

lant, vermifuge, and vulnerary.³² Said to be used in bladder troubles, bronchitis, catarrh, consumption, diarrhea, dysentery, dysmenorrhea, enuresis, hemoptysis, hemorrhage, hysteria, insomnia, jaundice, nervous depression, neurasthenia, neuralgia, oliguria, phthisis, piles, rabies, sciatica, and worms. Used for chronic catarrh of the bowels, lungs, or urinary passages. Russians recommend it for bronchial asthma. An aqueous herb extract has been applied as a hair restorer. For bedwetting, children were once given the tea at bedtime. Oils in which the plant has been boiled are applied externally for gout and rheumatism. *Oleum hyperici*, an infusion of the fresh flowers in olive oil, is applied externally to sores, ulcers, and wounds. Though internally it could cause photosensitization, it is said to be valued externally as a sunburn oil. *Oleum hyperici* has been recommended as a cosmetic skin tightener. Homeopaths prescribe the tincture for adenitis, asthma, bites, breast ailments, brain concussion, bruise, bunion, compound fracture, corn, coxalgia, diarrhea, gunshot wounds, headache, hemorrhoids, hydrophobia, hypersensitivity, impotence, labor, mental ailments, neuralgia, panaritium, paralysis, rheumatism, scars, sciatica, spastic paralysis, spinal concussion, spinal irritation, stiff neck, tetanus ulcerations, whooping cough, and wounds.³⁰

Hypericin yields are 0.0095 to 0.466%. Flowers may contain as much as 2400 mg/kg. Stems contain 3.8% tannin, leaves 12.4%, flowers 16.2%, and whole herb 8.2 to 9.3%. Dry seeds contain 18.1 to 20.7% protein, 32.8 to 33.2% fat.²¹ Seeds also contain 39.5 mg vitamin C, 16.5 mg carotene, 12.1 g tannin, 0.33 g volatile oil per 100 g, as well as little saponin and the glucoside hyperin. The herb itself is said to contain choline, rutin, glucosides, tannin, phobaphene, pectin, beta-sitosterol, alkaloids, a fixed oil in addition to the volatile oil, 0.13% vitamin C, up to 13 mg/100 g vitamin A, and various pigments. The fixed oil contains glycerides of stearic, palmitic, and myristic acids, ceryl alcohol, phytosterol, and two hydrocarbons. The volatile oil contains pinene, cineol, myrcene, cadinene, gurjunene, hypericin, and esters of isovalerianic acid. Flowers contain the carotenoids lutein, violaxanthin, luteoxanthin, cistrollixanthin, and trollichrome.³³

Toxicity — In sheep, may cause shedding of wool, swelling of the face, generalized skin irritation, loss of appetite, and sometimes loss of eyesight. Cattle may be more susceptible than sheep to the toxicity. Mice show severe, even fatal, photodynamic effects following doses of 0.2 to 0.5 mg. Illustrations of animals poisoned by photosensitization³ are quite dramatic. Perhaps hypericin should be investigated in the treatment of psoriasis, like some of the psoralens.