

Patterns of nature: a series of decorative plants. 5, Paeonia obovata.

Contributors

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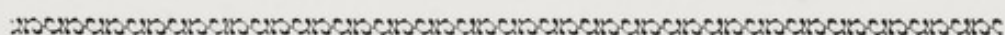
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PATTERNS OF NATURE: a series of decorative plants

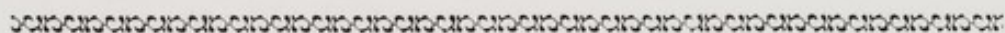


No. 5: *Pæonia obovata*

This very beautiful species was first found by the Russian botanist Maximovicz in 1859 in the Amur river district of Siberia. It was afterwards found in the Shansi and Szechuan provinces of China as well.

*It varies in height from twenty to thirty inches. The leaves are liver-coloured when young and make a perfect background for the large white blooms and later for the colourful seed-pods illustrated on our cover. The central stigma of the red flower is surrounded by yellow anthers. In Britain, where it is seldom seen in gardens, *P. obovata* flowers from May to June and the swollen seed-pods ripen and burst in September. The fertile seeds are as large as peas, shining bluish-black in colour, while the infertile seeds are small and scarlet, all attached to the crimson interior of the seed-pod.*

After the seeds ripen and fall to the ground, the leaves and flower stems dry and shrink downwards, forming a protection from the winter snows and frost for the young, sturdy shoots that appear very early the following spring. The seeds take a year to germinate and the plant does not come into full flower until the fourth year.



Colour photograph by John Markham, F.R.P.S.

Note by Dr. G. M. Vevers

PRODEXIN—“the ideal antacid”

“The ideal antacid would neutralize acid in the stomach to, say, pH 4 or even pH 5 . . .¹”

“The pH must be quickly brought to 3.5–4 and the effect must be apparent for about 2 hours.²”

In vitro, Prodexin gives a remarkably rapid rise in gastric pH compared with other kinds of antacid. This remains at 3.5 to 4.5 for up to two hours while regular acid secretion is simulated artificially. In clinical experiments the rise is equally rapid, and, although the duration of effect varies from patient to patient, it is rarely less than 40 minutes³.

“There should be no secondary secretion of gastric acid and no alkalosis.²”

“It (Prodexin) . . . buffers the gastric acid without producing alkalinity . . . This is effective therapy.¹”

“Little of the acid should be resorbed; there should be no laxative or constipating action.²”

The aluminium salts derived from Prodexin are excreted unchanged and, therefore, have no systemic action. Their slight tendency to constipate is offset by the balanced proportion of magnesium carbonate in the tablet.

Two papers^{1, 4} have recently emphasised the influence of the emptying time of the stomach on the efficacy of antacids, and urged that a continuous flow of antacid, either as a drip or from a slowly sucked tablet, is essential for efficient acid control.

Prodexin tablets enable the patient to supply his stomach pleasantly and conveniently with a steady flow of highly active and safe antacid that can ensure continuous control of pH and sustained relief of symptoms.

Prodexin can, in fact—with every justification—be called “the ideal antacid”.

REFERENCES:

- 1 Douthwaite, *Practitioner* (1957), 178:43-46.
 - 2 van Arkel, C. G., *Pharm. Weekblad* (1956), 16:577.
 - 3 Rider *et al.*, *Amer. J. digest. Dis.* (1956), 1:287-293.
 - 4 Editorial, *Amer. J. digest. Dis.* (1956), 1:453-4.
-

Each Prodexin tablet contains:

Aluminium glycinat (dihydroxy aluminium aminoacetate)...0.9 gramme
Light magnesium carbonate.....0.1 gramme

DOSAGE:

To ensure a steady and prolonged flow of medicament to the stomach the tablet should be allowed to dissolve *slowly* in the mouth.

For hyperacidity:

One or two tablets as required.

For prevention of hyperacidic attacks:

One tablet every hour. If pain recurs regularly it is best to anticipate each attack by a dose 15 to 30 minutes before pain is expected.

For peptic ulcer:

One tablet every hour, or more frequently, depending on the degree of hyperacidity.

PACKAGES:

Cartons of 30 individually wrapped tablets and dispensing packs of 240.
Basic N.H.S. cost of 240 tablets: 30s. 4d.



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