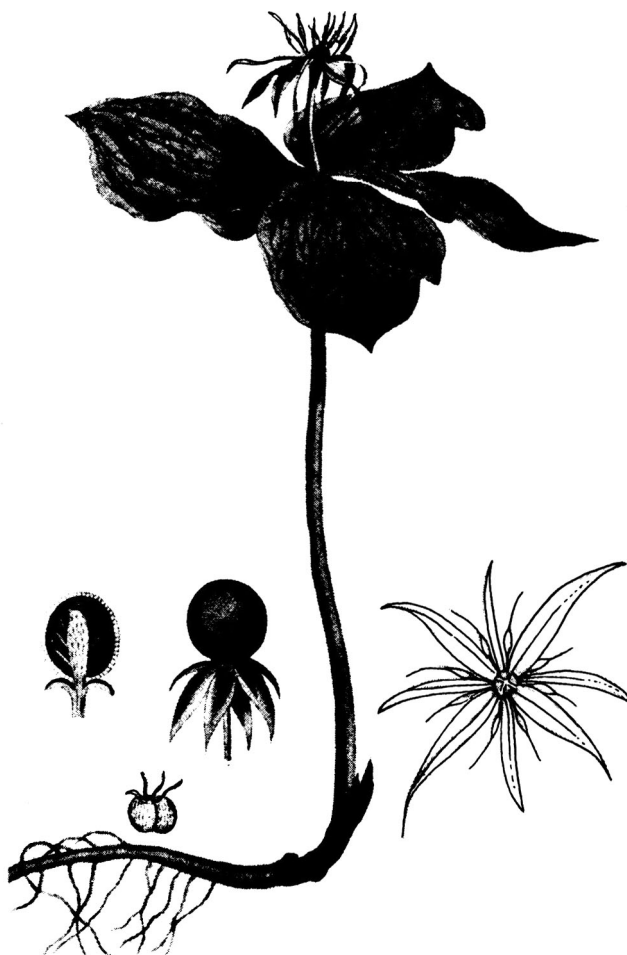


252. *PARIS QUADRIFOLIA* L. (TRILLIACEAE) — Herb Paris

Much used in traditional medicine back in the old days, more recently largely restricted to homeopathy. "It has been used as an aphrodisiac — the seeds and berries have something of the nature of opium."<sup>2</sup> Herb paris (tincture of fresh plant) is used as an antidote to arsenic and mercurial sublimate.<sup>2</sup>

Reported to be emetic, narcotic, poison, purgative, herb paris is a folk remedy for bronchitis, colic, cough, cramps, gout, insanity, neuralgia, palpitations, rabies, rheumatism, sores, spasms, tumors, and ulcers.<sup>2,32,33</sup> The seeds and plant juice are mixed to apply to inflammations and tumors. Russians prescribe the leaves for madness. The berry juice is used as a collyrium.<sup>2</sup> Used homeopathically for headache, neuralgia, and vertigo.<sup>33</sup>

Contains a glucoside called paradin which hydrolyzes to glucose and paridol (a sapogenin) and the saponin paristyphnine, L-asparagine, citric acid, and pectin.<sup>33</sup>

**Toxicity** — "Narcotic, in large doses producing colic, nausea, vomiting, tenesmus, headache, vertigo, delirium, convulsions, restlessness, profuse sweating, and dry throat. The drug should be used with great caution; overdoses have proven fatal to children and poultry."<sup>2</sup>

**To the physician** — *Hager's Handbook*<sup>33</sup> suggests mucilaginous antispasmodics for the gastroenteritis, sedatives or hypnotics for cramps and restlessness, maintenance of the circulatory and respiratory systems.<sup>33</sup>