

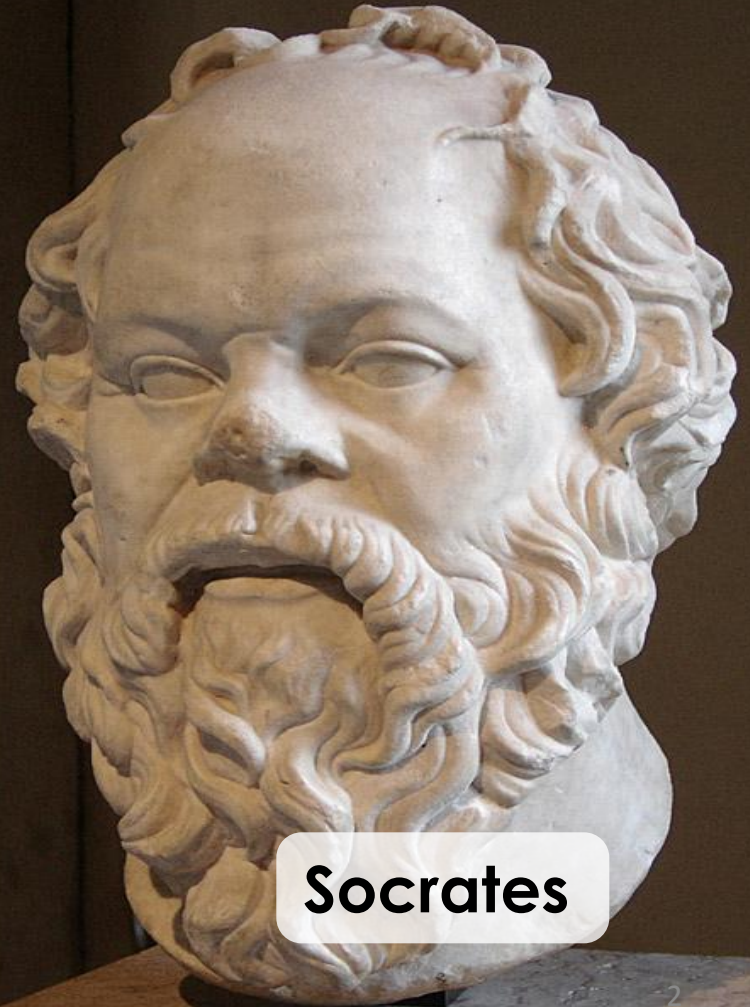
Socrates (399 BC)

Socrates

Convicted of corrupting
the youths of Athens



Encouraged
them to think



Socrates

Socrates

Sentenced to death



Poisoning

Hemlock plant extract



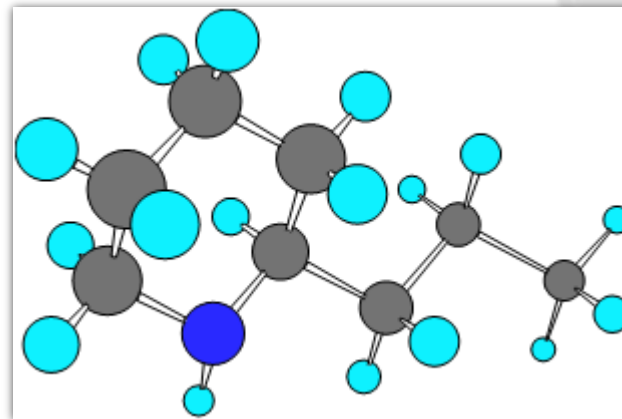
Hemlock plant

Socrates

Hemlock contains
various alkaloids



Coniine



Coniine

Socrates

Symptoms experienced after drinking hemlock



Numbness from feet upwards



Paralysis reached heart and lungs



Died

Augustus

Augustus

Poisoned by Empress Livia

Suspected that Livia wanted to poison him

Refused to eat food prepared for him



Augustus

Augustus

Only ate fruits
from his fig tree

Livia injected
poison into figs

Caesar poisoned
after eating fruits



Figs of *Ficus carica*

Lakhvinder Cheema

2009



Lakhvinder Cheema



Lakhvir Singh

2009

Cheema and his fiancée
had leftover curry for dinner

2009

Became very ill



Called emergency services



Food poisoning?



