

Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*. Family: Ranunculaceae) : Dindevan.

Contributors

Duncan, Flockhart & Co.

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MONKSHOOD (*Aconitum napellus*. Family: *Ranunculaceae*)

Monkshood has been used throughout the ages both internally and externally as an analgesic and the roots are used in the preparation of tinctures and liniments. Cases of poisoning have occurred where the root has been mistaken for horse-radish or where the leaves have been used in a salad, and the outcome may be fatal. Small amounts will produce severe nausea and vomiting, salivation and diarrhoea. The blood pressure and temperature fall, the pulse is slow initially but later may accelerate. *Poisonous constituent*: aconitine, a narcotic alkaloid with bradycardiac properties.

Treatment: symptomatic including gastric lavage and maintenance of respiration.

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