenceless and weak is very strong and then we see the need to retract inside their protective shell. This will differentiate them from snakes, crocodiles and lizards. Snakes, being limbless, also feel at a disadvantage, but they have their own characteristic ways of attack/defense i.e. by being venomous or by constriction. Lizards are more adept in being agile, alert and to stun their predator by suddenly changing their behavior by changing color or amputating their tail (autotomy), etc.; and crocodiles are specialised by their sudden burst of violent activity from a completely silent position.

Thereby, we can understand that reptiles have evolved into an impressive spectrum of shapes and sizes: from the shell-covered turtles and tortoises, to the long, sinuous snakes, to the swiftly moving lizards, to the heavy bodied crocodiles; along with a wide variety of strategies to survive. Here we can summarise their characteristics:

Tortoises, turtles and terrapins (Testudines)	Crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials (Croodylia)	Snakes, lizards and amphisbaenians (Squamata)	Tuataras (Sphenodontida/Rhynchocephalia)
<p>About 313 species.</p> <p>Scales modified into a shell</p> <p>Four legs.</p> <p>They have no teeth; instead have a horny beak which covers their jaw.</p>	<p>About 23 species.</p> <p>Large bodies with bony, plate-like armor in the skin along their backs.</p> <p>Heavy, powerful, and expandable jaws, lined with pointed teeth capable of killing.</p>	<p>About 5079 species of lizards, 168 amphisbaenians and 2700 species of snakes.</p> <p>Skin covered with platelike, tubercular, or flat scales that can be overlapping or juxtaposed.</p>	<p>Two species found on island off coast of New Zealand.</p> <p>More active in cooler temperatures than other reptiles.</p> <p>Come out from their burrows at night to feed on insects and other small animals.</p>

Tortoises, turtles and terrapins (Testudines)	Crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials (Crocodylia)	Snakes, lizards and amphisbaenians (Squamata)	Tuataras (Sphenodontida/Rhynchocephalia)
<p>Turtles live near or under water. They only come onto the land to lay eggs and to the surface of the water to breathe. While tortoises (sometimes called land turtles) live on land.</p> <p>The land-based tortoises pull their head, legs and tail into the shell for protection.</p> <p>Whereas the aquatic turtles, with their compromised ability to pull inside the shell, either snap or slide into the water, or swim away swiftly.</p> <p>No parental care of young.</p> <p>Highly sexual.</p>	<p>Long, powerful tails and short legs.</p> <p>A unique body form that allows them to be suspended in water – partly hidden and submerged, except for their eyes and nostrils which are exposed.</p> <p>Nest attendance and parental care of young is commonly seen.</p> <p>Territoriality. Stronger male dominates and fights aggressively for dominance and mating rights.</p> <p>Terrifying ability to explode into sudden violent activity – completely unexpected in such an otherwise lethargic-seeming creature. Lie-in-wait, ambush predators.</p>	<p>Live in habitats around the globe that are diverse in terms of both climate and terrain.</p> <p>Easy mobility and flexibility of jaw.</p> <p>Snakes and few lizards have a forked or notched tongue.</p> <p>Snakes:</p> <p>Snakes are limbless, though some have remnants of tiny legs near their tails. No eyelids or ear openings.</p> <p>They have an immovable covering of transparent scales which protects the eyes.</p> <p>Active foraging or camouflage and ambush attack.</p> <p>Cannot tear, they can only bite or constrict. Snakes swallow prey whole, headfirst, and then retreat to a safe place to digest the meal</p>	<p>Species have dwindled to two, possibly due to losing competition with true lizards during later Mesozoic era and onwards.</p> <p>Active at night; spend days in burrow or basking at burrow entrance.</p>