Actual poisoning

2009

Sent to the hospital

Lakhvinder Cheema died soon after

His fiancée survived

Lakhvir Singh convicted

Questions

- 1 How had Lakhvir Singh done the poisoning?
- 2 How did she get such a potent poison?

Aconitum ferox

Native to the Himalayas

Used as a poison in India

Lakhvir Singh went to India to obtain plant



Aconitum ferox

Went to Cheema's house



Poisoned his curry

Traces of plant found on her



Convicted

Aconitum ferox

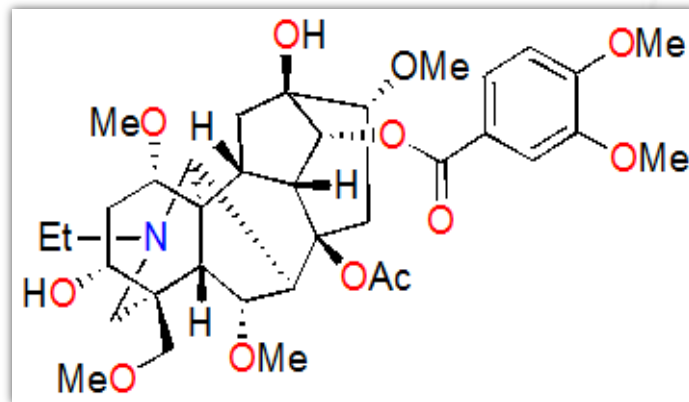
Contains a very complex alkaloid



Shuts down the nervous system



Brain still working



Pseudoaconitine

***“Hell hath no fury like
a woman scorned”***

William Congreve (1670 – 1729)



Accidental poisoning

Plants as a cause of poisoning

DNA

Fingerprints

Fibre Analysis

Poison

Blood



Blooming wild garlic

Accidental poisoning

Plants as a cause of poisoning



Wild garlic leaves vs meadow saffron leaves



Look very similar

Wild garlic

Accidental poisoning

Meadow saffron
is highly toxic

A close-up photograph of several purple meadow saffron flowers. The flowers have six petals each, with a light purple or lavender hue. The centers of the flowers are white, and the stamens are a bright orange color. The flowers are growing from a dark, moist soil. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the same flowers and some green foliage.

