

CONCERNING POULTRY



Photo: Marit de Haan

PHYTOTHERAPY

By: Elly Vogelaar

Phytotherapy

The medical use of plants and the science that is concerned with the prevention and treatment of diseases using plants, plant parts and their preparations, is called phytotherapy (herbal medicine, from the Greek *phyto* = plant, and *therapeia* = medicine).

Phytotherapy is one of the oldest medical therapies in general. About 5000 years ago in China and India diseases were successfully treated by the use of various medicinal plants. Later on medicinal plants were used in all civilizations, from China to India, Greece, Rome and Central and South America. Almost 2500 years have passed since Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, discovered the link between diet and health. And Claudius Galen (131 - 199 AD) from Pergamum in Asia Minor, described 304 drugs, which were all made from plants.

Right : Illustration from *Traite de Medecine* by Claudius Galenus.

Since then a lot has changed, the science has made enormous progress in all areas, but Hippocrates' theory is still current.

Once again plant products start playing an increasingly greater role. Not only in self-medication, but also many doctors are aware that such preparations are able



to complement the chemically synthesized drugs, or even replace them, and they usually have no or at least significantly reduced side effects. Thus it is hardly surprising that with many pet owners also there is an increasing demand for animal-specific herbal medicines and dietary supplements.

Phytotherapy for Poultry

Today we have a rapidly growing number of clinical studies for the use of phytotherapy for prevention and treatment of chronic ailments and illnesses in farm animals. Because chickens are mostly looked at (and tested) as farm animals instead of 'pets' it is hard to find useful data in the diverse investigations and test reports for treating illnesses and infirmities in our hobby poultry. You will understand that e.g. broilers, with their very short life of only 6 weeks, will require other treatments and medicines. Based on the results of the experiments it is sometimes not advised to use the tested herbs as appropriate alternatives for conventional treatment in conventional poultry farms. Still the outcome of many tests is fairly positive for organic farmers.

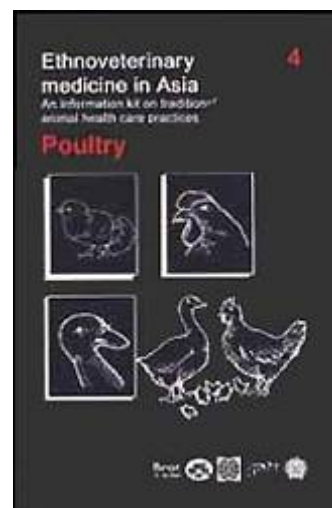


Right:
Free ranging chickens under the walnut trees.
Photo: Freddy Bettink.

Thus we very pleased to receive from the Philippine vet Dr. Leila Flores, a clear and extensive list of herbs used in poultry, including their preparation and application. Further information on these plants can be read on <http://www.stuartxchange.org/Topics.html> , where you can also find information on collection, storage and preparation. The alphabetic English list of Philippine Medicinal Plants is on <http://www.stuartxchange.org/CompleteList.html> (scroll down) All plants are extensively discussed with beautiful photos.

See also Etnovet Asia <http://www.mamud.com/ethnovet.htm> and more specifically the booklet 4, on poultry, which can be read on <http://nzdl.sadl.uleth.ca/cgi-bin/library?e=d-00000-00---off-0cdl--00-0--0-10-0---0---0prompt-10---4-----stt--0-0l--11-en-50---20-about-Restraining+animals+and+simple+treatments--00-0-1-00-0-0-11-1-0utfZz-8-00&a=d&c=cdl&cl=CL2.5&d=HASH017f608f285bf0d9e2ee2ca0>

The topics in the booklet describe a disease or condition by presenting the following information: Symptoms; Causes; Prevention and Treatment. The information is much more extensive than we could publish here. Heartily recommended!



The following list was provided by Dr. Leila Flores.

Reference (except for *Areca catechu*): Ethnoveterinary Medicine in Asia: an information kit on traditional health care practices 4: Poultry. 1994. The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Silang, Cavite, Philippines.



Ailment: reduced appetite

Herb to use (common name): **garlic, "bawang"**

Scientific name: *Allium sativum*

How to use: crush 3-4 cloves of garlic and add to feed every morning for every 10 birds.

Left: Garlic.

Photo Wikipedia/ Donovan Govan

Herb to use (common name): **curry leaves; sweet neem leaves.**

Scientific name: *Murraya koenigii*

How to use: crush 10-15 leaves and add to feed every morning for every 10 birds.



Left: Curry leaves and fruits.

Photo: M. Chang.

