

**When pollen's buzzing around... : Rynacrom : disodium cromoglycate for hay fever.**

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**When pollen's buzzing around...**





# RYNACROM

Disodium cromoglycate for hay fever

In the form of Intal, disodium cromoglycate is already proven as a valuable anti-allergic therapy.<sup>1,2</sup> The introduction of Rynacrom now makes disodium cromoglycate available for the control of symptoms of hay fever. Administration is by a specially-designed nasal insufflator that is recharged with a Rynacrom capsule at each application.

Clinical trial results show that Rynacrom significantly reduces rhinorrhoea and nasal obstruction in hay fever and that the treatment is easy and well accepted by patients.<sup>3</sup> A characteristic feature of DSCG therapy is the extremely low incidence of side effects.<sup>1,2,3</sup> For this reason many of the problems of conventional hay fever therapy do not arise with Rynacrom.

## At the first sneeze of summer

Rynacrom is supplied as capsules containing disodium cromoglycate 10 mg together with an inert carrier (Lactose BP 10 mg), for use in a specially-designed Rynacrom insufflator.

**References:** 1. Altounyan R E C, and Howell J B L, Treatment of Asthma with Disodium Cromoglycate (FPL 670, 'Intal'). *Respiration*, 1969, 26, 131 (Suppl).

2. Kennedy M C S, Disodium Cromoglycate in the Control of Asthma. A Double-Blind Trial. *Brit J Dis Chest*, 1969, 63, 96.

3. Backman A, Holopainen E, and Salo O P, Effect of Disodium Cromoglycate on Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis. *Lancet*, 1971, i, 55.

# BEES OF THE BRITISH ISLES



Queen Honeybee  
(*Apis mellifica*)



Buff-tailed Bumblebee  
(*Bombus terrestris* female)



Common Carder-bee  
(*Bombus agrorum* female)



Vestal Cuckoo-bee  
(*Psithyrus vestalis* female)



Patchwork Leaf-cutter  
(*Megachile ornata*)



Dances of Honeybees  
(*Apis mellifica* worker)

## Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris* female)

Queens usually emerge in early April. Nests are usually found below ground. *B. terrestris* has a relatively short tongue and cannot reach the nectar in red-clover flowers. Instead, it bites a hole in the corolla tube and so reaches the nectar. Thus the flower does not become pollinated, and in this respect *B. terrestris* is something of an agricultural pest.

## Vestal Cuckoo-bee (*Psithyrus vestalis* female)

Female cuckoo-bees can be distinguished from the queen and workers of *Bombus* by the fact that they have no pollen baskets or similar structures on their rear legs. They are parasitic and do not build their own nests or help raise their own young. They are often recognised as intruders and killed before they can deposit their eggs.

## Common Carder-bee (*Bombus agrorum* female)

The Common Carder-bee is variable in colour but frequently tawny. It lacks the contrasting bands found in most species. Queens are observed from the end of April. Their nests are always enclosed in a woven covering of moss or grass. Like most other queen bumblebees, the Carder-bee can perform all the duties carried out by worker bees. Queens and males are produced towards the end of the summer and they then mate. Only young fertilised queens survive the winter. Each founds a new colony next year – entirely alone until her own young develop. By contrast, the queen honeybee is physically incapable of performing this feat alone.

## Patchwork Leaf-cutter (*Megachile ornata*)

This species builds nests in hollow timber or even old lengths of hose pipe. The Leaf-cutter lines its nest with discs of rose leaf. The mutilation of the foliage is a familiar sight to the rose grower. The Leaf-cutter bee differs from bumblebees and honeybees because it is a solitary bee. The female never knows her offspring and dies long before they reach maturity whereas the queen bumblebee and honeybee both collaborate with their young in building a colony.

## Queen Honeybee (*Apis mellifica*)

The Honeybee is a domestic animal and hardly able to fend for herself in nature, although sometimes temporary colonies are found in hollow trees. A colony consists of a queen and up to 60,000 workers and 2,000 drones. (By contrast bumblebee colonies rarely exceed a population of 500). The honeybee queen, unlike the bumblebee queen, does not forage or build. She only produces eggs, sometimes up to 1,500 a day – more than a bumblebee lays in her whole life. Both bumblebees and honeybees are capable of parthenogenesis – the unfertilised egg always producing males.

## Nest of Red-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)

Bumblebees usually establish nests early in the Spring. Old mouse nests are a favourite site.

- (a) Honeycombs and pollenpots.
- (b) First brood cell, intended where queen has lain to incubate eggs.
- (c) Cocoons containing larvae.
- (d) Old cocoons used for storage of pollen and honey.
- (e) Sealed-off brood cell containing pupae.

## Dances of Honeybees (*Apis mellifica* worker)

- 1 Round and circle dances. Source of food 11 yards away.
- 2 Figure of eight dances. Source of food 110 yards away.
- 3 Transitional circle dances. 55–110 yards. 15–16 yards.

## Suggested Further Reading

- 1 *Bumblebees*. Free JB, and Butler CG, Collins 1959.
- 2 *The World of the Honeybee*. Butler CG, Collins 1954.
- 3 *The Lives of Wasps and Bees*. Sir Christopher Andrewes, Chatto & Windus 1959.

## Nest of Red-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)



**RYNACROM**  
Disodium cromoglycate for hay fever



# RYNACROM<sup>®</sup> for hay fever

Disodium cromoglycate

**Description:** Rynacrom is a presentation for insufflation of disodium cromoglycate, 10 mg in powder form, together with an inert carrier (Lactose BP 10 mg). Disodium cromoglycate has no anti-inflammatory or decongestant activity. Its principle action is to inhibit the release of inflammatory agents (such as histamine, bradykinin) from sensitised cells in the nose. This property offers a new approach to the management of seasonal allergic rhinitis—prophylactic rather than symptomatic therapy.

**Indication:** Seasonal allergic rhinitis.

**Administration:** Rynacrom is presented in a single dose hard gelatin capsule for use in a specially developed nasal insufflator.

**Dosage:** 2 capsules 4 times daily.

Since disodium cromoglycate therapy is prophylactic, it is important that the patient be instructed to maintain regular dosage, as distinct from insufflating the drug intermittently to relieve symptoms.

**Concomitant therapy:** Concomitant antihistamine therapy can often be reduced or discontinued when the allergic rhinitis has been brought under control.

**Withdrawal of Rynacrom therapy:** As the action of disodium cromoglycate is prophylactic rather than curative, continuity of therapy is important in patients who have gained benefit. It should be borne in mind that symptoms of allergic rhinitis may recur when Rynacrom is discontinued.

**Contra-indications:** There are no specific contra-indications. As with all new drugs, it is advisable, where possible, to avoid use during pregnancy, especially in the first trimester.

**Side effects:** No serious side effects attributable to disodium cromoglycate have so far been reported. Occasionally, slight irritation of the nose may occur on insufflation of the powder.

**Pack and Price:** Rynacrom is presented as capsules, supplied in packs of 100\*. Basic NHS. cost £3.15.

\*Instructions are supplied with each pack.



Further information is available from:  
The Technical Services Department,  
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