Tortoises, turtles and terrapins (Testudines)	Crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials (Crocodylia)	Snakes, lizards and amphisbaenians (Squamata)	Tuataras (Sphenodontida/Rhynchocephalia)
	<p>Hold prey underwater until it drowns, then drag it away to eat by tearing off large pieces by rolling it in what is called the crocodile "death roll".</p>	<p>slowly. Some snakes can dislocate jaws to swallow prey larger than they themselves are. Most dangerous are the venomous and constrictor. Strikes are fast and accurate.</p> <p><u>Lizards:</u></p> <p>Most lizards have four legs, while some are limbless. Stun their prey, shake vigorously, bite and tear. Ability to catch fast-moving prey. Fast-moving (most species) and agile. Characteristics of locomotion-ability to cling to vertical surfaces. Communication through highly stereotyped behaviors - using colors (e.g., camouflage or enhancing colors) and various body morphology (e.g., tail autotomy to</p>	

Tortoises, turtles and terrapins (Testudines)	Crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials (Crocodylia)	Snakes, lizards and amphisbaenians (Squamata)	Tuataras (Sphenodontida/Rhynchocephalia)
		<p>distract an onlooker's attention, enlarging throat flaps to bluff or appear bigger than they are, etc). These visual signals include aggression between rival males and courtship rituals between the sexes.</p> <p><u>Amphisbaenians:</u> They resemble the worms, with no limbs in most species or very small front legs, but have annular scales. Inhabit underground tunnels and burrows. They have specialized means for underground hearing. Tears off chunks of flesh from prey by spinning body while gripping with mouth.</p> <p>Can move in both directions.</p>	

(Note: Number of species (except snakes) according to J. Craig Venter Institute's reptile database and snakes number according to David Attenborough's *Wildlife Specials - Serpent*.)

List of Homoeopathic Reptile Remedies

() - Homoeopathic abbreviations

[] - Common names

Snakes

Agkistrodon contortrix or *Cenchrus contortrix* (Cench.) [Southern copperhead]

Agkistrodon piscivorus [cottonmouth, water moccasin]

Atropoides nummifer olmec [jumping pitviper]

Bitis arietans (Biti-a.) [puff adder, Clotho arietans]

Bitis caudalis [horned adder]

Bitis gabonica rhinoceros [gaboon viper, butterfly adder]

Bitis nasicornis [rhinoceros viper]

Boa constrictor [common boa; sometimes called red-tailed boa]

Boa constrictor adipis [adipis=fat] [fat of common boa]

Bothrops atrox (Both-a.) [common lancehead, fer-de-lance]

Bothrops columbiensis or *Bothrops colombiensis* [Southern American snake]

Bothrops jararaca [Jararaca]

Bothrops lanceolatus (Both-l.) [Martinique lancehead]

Bungarus caeruleus (Bung-c.) [Common krait, Indian krait]

Bungarus fasciatus (Bung-f.) [Banded krait]

Cerastes cerastes [desert viper, Sahara horned viper]

Crotalus cascavella or *Crotalus durissus* (Crot-c.) [Neotropical rattlesnake, South American rattlesnake]

Crotalus crotalus atrox [Western diamondback rattlesnake]

Crotalus horridus (Crot-h.) [Timber rattlesnake]

Crotalus viridis viridis or *Crotalus viridis viridis* [western rattlesnake, Prairie rattlesnake]

Cyclagras gigas or *Hydrodynastes gigas* [false water cobra]

Daboia russelli (Dab-r.) [Russell's viper]

Daboia russelli siamensis or *Vipera russelli siamensis* [Eastern russell's viper]

