

CONIINE

A CRUDE EXTRACT OF HEMLOCK WAS USED BY THE ANCIENT GREEKS TO EXECUTE ENEMIES OF THE STATE. PLATO'S DESCRIPTION OF THE DEATH OF SOCRATES IS A VERY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SYMPTOMS AND THEIR PROGRESSION. PURE CONIINE HAS A BURNING TASTE SIMILAR TO LOW GRADE HOT SAUCE AND A CHARACTERISTIC ODOR WHICH SHOULD BE MASKED. HARD LIQUOR OR SPICY FOODS ARE BEST FOR THIS. CONIINE POISONING IS RELATIVELY PAINLESS BUT TAKES SEVERAL HOURS AND THE VICTIM IS CONSCIOUS AND AWARE TO THE VERY END.

SYMPTOMS:

WEAKNESS, DROWSINESS, NAUSEA, VOMITING, LABORED BREATHING, PARALYSIS, AND ASPHYXIA. DEATH IS DUE TO PARALYSIS OF THE CNS.

LIGHT CONVULSIONS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING DEATH.

SOURCE:

EXTRACTED FROM POISONOUS HEMLOCK (CONIUM MAULATAUM)

AVOID SKIN CONTACT AND INGESTION. THE ODOR IS LIKE THAT OF MOUSE URINE BUT IS NOT HARMFUL.

DOSAGE:

300MG (8 TO 10 DROPS)

SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED IN STRONG ALCOHOL OR SPICY FOODS.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

ONE POUND OF FRESH HEMLOCK

CHLOROFORM

SODIUM HYDROXIDE

2N HYDROCHLORIC ACID

PH PAPER

SEP FUNNEL

QUICK EXTRACTION METHOD: FILL BLENDER HALF FULL WITH RUBBING ALCOHOL AND ADD HALF THAT AMOUNT IN HEMLOCK. BLEND FOR 1 MINUTE UNTIL MUSHED. FILTER SOLIDS OUT AND SAVE LIQUID. EVAPORATE AS MUCH OF THE ALCOHOL AS POSSIBLE. THE RESIDUE IS YOUR POISON.

PROPER EXTRACTION METHOD:

CHOP UP ONE POUND OF HEMLOCK AND PLACE IN BLENDER FOR 5 MINUTES WITH A MIXTURE OF 2 LITERS OF CHLOROFORM AND 200ML OF A 5% SODIUM HYDROXIDE SOLUTION.

FILTER AND DISCARD SOLIDS.

PLACE THE LIQUID IN A SEP FUNNEL, ALLOW THE LAYERS TO SEPARATE, DRAW OFF THE BOTTOM LAYER. DISCARD THIS.

ADD 200ML OF 2N HYDROCHLORIC ACID SOLUTION TO THE CHLOROFORM LAYER, SHAKE WELL AND EVAPORATE ON A HOT WATER BATH. BE SURE TO HAVE ADEQUATE VENTILATION.

A PALE GREEN SOLUTION REMAINS WHICH IS FILTERED THROUGH ACTIVATED CHARCOAL OR CELLITE TO REMOVE THE TAR.

ADD SODIUM HYDROXIDE UNTIL THE PH OF THIS IS BASIC 9 OR MORE.

ADD 200ML OF CHLOROFORM AND SHAKE WELL. SEPARATE THE LAYERS IN THE SEP FUNNEL. REPEAT EXTRACTION FOR A TOTAL OF FIVE 200ML PORTIONS OF CHLOROFORM, THEN DISCARD WATER LAYER.

COMBIN THE CHLOROFORM EXTRACTS AND EVAP SOLUTION UNTIL NO MORE CHLOROFORM CAN BE SMELLED. THE RESULT IS CRUDE CONIINE. IT MAY BE CONVERTED TO THE HYDROCHLORIDE FORM BY PASSING DRY HYDROGEN CHLORIDE GAS THROUGH TH SOLUTION BUT THIS IS USUALLY UNNECESSARY.

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