Herb to use (common name): **ginger, "luya"**

Scientific name: *Zingiber officinale*

How to use: scrape 10 grams of rhizome and add to feed every morning for every 10 birds.



Herb to use (common name): **chilli pepper, "sili"**

Scientific name: *Capsicum annum*

How to use: chop 5 whole chillis and add to feed every morning for every 10 birds.

Left: Chilli pepper. Photo Wikipedia.

Ailment: cough and colds

Herb to use (common name): **Indian heliotrope; "kuting kuting"**

Scientific name: *Heliotropium indicum*

How to use: boil 1 part mature leaves in 2 parts clean water for 5-10 min; give decoction to birds through mouth, 2-3xday until symptoms disappear; use 3-5 ml (1/2 to 1 tsp) of decoction per kg BW.

Herb to use (common name): **Spanish plum; "makok"**

Scientific name: *Spondias pinnata*

How to use: boil 1 part young leaves in 2 parts clean water for 5-10 min; give decoction to birds through mouth, 2-3xday until symptoms disappear; use 3-5 ml (1/2 to 1 tsp) of decoction per kg BW.

Ailment: diarrhea

Herb to use (common name): **garlic, "bawang"**

Scientific name: *Allium sativum*

How to use: crush 7-10 cloves of garlic and add to feed; give for 2-3 days or until diarrhea stops; may be used as preventive; good for 10 birds.

Or: 7-10 cloves garlic, 1 onion bulb, 5-10 g cumin seeds, 1/4 handful of fenugreek seeds, thumb sized piece of dried turmeric rhizome; grind all ingredients together and mix in the feed; give for 2-3 days; good for 10 birds.



Ailment: intestinal worms

Herb to use (common name): **areca nut; betel nut; "bunga"**

Scientific name: *Areca catechu*

How to use: Remove husk, wash and dry nut, grind with mortar and pestle, mix 5 gm (1 tsp) to 8 ml of water, squeeze off juice with cheesecloth and give 2 ml/kg BW, PO; repeat after 1 week.

Left: Areca nuts. Photo Wikipedia.

Herb to use (common name): **Chinese honeysuckle; "niog-niogan"**

Scientific name: *Quisqualis indica*

How to use: boil 1 cup of air dried leaves and seeds in 2 cups of water for 15 min; give 1 tablespoon of the juice, using a dropper for every adult bird once a month.



Herb to use (common name): **annatto; "atchuete"**

Scientific name: *Bixa orellana*

How to use: boil 1 cup of air dried seeds in 2 cups of water for 15 min; strain to collect the juice; cool and forcefeed 1 tablespoon juice per bird, using a dropper; do this once a month.

Left: Annatto. Photo Frank Krämer.

Herb to use (common name): **"lanzones"**

Scientific name: *Lansium domesticum*

How to use: boil 1 cup of air dried seeds in 2 cups of water for 15 min; strain, cool and forcefeed 1 tablespoon juice per bird, using a dropper; do this once a month.

Ailment: lice infestation

Herb to use (common name): **jasmine; "sampaguita"**

Scientific name: *Jasminum sambac*

How to use: burn fresh whole plant near or under the poultry house so smoke goes into the house; keep birds and animals away from the smoke while this is being done.

**Right: Jasmine.
Photo Wikipedia/Fanghong.**



Herb to use (common name): **"alagaw"**

Scientific name: *Premna odorata*

How to use: burn fresh or dry leaves near or under the poultry house so smoke goes into the house; keep birds and animals away from the smoke while this is being done.

Herb to use (common name): **"alagaw"**

Scientific name: *Premna odorata*

How to use: crush and dry fresh leaves; put under the poultry house.

Herb to use (common name): five-leafed chaste tree; **"lagundi"**

Scientific name: *Vitex negundo*

How to use: burn fresh or dry leaves near or under the poultry house so smoke goes into the house; keep birds and animals away from the smoke while this is being done.



Herb to use (common name): **custard apple; "atis"**

Scientific name: *Annona squamosa*

How to use: pound fresh or dried leaves and rub on the skin of the bird; use as much as needed to cover the entire skin.

Left: Custard apple. PhotoWikipedia.

Ailment: mite infestation

Herb to use (common name): **lemon grass; "tanglad"**

Scientific name: *Cymbopogon citratus*

How to use: put 1 handful of fresh lemon grass in the nest before the hen starts to lay; leave it there while the hen lays and broods.

Herb to use (common name): **Nicaraguan cacao shade (a.k.a. kakawate)**

Scientific name: *Gliricidia sepium*

How to use: boil the leaves to make a decoction. Use as a dip for the chicken.