Meadow saffron

Accidental poisoning

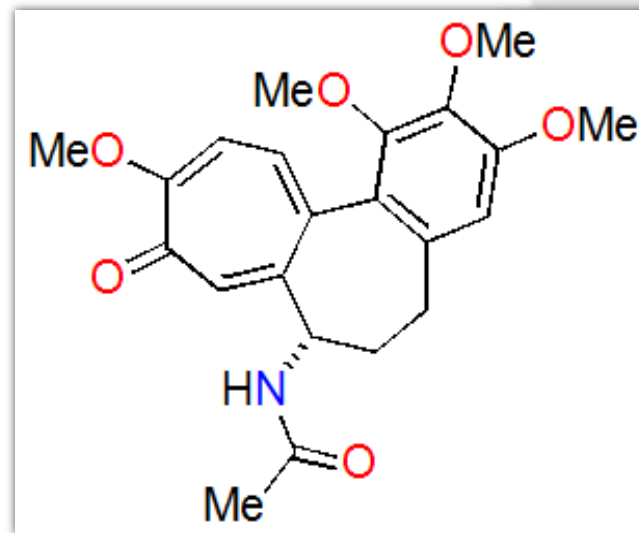
Contains colchicine



Anti-cancer



Overdose
leads to death



Colchicine

Accidental poisoning

Plants as a cause of poisoning



Wild garlic leaves vs meadow saffron leaves



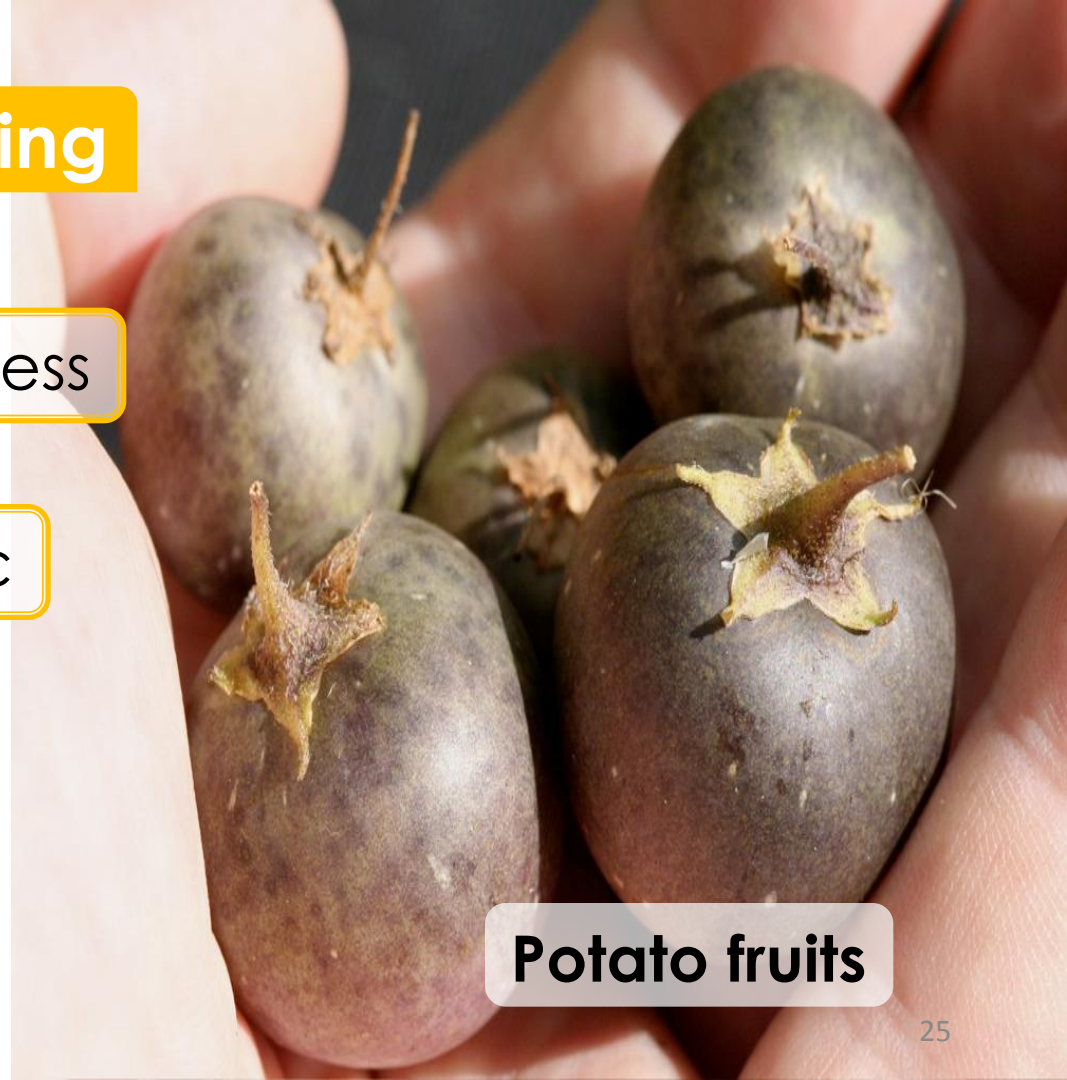
Potato plants

Potato tubers

Accidental poisoning

Potato tuber is harmless

Potato fruits are toxic



Potato fruits

Accidental poisoning

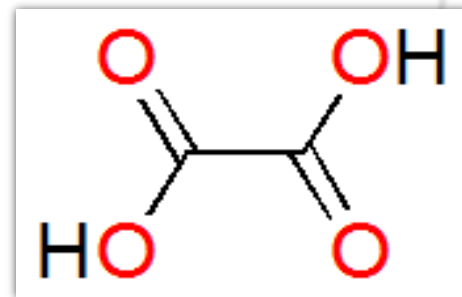
Potato fruits are toxic



Contains oxalic acid



Could have serious effects in children



Oxalic acid

Accidental poisoning

Rhubarb



Stems are edible



Leaves are toxic



Rhubarb