Deinagkistrodon acutus [sharp-nosed viper, snorkel viper, hundred pacer]
Dendroaspis polylepis (Dend-p.) [black mamba]
Dendroaspis viridis [Western green mamba]
Elaphe guttata [corn snake, rat snake]
Elaps corallinus or *Micrurus corallinus* (Elaps) [coral snakes]
Eunectes notaeus [yellow anaconda]
Hemachatus haemachatus [Rinkhals, ring-necked spitting cobra]
Hydrophis cyanocinctus (Hydro-c.) [sea snake]
Lachesis muta (Lach.) [South American bushmaster, Surucucu, Verrugosa]
Lampropeltis getula californiae [California king snake]
Lampropeltis triangulum [milk snake]
Laticauda colubrina [banded sea krait]
Macrovipera lebetina [blunt-nosed viper, Lebetine viper, Levant viper]
Morelia spilota variegata [Carpet python, North-west carpet python]
Morelia viridis [Green tree python]
Naja annulifera anchietae or *Naja anchietae* (Naja-a.) [Banded cobra, Anchieta's cobra]
Naja haje [Egyptian cobra, Aspis]
Naja kaouthia or *Naja naja kaouthia* [Monocled cobra]
Naja mossambica pallida or *Naja pallida* [Mozambique spitting cobra]
Naja nigricollis [black-necked cobra, spitting cobra]
Naja nivea (Naja-n.) [Cape cobra]
Naja tripudians or *Naja naja* (Naja) [Indian cobra, spectacled cobra]
Natrix natrix [grass snake]
Notechis scutatus (Note-s.) [black tiger snake]
Ophiophagus hannah [King cobra]
Oxyuranus microlepidotus (Oxyu-m.) [inland taipan]
Oxyuranus scutellatus canni (Oxyu-s.) [Taipan]
Python molurus or Python (Diva) [Indian python, Indian rock python]

Python regius (Pyth.) [Royal python, Ball python]
Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis [common garter snake, garden snake]
Trimeresurus flavoviridis [Habu snake]
Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus [brown spotted viper]
Trimeresurus puniceus [flat-nosed pitviper]
Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus [mangrove pit viper, shore pitviper,
Cryptelytrops purpureomaculatus]
Trimeresurus stejnegeri [Chinese tree viper]
Trimeresurus wagleri (Trim.) [Wagler's pit viper, *Tropidolaemus wagleri*]
Vipera ammodyles meridionalis [Eastern sand viper]
Vipera aspis (Vip-a.) [aspis, asp adder, European asp]
Vipera berus (Vip.) [adder, European adder, *Vipera torva*]
Vipera redi (Vip-r.) [Italian viper]
Vipera xanthina [rock viper, coastal viper, Ottoman viper, Bornmueller's viper]

Tortoises and turtles

Chrysemys scripta elegans or *Trachemys scripta elegans* [red-eared slider]
Eretmochelys imbricata [hawksbill sea turtle]
Geochelone sulcata [African spurred tortoise]
Lepidochelys olivacea [olive ridley sea turtle]
Ovum Chelydra serpentina [egg of common snapping turtle]
Terrapene carolina [box turtle]
Testudo hermanni [shell of Hermann's tortoise]
Testudo hermanni [blood of Hermann's tortoise]

Crocodiles and alligators

Alligator mississippiensis (Alli-m.) [American alligator, Mississippi alligator]
Crocodylus acutus [American crocodile]
Crocodylus niloticus [Nile crocodile]
Crocodylus novaeguineae [New Guinea crocodile]

Lizards

Anguis fragilis [Slow worm]

Calotes versicolor [Bloodsucker]

Chamaeleo zeylanicus or Chamaeleon (Divya) [Indian chameleon]

Chlamydosaurus kingii [Frimled neck lizard]

Furcifer oustaleti [Oustalet's chameleon, Malagasy giant chameleon]

Heloderma horridum [Mexican beaded lizard]

Heloderma suspectum (Helo.) [Gila monster]

Iguana iguana [Green iguana]

Varanus komodoensis [Komodo dragon, Monitor lizard]

Lacerta agilis (Lacer.) [Sand lizard, Green lizard]

Lacerta vivipara [Common lizard]

Lizard (Divya) [species unidentified]

Pogona vitticeps [Central bearded dragon]

Sceloporus occidentalis [Western fence lizard, Blue-bellies]

Amphisbaenians

Amphisbaena alba [white-bellied worm lizard]

Amphisbaena vermicularis (Amph.)