Ailment: fowl pox (herbal remedy for symptoms only)

Herb to use (common name): **black pepper; "paminta"**

Scientific name: *Piper nigrum*

How to use: pound black pepper seeds and force feed the birds twice a day for 3 days; use 1 seed for chicks and 2-3 seeds for mature birds.

Apply ground black pepper on blisters.

Right: Black pepper. Photo: Wikipedia/Réginald Hulhoven.

Herb to use (common name): **chilli pepper; "sili"**

Scientific name: *Capsicum annum*

How to use: Grind dry seeds of mature chilli pepper; force feed 5-10 seeds per day for 3 days for adult birds and 2-3 seeds for young birds.

Ailment: fresh, open wounds

Herb to use (common name): **garlic and turmeric**

Scientific name: xx

How to use: grind together a clove of garlic and an equal amount of fresh or powdered turmeric rhizome with enough coconut oil to make a paste; apply this to the wound twice a day.



Ailment: fly repellent

Herb to use (common name): xx

Scientific name: *Vitex negundo*

How to use: grind fresh leaves to make a poultice and apply on the wound.

Ailment: wound with maggots

Herb to use (common name): **custard apple**

Scientific name: *Annona squamosa*

How to use: crush unripe fruit and seeds; apply on wound once a day for 2-3 days until all the maggots are dead; then dress with any of the other treatments for open wounds or fly repellants until the wound heals.



Herb to use (common name): **neem**

Scientific name: *Azadirachta indica*

How to use: grind a handful of neem leaves and mix with enough coconut oil to make a paste; apply to the wound once a day until the wound heals.

Left: Rose-ringed Parakeet in Neem tree.
Photo: Wikipedia/J.M. Garg.

Ailment: infected wounds

Herb to use (common name): **Tasmanian blue gum**

Scientific name: *Eucalyptus globulus*

How to use: pound a handful of leaves and squeeze out the juice; pour the juice onto the infected wound; repeat twice a day until the wound heals.

Ailment: burn

Herb to use (common name): **aloe; "sabila"**

Scientific name: *Aloe vera*

How to use: wash the burn with cold water; make a poultice of the fresh latex or pulp of the Aloe vera and apply it to the burn.

Left: coconut.

Photo Wikipedia/ Hannes Grobe.

Ailment: heat stress

Herb to use (common name): **coconut**

Scientific name: *Cocos nucifera*

How to use: give water from young coconuts as drinking water.



However, we do realize that the above mentioned herbs are probably not available in your country. In our Dutch issue we included a similar list provided by the Dutch Dr. Maria Groot of RIKILT Wageningen UR, the Netherlands, with herbs from European regions.

So if the Philippine list is of no use to you, please read the same article in the Dutch issue. More information and photos of the mentioned European herbs can be found on the internet, i.e. Wikipedia, and maybe even in your own language. (Use their scientific name when searching).

To facilitate the reading we will give you some translation of the Dutch terms:

Plantdeel = part of the plant	eetlust = appetite
Bast = bark, rind	ei = egg
Blad = leave	groei = (stimulating) grow
Bloem = flower	immuunsysteem = immunity system
Knop = bud	koortswerend = pyretic
Kruid = herb	lever = liver
Peul = pod	luchtwegen = bronchial tubes
Wortel =root, rhizome	maag = stomach
Zaad = seed	ontstekingen = inflammation
Gebruikt voor = used for:	spijsvertering = digestion
ademhaling = respiration	stofwisseling = metabolism
afweer = immunity	tegen vliegen = against flies
algehele gezondheid = total health	tijdens rui = during moult
darm = intestine	uitloop = run or free-range area
darmflora = gut flora	versteving verenkleed = better plumage
desinfecteren stallucht = disinfect air	weerstand = resistance
diarree = diarrhoea	wondverzorging = caring for wounds
doorbloeding = blood supply	ziektepreventie = preventing sickness



Recommended websites: <http://www.fyto-v.nl/en/index2.php>

RIKILT Wageningen UR <http://www.rikilt.wur.nl/UK/>

ESCOPE The European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy <http://www.escop.com/>

Institute for Ethnobotany and Zoopharmacognosy <http://www.ethnobotany.nl/>

There is an interesting book on the subject: "*The complete herbal handbook for farm and stable*" by Juliette de Bairacli Levy, a British national. It was first published in 1952 by Faber and Faber Ltd, London, but there are later editions. She has one whole chapter on herbal treatments for poultry.



We haven't read it so cannot tell you about the herbs mentioned.

Above: Aloe vera. PhotoWikipedia.

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