Homeopathic Basic Research on the example of Plant Research

Homeopathic research is carried out since the late 18th Century - even the founder of homeopathy, the German physician Samuel Hahnemann initiated and performed scientific studies of soldiers suffering from typhoid fever.

The most characteristic feature about the development of Homeopathy is the strict observance of the inductive method of research that Hahnemann adopted. Careful experiments were instituted, all preconceived theories were ostracized, and the results and rigid deduction from them were not published until years have elapsed in which to verify all the statements. This good practice of search should be the guiding factor for all homeopathic research work.

In 1923 Lili Kolisko\(^1\) published her first homeopathic experiments with plants, especially with seedlings. In 1925 it was followed by a work of Junker\(^2\), which also dealt with the problem of extremely diluted substances when trying to replicate Kolisko’s findings.


Based on this valuable tradition and the findings thereupon, it appeared quite attractive to start working in this field, whereby Univ.-Prof. Dr. Frass (www.ordination-frass.at) played a leading part after sitting in on class for Homeopathy at the Medical University Vienna. After several discussions and various considerations the idea of establishing an Institute for Homeopathic Basic Research (www.homeopathicresearch.eu) was set up in 2009.

The first test series with wheat seedlings (Triticum saetivum) and gibberellic acid (GA\(_3\)) was initiated revealing a lot of additional questions without answers. However, the enthusiasm and curiosity was sparked followed by a time of intense seeking for better and handy test design to eliminate variables, and to combine conventional test methods for seed in agriculture with homeopathic regulations as prescribed in the homeopathic pharmacopoeia (HAB). After a thorough and intense inquiry the rules and regulations of the ISTA (International Seed Testing Association, http://www.seedtest.org) were discovered.

ISTA was founded in 1924 with the aim to develop and publish standard procedures in the field of seed testing world-wide. In section 14 of the ISTA Handbook on Seedling
Evaluation a precise description was finally obtained for a stringent evaluation of the presented growth effects.

A revised test series was initiated with the newly adopted rules ending up in a bunch of additional queries. The applied wheat did not meet the requirement of a solid test material. Even if the wheat is controlled and certified by an official agent and is in line with the pre-requisites of the seed regulations (§ 14 SaatG as amended on 01 Jan 2012 in Austria and § 12 SaatVO as amended on 23 Jul 2008 in Germany), the seed is not homozygous, which constituted a serious dilemma. The dilemma is the variety of each single grain. Confronted with this obstacle, another intensive hunt started to find a suitable grain excluding variances.

In the meantime an optimized testing started already including good test practice as discussed and concluded during the Delphi Process (Stock-Schröer18 2009) plus the rules of the ISTA inclusive suitable grains completes the basis of a currently good test design assuming to be in the position to publish a preliminary result in 2012.

Returning to the homeopathic patriarch of Köthen, Hahnemann claimed that the therapeutic background and aim of the art of medicine is to cure disease, and the physician’s highest ideal of a cure, as indicated in Art 2 of the Organon, is the rapid, gentle and permanent restoration of health, or the removal and annihilation of disease in its whole extent, in the shortest, most reliable and most harmless manner, and on easily comprehensible principles, that is, with the least possible expenditure of time, money, vitality and suffering. Carrying those words as task, homeopathic basic research is a valuable asset to support Hahnemann findings and hopefully, once in a while, to prove evidence of the theory.

References:


1926, 426 S. (Naturwissenschaftliche Sektion am Goetheanum) Der Einfluss der verschiedenen Ätherarten auf die Pflanze


