Homeopathic drugs complementary, antidotal and inimical to *Nux vomica* produce stronger anti-alcoholic effect on toads than *Nux vomica*.

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Background: In homeopathy some drugs are known to act as complementary, antidotal or inimical to a particular drug. Practitioners can follow this rule when they apply one drug following another. Potentized *Nux vomica* can reduce acute hypnotic effect of alcohol on toads. *Sulphur* and *Sepia* are reported to be complementary to *Nux-vom*, while *Coffea cruda* and *Zincum met* are antidotal and inimical to *Nux*, respectively. The four drugs have been tested on the toad model to find out their actual therapeutic relationship with *Nux vom*. **Objective:** To verify the complementary effect of *Sulphur* and *Sepia*, antidotal effect of *Coffea* and inimical effect of *Zincum* in relation to *Nux vom* in the toad model. **Methods:** Five batches of toads, each comprising 20 individuals, were treated by partial immersion in a drug diluted with distilled water 1:500 for 20 min. The control consisted of 90% ethanol diluted with distilled water 1:500. The drugs were *Nux vom* 200 CH, *Sulphur* 200 CH, *Sepia* 200 CH, *Coffea* 200 CH and *Zincum* 200 CH. Toads of each batch were separately exposed to 260 mM ethanol solution and tested every 10 min to see if they had lost their righting reflex (RR). For this, each toad was laid on its dorsal surface. If it failed to turn on its ventrum in a cut-off time of 60 sec it was considered to have lost its RR. Four more batches of toads were pretreated with *Nux vom* 200 CH and subsequently treated separately by *Sulphur* 200 CH, *Sepia* 200 CH, *Coffea* 200 CH and *Zincum* 200 CH. All the toads were then exposed to 260 mM ethanol solution to record their tolerance to ethanol anesthesia in terms of time to lose RR. **Results:** Toads treated with the five drugs took significantly longer time ($P < 0.01$, one-way ANOVA) to lose RR than those treated with the control. The time taken to lose RR was significantly longer ($P < 0.01$, one-way ANOVA) with *Sulphur* 200 CH, *Sepia* 200 CH, *Coffea* 200 CH and *Zincum* 200 CH than with *Nux vom* 200 CH alone. The situation was same when *Nux* treatment was followed by each of the four drugs. Of the five drugs *Coffea* showed the strongest anti-hypnotic effect. **Conclusion:** 1. Drugs complementary, antidotal and inimical to *Nux vom* showed the same anti-alcoholic effect as *Nux* in terms of increased tolerance to alcohol anesthesia. 2. The anti-alcoholic effect of *Nux vom* was markedly superseded by the above four drugs. 3. Of all the drugs tested *Coffea* showed the strongest anti-alcoholic effect. 4. It appears that the above four drugs produced their individual dominant effect cancelling the individual effect of *Nux vom*.

Keywords: anti-alcoholic effect, antidotal, inimical.

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