

Materia Medica

Chahta Alikchi

The fact that we were able to recover the plant medicine of our peoples from two hundred years ago was because of one man, Gideon Lincecum. He grew up among us, spoke many of the languages of southeastern Turtle Island, and respected our medicine. He respected our ways so completely that as a medical doctor, he refused to practice Western medicine, referencing those who do as "poison doctors."

He studied with Alikchi Chitto (the great doctor) in the Six Towns area of southeast Mississippi, and continued to observe nature, study patterns, and save specimens.

We were able to go through these 200-year-old papers, including the pressed plants, held at UT Austin. And his notes were incredibly detailed, often brilliant, and sometimes very funny. Because he thought saving knowledge was a worthy endeavor.

We do, too. So, we wrote a book that included his knowledge and our own. His work saved the knowledge of so many of our ancestors. Knowledge that the government of time would prefer remain forgotten. But we and our ways continue to survive and thrive. And now you are part of that team! Making sure that your knowledge isn't lost and is available to whomever you decide to share it.

Materia medica is the Latin name we use to describe this collected knowledge. What is important to know and remember about healing work. Evidence of this collected knowledge shows up across cultures in India, China, Egypt, and Hellas (ancient Greece). We have always had healers who took the art and science of their work seriously enough to preserve it.

And we hope you will join us in doing so. Based on the information we keep in our own personal materia medica, and the incredible notes Dr. Lincecum both kept and continuously added to we created a worksheet to get you started in building your own.

And if you share any of your notes online, please tag us! We would love to see it!

Yakoke!

Summer and Faith

The Chahta Alikchi Materia Medica

Date

Plant Latin Name (family, genus, species)

Common Names

Common Names In Other Languages

Plant Identifiers (leaves, flowers, roots, seeds, bark, sap, general appearance, smell, taste)

Identified By

Identity Confirmed By/With

Habitat/Ecological Needs (garden, wild crafting, toxins and other environmental dangers)

How to Harvest (protected status? Native or invasive? Time of year to harvest, harvester protections needed, when in growth cycle)

Parts Used

Medicinal Uses (constituents (chemically active ingredients) and actions (diuretic, etc.))

Medicinal uses from other cultures

Cautions

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Energetics (cooling, warming, frying)

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Preparations

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Dosing

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Partner Herbs Used for Formulas

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Plant Analogs (plant medicine that works similarly, should this plant not be available)

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Dangerous Lookalikes

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Contraindications (for humans, animals, other environmental considerations)

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Personal Experiences (self, family, patients)

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Updates

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Recipes

The Chahta Aikchi Project

Plant Pressing/Photo/Sketch

The Chahta Aikchi Project