

6th Apimedita & 5th Apiquality International Symposium

Rome 22 - 25 November 2016

Premises for the application of Apitherapy in Veterinary Medicine

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Topics



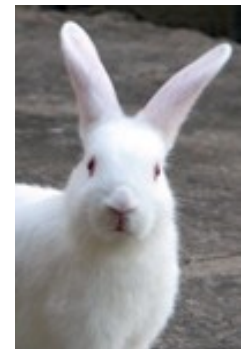
- Introduction
- Applications in Human Medicine
 - Honey, Propolis, Pollen, Royal jelly, Bee venom
- Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine
 - Use of bee products in veterinary: premises
 - Recommendations
 - Allergic reactions

Introduction

- Apitherapy is the medical use of products made by honeybees (*Apis mellifera*), including honey, propolis, pollen, royal jelly, bee venom and beeswax, not only for nutraceutical purposes.
- This is a quite unknown practice in Italy, so that the objective is to link professionals in order to:
 - share experiences in the discipline;
 - collect relevant case studies and data;
 - define standard procedures.



Apitherapy can be applied
in veterinary to different
animal species: pets, exotic,
livestock, wildlife, birds,
reptiles....



Applications in Human Medicine

HONEY

Due to its anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, osmotic and analgesic effects, honey can be used to treat different conditions.

Product forms

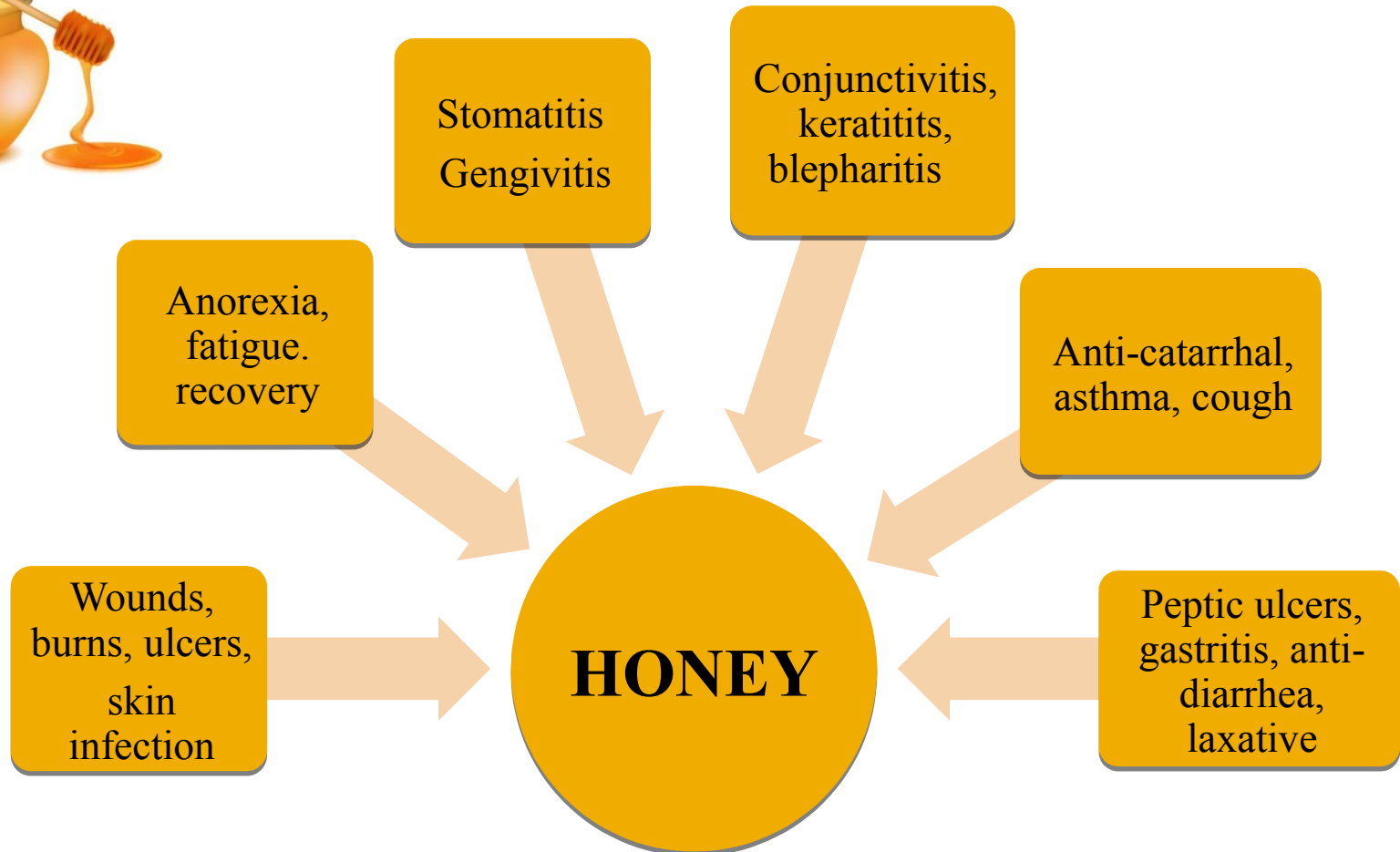
Raw (not filtered, heat treated or processed) or medical.

