

Farokh J. Master

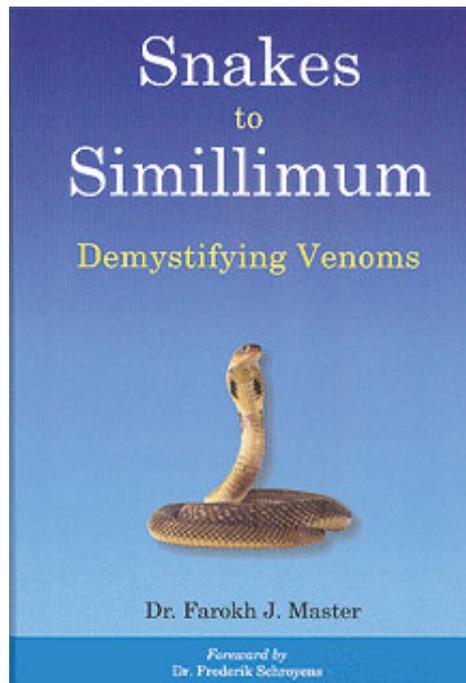
Snakes to Simillimum - Demystifying Venom

Reading excerpt

[Snakes to Simillimum - Demystifying Venom](#)

of [Farokh J. Master](#)

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BOTHROPS ALTERNATUS

Super kingdom: Eukaryota	Subclass: Lepidosauria
Kingdom: Animalia	Order: Squamata
Subkingdom: Metazoa	Suborder: Ophidea (serpents)
Phylum: Chordata	Super family: Xenophidia (Colubroidea)
Subphylum: Vertebrata	Family: Viperidae Subfamily:
Super class: Tetrapoda	Crotalinae Genus: <i>Bothrops</i>
Class: Reptilia	

Bothrops alternatus reaches a length of 1.4 meters (4.6 feet). Its body has a background color varying from light gray to brown with remarkable black half-moon marks on both sides of the body that touch each other on the center of the back. The flat ventral side is speckled with black or yellow markings. The head has a bright marking in the form of a cross. In bright light its pupils narrow down to perpendicular slits.

It lives in the flat mountain country and in stony and rocky places. During the day it is found under broken tree trunks. When excited, it vibrates its tail producing a rattle.

Mating occurs from September to October.

They feed on mice and other rodents.

PROVING OF *BOTHROPS ALTERNATUS*

Dr. H. A. Roberts in his book *The Study of Remedies by Comparison* has mentioned some interesting features. Unfortunately when checked in *The Homoeopathic Recorder*, the symptomatology and poisoning effects were exactly the same as *Bothrops atrox* (maybe this was a mistake by Dr. H. A. Roberts!!).

In *The Homoeopathic Recorder*, April to June Vol. L, No. 2, 1935, a scientific paper was published on *Bothrops alternatus*, which was read before the International Homoeopathic Association, Bureau of Materia Medica, June 22, 1934. This was later confirmed to be *Bothrops atrox* and not *Bothrops alternatus*. I studied the listing "of venomous snakes adapted from: *Snake Venom Poisoning*, by Dr. Findlay E. Russell (New York: Scholium International, Inc., 1983) and understood that these two varieties of snakes are separate entities (also see <http://www.catalogueoflife.org>).

Two physicians undertook the proving in the 200* potency, one taking one dose and the other taking two doses, three hourly. The proving from the two doses lasted for 29 days and the first Symptoms to appear after the two doses included the following:

Mind

- Depression
- Confusion of mind
- **Fear the heart will cease to beat unless constantly on the move**

Generalities

- Exhaustion
- Internal trembling
- General aggravation in the **night after midnight. on deep breathing**, Inspiration, carrying, after **physical exertion** and after coition

Vertigo

- Tendency to fall **on the right or left side**
- Vertigo on reaching up with the hands; **on exertion; on turning in**
- **The room seems to turn around on rising from a seat**

Head

- Dull pain on the right side of the head, worse from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and worse in open air

Nose

- Purplish eruptions around the nose

Mouth

- Cracked tongue, which is covered with a **heavy brown für** (*Bapt., Colch.*)

Cardiovascular System

- Sharp, stabbing pain at the apex of the heart
- **Persistent pressure about the cardiac region as if there was not sufficient room for the heart**, aggravated from midnight to sunrise

- **Sinking Sensation** in the heart, worse on exertion, deep breathing, talking, motion and walking

Extremities

- Blue discoloration

Skin

- Gangrene

BEDSIDE GUIDING SYMPTOMS

- Ailments from **mental shock** (*Arn., op., Pic-ac.*), from sudden news, death, disappointment or betrayal
- Anxiety neurosis that stems from functional or **organic cardiac diseases** (common Symptom in many snake remedies like *Cench., Lach., Naja*, etc.)
- Endogenous depression due to some chronic illnesses like cancer, diabetes, angina pectoris, etc.
- Nervous vertigo (*Asaf.*) with tendency to fall
- **Raynaud's phenomenon** (*Cact., Prot., Sarcol-ac., See.*) in both upper and lower limbs giving rise to a bluish discoloration of the affected part
- Stasis of the venous system producing varicose veins and ulcers (*Aq-sil., Calc-i.*)
- **Tendency to gangrene** (*Anthraci., See.*) due to microangiopathy as a result of Collagen disease, diabetes mellitus or senile arteriosclerosis
- Universal aggravation from midnight to sunrise of almost all complaints. Aggravation in general after coition (*Agar., Kali-c., Kali-p., SU.*)

Mind

- Acute senses (*Arn., Colch., Lyss., Valer.*)
- Prostration of mind

Generalities

- General aggravation from deep breathing (*Agn., Borx., Rhus-t., Sabin.*), forenoon and night
- Internal trembling (*Calc., Staph.*)
- Tendency to hemorrhage

Vertigo

- **Carrying any heavy objects on the head** (*Tarent.*) or in the hands produces severe vertigo
- Worse on rising from a seated position (*Bry., Dig., Carb-an., Rhus-t.*) and turning in bed (*Beil., Cact., Graph., Lac-d.*)

Face

O/E:

- Blue discoloration
- Veins distended on nose (*Carb-v.*)

Chest

- Pain in the cardiac region

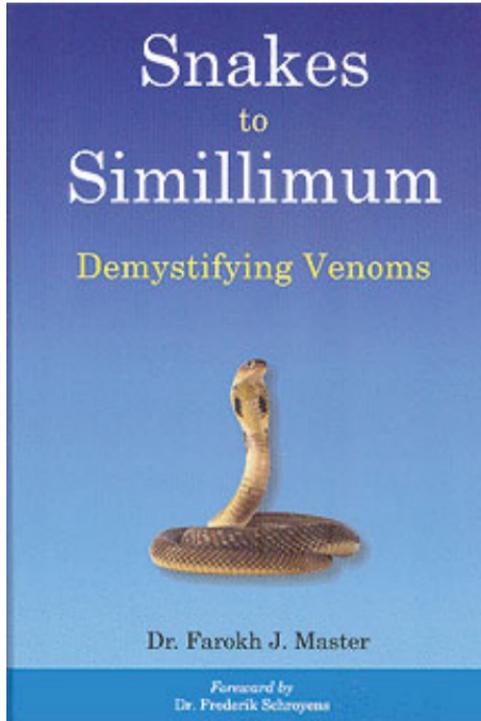
Extremities

O/E:

- Blue discoloration

Skin*O/E:*

- Gangrae (*Caust., Polyg-pe.*)



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