Dinosaurs

Maiasaura lapidea (Maia-l.) [fossilized *Maiasaura peeblesorum*]

Tyrannosaurus rex (T-rex.) [fossilized *Tyrannosaurus rex*]

Comparing mammals and snakes

Mammals	Snakes
Mammals are warm-blooded, so they can regulate their body temperature. Seen, and less hidden. Great burst of speed and continuous movement.	Snakes are cold-blooded, hence need to come out and bask in the sun to obtain body heat; and then they retreat back into their hiding modes. Hidden, to remain invisible, camouflage versus coming into light, in the open. Capable of short burst of sudden and intense activity.
Live in a herd; hierarchy or issues of dominance and territoriality within a group; ability for a face-to-face fight; to strong attacks/dominates the weak and the weak submits. Open challenge 'me versus you'.	Solitary (except the rattle snakes, Agkistrodon and <i>Vipera berus</i> which exhibit group behavior); deceit, planning and plotting; feeling defenselessness hence first form of defense is to escape; modus operandi is to attack the strong and the weak Two sides, one seen and the other hidden: good and evil
Exhibit maternal affection.	Generally lack maternal affection; except few like the python snake.
Senses: Rely mainly on the senses of sight and hearing.	Rely mainly on the senses of smell, touch and vibration. The pit vipers with their special heat-sensors 'pit-organs' can detect slightest thermal changes.
Limbs, ability to walk, climb; fluid facial expression, moving eyes.	Limbless, serpentine movement; flickering tongue, hypnotic stare.
Bite, tear.	Poison, constrict.
Characteristic: Tenderness of mammae before menses, issues with lactation.	Characteristic: Symptoms of poisoning: neurotoxic or hemorrhagic. Sensitivity of throat; choking, strangulation.

Comparing spiders and snakes

Feature	Spiders	Snakes
Scheming	Trick, impulsive, sudden & temporary.	Conspiracy, planning, plotting in the act of revenge & suspicious.
Activity	Constant activity. Restlessness, activity, occupation, industrious, fidgety, constant movement, busy; here they have somewhat similarity to insects.	Short burst of intense activity.
Life span	Much shorter life span. Life is short and there is not much time. Hence action has to be done now. Shorter attention span. Spiders and even insects do not have a long term vision. Like thieves, fly by night operators; means you make the money today and scoot, you get out, escape before you are caught. You do a little trick and get out. Conman, trickersters with short term goals.	Much longer life span. They do long term planning and revenge. Long term planning because for the snakes life is not short. Here is where conspiracy, planning and plotting comes. Here such a long term planning in snakes resemble the heavy metals, like Mercury and Aurum like Naja or Lachesis. When we imagine very high positioned politicians we can think of only heavy metals or snakes. Only they can last, they can wait, strategise. Even if they lose today they are planning and use all the cunning, deceit and political scheming to come back again because of their planning and long term vision.
Attack	Trick and trap, but not always hidden. Trap in a web.	Hidden, camouflage and kill/fatal. Poison and constriction.
Sexuality	Shameless (like insects).	Seductive, sexuality more hidden and subtle.
Miasm	Tubercular (trap, and come out of trap).	Syphilitic (kill, fatal).

In the following section we will study the following remedies within the families as given below:

Family : Colubridae	Family : Boidae	Family : Elapidae	Family : Viperidae
Remedies: <i>Cyclagras gigas</i> or <i>Hydrodynastes gigas</i> [false water cobra] <i>Elaphe guttata</i> [corn snake, rat snake] <i>Lampropeltis getula californiae</i> [California king snake] <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> [milk snake] <i>Natrix natrix</i> [grass snake] <i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i> [common garter snake, garden snake]	Subfamily: Boinae Remedies: <i>Boa constrictor adipis</i> [adipis=fat] [fat of common boa] <i>Eunectes notaeus</i> [anaconda] Subfamily: Pythoninae Remedies: <i>Morelia spilota variegata</i> [Carpet python, North-west carpet python] <i>Morelia viridis</i> [Green tree python] <i>Python regius</i> (Pyth.) [Royal python, Ball python] <i>Python molurus</i> or Python (Divya) [Indian python, Indian rock python]	Remedies : <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> (Bung-c.) [Common krait, Indian krait] <i>Bungarus fasciatus</i> (Bung-f.) [Banded krait] <i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i> (Dend-p.) [black mamba] <i>Dendroaspis viridis</i> [Western green mamba] <i>Elaps corallinus</i> or <i>Micrurus corallinus</i> (Elaps) [coral snakes] <i>Hemachatus haemachatus</i> [Rinkhals, ring-necked spitting cobra] <i>Hydrophis cyanocinctus</i> (Hydro-c.) [sea snake] <i>Laticauda colubrina</i> [banded sea krait] <i>Naja annulifera anchietae</i> or <i>Naja anchietae</i> (Naja-a.) [Banded cobra, Anchieta's cobra] <i>Naja haje</i> [Egyptian cobra, Aspis] <i>Naja kaouthia</i> or <i>Naja naja kaouthia</i> [Monocled cobra] <i>Naja mossambica pallida</i> or <i>Naja pallida</i> [Mozambique spitting cobra] <i>Naja nigricollis</i> [black-necked cobra, spitting cobra] <i>Naja nivea</i> (Naja-n.) [Cape cobra] <i>Naja tripudians</i> or <i>Naja naja</i> (Naja) [Indian cobra, spectacled cobra] <i>Notechis scutatus</i> (Note-s.) [black tiger snake] <i>Ophiophagus hannah</i> [King cobra] <i>Oxyuranus microlepidotus</i> (Oxyu-m.) [inland taipan] <i>Oxyuranus scutellatus canni</i> (Oxyu-s.) [Taipan]	Subfamily: Crotalinae Remedies: <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i> or <i>Cenchrus contortrix</i> (Cench.) [Southern copperhead] <i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i> [cottonmouth, water moccasin] <i>Atropoides nummifer olmec</i> [jumping pitviper] <i>Bothrops atrox</i> (Both-a.) [common lancehead] <i>Bothrops columbiensis</i> or <i>Bothrops colombiensis</i> [Southern American snake] <i>Bothrops jararaca</i> [Jararaca] <i>Bothrops lanceolatus</i> (Both-l.) [Martinique lancehead, fer-de-lance] <i>Crotalus crotalus atrox</i> [Western diamondback rattlesnake] <i>Crotalus cascavella</i> or <i>Crotalus durissus</i> (Crot-c.) [Neotropical rattlesnake, South American rattlesnake] <i>Crotalus horridus</i> (Crot-h.) [Timber rattlesnake] <i>Crotalus viridis viridis</i> or <i>Crotalus viridis viridis</i> [western rattlesnake, Prairie rattlesnake] <i>Deinagkistrodon acutus</i> [sharp-nosed viper, snorkel viper, hundred pacer] <i>Lachesis muta</i> (Lach.) [South American bushmaster, Surucucu, Verrugosa] <i>Trimeresurus flavoviridis</i> [Habu snake] <i>Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus</i> [brown spotted viper] <i>Trimeresurus puniceus</i> [flat-nosed pitviper] <i>Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus</i> [mangrove pit viper, shore pitviper, Cryptelytrops purpureomaculatus] <i>Trimeresurus stejnegeri</i> [Chinese tree viper] <i>Trimeresurus wagleri</i> (Trim.) [Wagler's pitviper, Tropidolaemus wagleri] Subfamily: Viperinae Remedies: <i>Bitis arietans</i> (Biti-a.) [puff adder, Clotho arietans] <i>Bitis caudalis</i> [horned adder] <i>Bitis gabonica rhinoceros</i> [gaboon viper, butterfly adder] <i>Bitis nasicornis</i> [rhinoceros viper] <i>Cerastes cerastes</i> [desert viper, Sahara horned viper] <i>Daboia russelli</i> (Dab-r.) [Russell's viper] <i>Macrovipera lebetina</i> [blunt-nosed viper, Lebetine viper, Levant viper] <i>Vipera ammodyles meridionalis</i> [Eastern sand viper] <i>Vipera aspis</i> (Vip-a.) [aspis, asp adder, European asp] <i>Vipera berus</i> (Vip.) [adder, European adder, Vipera torva] <i>Vipera redi</i> (Vip-r.) [Italian viper] <i>Vipera xanthina</i> [rock viper, coastal viper, Ottoman viper, Bornmueller's viper]