Methods of administration

Topic or oral application.



Applications in Human Medicine



Applications in Human Medicine

POLLEN

Due to its high nutritional value, its antioxidants, anti-anemic and anti-leukemic effects, pollen stimulates cellular regeneration and the hematopoiesis.

Product forms

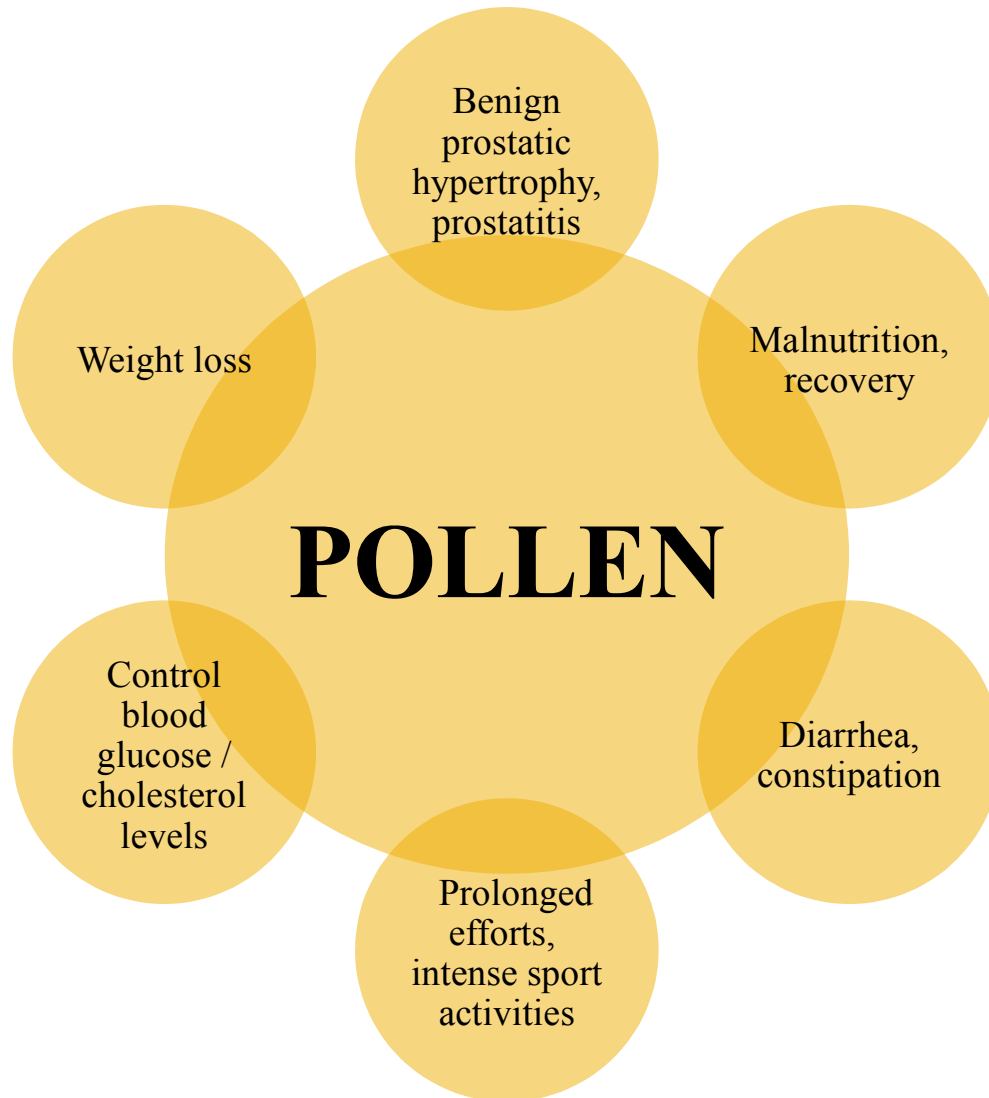
Frozen or fresh pollen grains.

Methods of administration

Oral.



Applications in Human Medicine



Applications in Human Medicine

PROPOLIS

Due to its anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects, propolis can be used to treat different conditions.

Product Forms

Powder of rough propolis

Tincture (hydroalcoholic solution)

Salve

Methods of administration

Topic or oral use.



Applications in Human Medicine

PROPOLIS



Peptic
ulcers,
gastritis

Periodontitis,
gingivitis,
abscesses

Aid
immune
system,
dietary
supplement

Wounds,
burns,
ulcers,
dermatitis

Bladder
infection

Applications in Human Medicine

ROYAL JELLY

It has anti-bacterial, anti-viral, fungicidal activity, anti-inflammatory, anti-hypoxia, anti-oxidant effects. Royal jelly stimulates cellular regeneration and haematopoiesis. It also has immunomodulating, hepatoprotective, remineralizing, anti-anaemic, anti-leucemic and anti-tumoral properties.

Product forms

Fresh, frozen, powder, lyophilized.

Methods of administration

Topic, oral application.



