

316. *SCOPOLIA CARNIOLICA* Jacq. (SOLANACEAE) — Scopolia

Used in America for years in manufacturing “belladonna” plasters. In 1900, scopolamine and morphine were mixed to produce an anesthesia, the “Twilight Sleep”, used alone or before chloroform or ether. This caused loss of memory, including that of pain (but mortality was high).²¹ Has been used as a sleep inducer for children.³³

Reported to be a cerebral sedative useful as a folk remedy for colic, cramps, drug addiction, epilepsy, gout, hysteria, insomnia, nymphomania, paralysis, rheumatism.^{32,33} Hyoscyine predominates along with scopolamine, often yielding more total alkaloid than belladonna. The total alkaloid content of the rhizome is 0.3 to 0.8% (highest during flowering and fruiting), up to 0.4% L-hyoscyamine, to 0.03% atropine, and traces of scopolamine, scopine, tropine, cuscohygrine, pseudotropine, 3- α -tigloyloxytropine, scopoline, scopoletine, chlorogenic acids. Leaves contain chlorogenic- and caffeic-acid, rutin, and aesculetin.³³

Toxicity — Narcotic;² overdoses of scopolamine have proved fatal. Intoxication may cause disorientation and delirium similar to atropine poisoning, with or without somnolence, mydriasis, accelerated pulse rate, dry mouth, laryngeal paralysis. Where there is difficult breathing strychnine may be used. It is better not to give drugs for the relief of the delirium, but, if very active, small doses of paraldehyde and bromides may be employed.