

328. *SPIGELIA MARILANDICA* L. (LOGANIACEAE) — Pinkroot

Evergreen herb with an attractive wild flower; source of a dangerous drug. Used by Amerindians as a dangerous anthelmintic. Listed in *Merck Index*²⁰ as a vermifuge. In Appalachia, a tea made from the leaves is used to aid digestion. Root was used in old-fashioned malaria remedies.¹⁸ Once used, also, for children's fever, not necessarily associated with worms. If used as a children's vermifuge, it should be followed by a saline aperient. Once recommended for convulsions. Steinmetz²⁷ lists the herb as cardiac, narcotic, sedative, soporific, tonic, toxic, and vermifuge. Used homeopathically for mania and strabismus.

Spigeline, tannin, resin, bitter principle, volatile oil, wax, fat, mucilage, albumen, myricin, and lignin are recorded.²

Toxicity — Has been used for poisoning humans, the toxic effects similar to those of strychnine.¹¹ Effects of spigeline are rather like those of coniine, lobeline, and nicotine. If not followed by a saline aperient, even proper doses may lead to disturbed vision (dimness), dizziness, muscular spasms, twitching eyelids, dilated pupils, facial spasms, and increased heart activity. In larger doses, circulation and respiration are depressed and muscular power diminished; there have been fatalities in children.^{2 56}