Applications in Human Medicine

ROYAL JELLY

Antioxidant (toxins, pollutants, chemotherapy)

Immunomodulatory activity (infection, autoimmune diseases)

Reproductive disorders (hormone balancing properties)

Eye disorders

Neuroprotective

Applications in Human Medicine

BEE VENOM

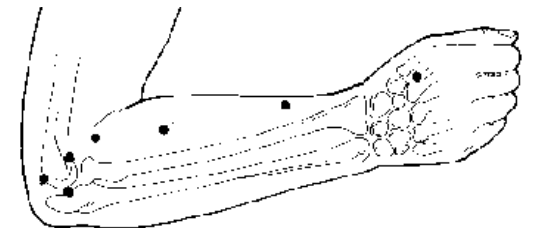
Bee venom has antibacterial, immuno-suppressive, immuno-stimulating, anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, pain-soothing and anticoagulant properties. The anti-inflammation and analgesic effects were proved in various kinds of animal arthritic models.

Product forms

Live honeybee sting, injection of pure and sterile venom, topic (cream, ointment, etc), homeopathic preparations.

Methods of administration

Acupuncture points, acupressure points and local (in situ) pain points, nerve meridians.



Applications in Human Medicine



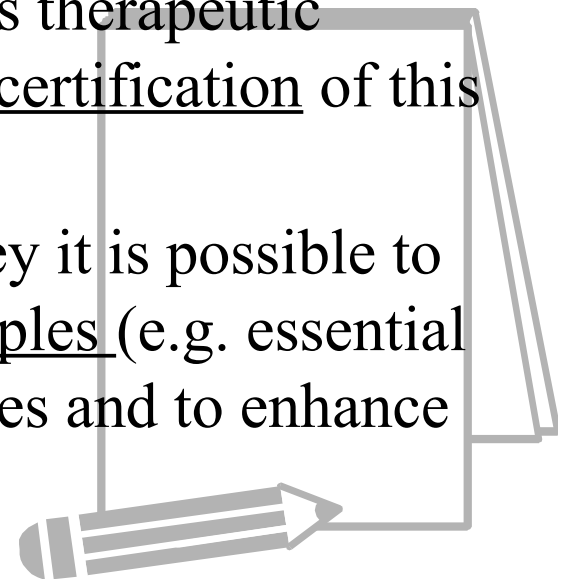
BEE VENOM

- Chronic pain (arthritis, rheumatism, tendonitis)
- Skin diseases (mycosis, keloids, psoriasis)
- Diseases of the central and peripheral nervous system (multiple sclerosis)
- Effects on the heart and blood system (hypertension, arteriosclerosis)
- Anti-cancer

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Use of bee products in veterinary: premises

- Lack of scientific bibliography.
- Beehive products have as potential sources many flower species, as a result they have extremely variable characteristics. Therefore it is necessary to determine the overall quality of each product and / or its therapeutic properties to create a quality mark and a certification of this products.
- In the treatment of skin lesions with honey it is possible to combine propolis or phytotherapeutic principles (e.g. essential oils) to deter animal's licking, to repel flies and to enhance the healing effect.



Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Recommendations

- Organize practical training courses to form specialized veterinarians.
- Doses and application protocols should be defined for their topical and oral use in veterinary for the different animal species.
- Create a working group of veterinarians specialized in apitherapy, to share skills and updates on the theme.
- A datasheet model for the description of the clinical cases and the collection of national experiences shall be implemented.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

- Scientific study projects in collaboration with universities, laboratories and other public institutions should be developed, e.g.:
 - to determine the safety of raw honey compared to medical honey in dressing wounds (potential spores' load);
 - to evaluate the effects of honey on the glycemic index in the different animal species;
 - to define the possible risks associated with the use of raw honey in puppies and kitten.
- Consider the ethical component (use of live honeybees for apipuncture).

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Allergic reactions

- Bee-related products are considered very safe. Allergic reactions are the most common side effects. Bee products should not be used in patients with known allergies to bees or bee products to avoid hypersensitivity reactions;
- It is suggested to integrate honey, pollen, propolis and royal jelly a little at a time in the animal diet or applied with a small amount topically the first time, to avoid the risk of adverse reactions and even anaphylactic shock;

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

- The venom therapy should start with the determination of whether the patient is allergic by administering a small amount of venom intradermally. If there are no adverse reactions, then increase gradually over several weeks until the maintenance dose is achieved.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Symptoms of an allergic reaction in animals

- Breathing problems (wheezing, asthma);
- Gastroenteric distress (vomiting or diarrhea);
- Widespread swelling;
- Extreme vocalization;
- Seizures;
- Loss of consciousness;
- Anaphylactic shock.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Recommendations for the use of the bee venom

- Bee venom should only be used under the supervision of a qualified veterinarian;
- An allergy test should be performed to the patient before to start with the bee venom therapy;
- In collaboration with a reference laboratory, an IgE test for honeybee venom (*Apis mellifera*) specific for the different animal species must be validated to avoid allergic reaction.
- An emergency allergy kit should be kept on hand all the time in the event of an allergic reaction;
- Emergency protocols must be defined.

Thanks for your attention!



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