

APITHERAPY IN THE USA *)

Ch. MRAZ
USA

I thank the Beekeepers' Association of Romania and APIMONDIA for the privilege to meet with you in your beautiful country, at this Symposium on Apitherapy. In the USA very little research is conducted with apitherapy except perhaps bee venom therapy. I first became interested in this subject because of a personal experience with rheumatic fever in 1934, and experienced the remarkable healing effect of bee venom.

I was fortunate to know personally Dr. Bodog F. Beck of New York who wrote the book "*Bee Venom Therapy*". I learned much from Dr. Beck until he died in 1942. Dr. Beck also wrote the book "*Honey and Your Health*" which is still being published in the USA.

I also worked for many years with Dr. D. C. JARVIS of Vermont who wrote the book "*Folk Medicine*". This book has sold over 4 million copies and is still being sold every day. This book more than any other increased the use of honey in the USA and Japan.

I was also fortunate to work with Dr. Joseph Broadman of New York who wrote the book, "*Bee Venom, The Natural Curative of Rheumatism and Arthritis*". These two doctors experienced remarkable results with bee venom for rheumatic diseases as have other doctors I have worked with through the years. At the present time bee venom is not permitted to be used for medical purposes, but we hope soon it will be accepted as an antigen for the treatment of hyper-sensitivity to bee stings.

The best scientific research in the USA has been done in the past six years by the Glenn B. Warren Foundation who has financed this research. I have a number of papers here with me that I will leave with the Apitherapy Clinic for their information. Some of the titles are:

1. *Effect of Bee Venom on the Plasma Cortisol in the Monkey*
2. *The Effect of Treatment with Whole Bee Venom on the Cage Activity and Plasma Cortisol Levels in the Arthritic Dog*
3. *Beta Adrenergic and Anti-Arrhythmic Effects of Cardiopep, A Newly Isolated Substance from Whole Bee Venom.*
4. *Increased Resistance of Mice to X-irradiation after the Injection of Bee Venom*

This research was carried out by Lt. Col. James A. Vick of the Walter Reed Army Hospital Medical Research Center. With this work are a series of graphs to illustrate these effects.

*) Paper presented at the 2nd Symposium on Apitherapy, Bucharest, 1976.

Another paper is "Effect of Bee Venom on Experimental Arthritis", by the famous Rheumatologist Gerald Weissmann of New York University Hospital. This shows the remarkable results of bee venom on adjuvant arthritis on rats.

These graphs also show some work done with bee venom in cocoa butter as well as subcutaneous injections on arthritic dogs. It has also been used on arthritic horses and bulls with good results.

I personally have used bee venom in many forms of rheumatic diseases with remarkable results over the past 43 years on hundreds of cases. During these years I have observed as have many others, on beneficial effects of bee venom on other forms of degenerative diseases for which classical medicine as yet has no satisfactory treatment.

Most of us experienced in bee venom believe it functions as an immunological agent to stimulate the metabolic and protective functions of the body against disease. Today, immuno-therapy is the newest form of research for the control of cancer. This was announced in the March 19, 1973 issue of *Time Magazine*, by Dr. Robert Good of Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research.

I believe bee venom is one of the best immunological agents created in the laboratory of the honey bees. Pathogenic agents from infectious diseases are not always safe and they develop anti-bodies which makes them ineffective.

We know bee venom is almost always safe with no side effects. Most important, as far as we know, bee venom does not produce anti-bodies. This means it is always effective as an immunological agent no matter how long it is used. Even on a person like myself that has been stung thousands of times every year for almost 60 years as a commercial beekeeper, it will still be effective to stimulate the protective mechanisms of the body.

The work of Lt. Col. James A. Vick proved that bee venom stimulates the plasma cortisol level in animals for a long period of time. We know that it also stimulates all other metabolic functions of the body such as the lymph, glands, nervous system, etc. as well as the haemolytic system.

I personally know of cases where exposure to apitherapy has cured cases of cancer, such as breast cancer, cancer of the lip, leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, head tumor, etc.

Man today is plagued with three serious degenerative diseases — heart disease, cancer and arthritis. I firmly believe apitherapy will contribute greatly to the cure and control of these crippling and serious afflictions. APIMONDIA and the Apitherapy Clinic is a wonderful beginning towards this goal.