

Various topics

Influence of mental state on the homeopathic manufacturing process? A pilot study on wheat seedlings

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Objective

To investigate whether the potentization process can be influenced by the mental state of the researcher.

Background

The reproducibility of experiments on homeopathic remedies raises a number of complex issues, one of which is discussed under heading of “investigator effect” (van Wijk, Smith, Walach). One possible factor of influence could be the emotional or mental state of the person preparing the potency: Is it conceivable for this to influence the transfer of information from a molecular mother tincture to a high dilution? This was investigated using the development of wheat seedlings as a bioassay. Generally a significant and consistent difference in growth between seedlings treated with 30x potencies of gibberellic acid and water-treated controls is observed with this bioassay (ECIM abstract 2009 by Endler et al.).

Methods

Two batches of 30x potencies (diluted to 10e-30) of gibberellic acid (G) were prepared in different mental states: G 30x [+] was prepared in an elevated state of “unconditional love” brought about by prior meditation, while the control substances G 30x [-] and W 30x [-] were prepared while the investigator strove to be in a mental state which he experienced subjectively as diffuse. Bio-organically grown wheat (500 grains in each of 25 germination plates per group) was brought into contact with one of the three test liquids in a blind experiment. Stalk lengths were measured after 7 days. Data were interpreted on the assumption of G 30x [-] and W 30x [-] being reference groups which could potentially reveal a deviant effect of G 30x [+].

Results

Stalk length were (mm): G 30x [-]: 60.8 ± 18.4; W 30x [-]: 56.2 ± 16.8; G 30x [+]: 57.5 ± 14.3.

A significant difference was found between G 30x [-] and W 30x [-] (Scheffée: p < 0.01); no difference was found between W 30x [-] and G 30x [+] (p > 0.05), but a significant difference (p < 0.05) between G 30x [-] and G 30x [+].

Conclusion

As expected, the groups treated with G 30x [-] and W 30x [-] showed significant differences between them (Δ 4.6 mm = 8.2%). A significant difference was found between those treated with G 30x [-] and G 30x [+]. *It is thus possible that the investigator's emotional or mental state influenced the transfer of information from the mother tincture to the high dilution*, though evidently not in an amplifying manner, as had originally been speculated. Further investigations would be needed to exclude the possibility of these findings being coincidental.