

8B-Absinthion (ΑΨΙΝΘΙΟΝ ΒΑΘΠΙΚΡΟΝ)

an Ancient Greek word is of uncertain origin. May be from Persian اسپند (*ispand*, "wild rue"), or from the Greek word *apsinthion*, meaning undrinkable

Vienna 22^v



Naples 8b



Apsinthion. *Artemisia pontica*, *A. absinthium*. Würm wood (RT Gunther. Book III-26. p. 259. 1933)

Absinthium [ye Egyptians call it Somi, ye Romans Absinthium rusticum,) called Bathypicron is a known herb, but ye best of it is that which growes in Pontus, & Cappadocia on ye mountain that is called Taurus. But it hath a warming, binding digestive facultie, & of taking away ye choleric matter sticking to ye stomach, & ye belly. It is also ureticall & keeps from surfetting, being drank beforehand. It is good also for inflations and ye paines of the belly & of ye stomach being drank with Seseli or Celtick Nardus, & the dilutum or ye decoction of it doth heale want of appetite & ye ictericall, being taken *every* day to ye quantity of 3 Cyathi. It doth also expell ye menstrua, being both drank, & applied with honey. And it is good for the strangulations that come from mushrumps, being with Acetum. Bu t with wine for (ye poison) of Ixia, & hemlock & ye bitings of ye shrew mouse and the dragon of ye sea. And for ye Synanchicall it is an unction with honey & nitre, & for ye Epinyctidae with water. But for Sugillata with honey & for dullness of sight, and likewise for mattering ears, and the vapour thereby of ye decoction for ye ear's-pain, & forye toothache. And being sodden with passum it is a cataplasme of very much pained eyes. It is also applied to ye Hypochondria, & ye liver, & a pained stomach, & that have suffered long, being beaten together with Cyprian Cerat, but for ye stomach with Rosaceum. It is good also for ye hydropicall, & ye Splenicall, there being mixed therewith figs and nitre & ye meale of Lolium. There is made of it also wine which is called Absinthite, but especially about Propontis and Thracia which they use in ye absence of a fever for ye purposes aforesaid, & otherwise also they drink to each other of it in ye summer, thinking it to be a causer of health. It seems also that being layd about into ye chests, to keep ye garments uneaten, & being anointed on with oil to forbid ye Culices to touch ye body. But ye ink wherewith we write macerated with ye macerating thereof doth keep writings uneaten of mice. It seems also that the juice doth do ye same work. But we doe not allow of it in potions, it being bad for ye stomach, & causing headache. Some counterfeit ye juice with Amurca sod.

Apsinthion. Suggested : *Absinthium vulgare* [Fuchs], *Seriphium absinthium* [in Sprague], *Artemisia absinthium* [Linnaeus] - Wormwood (TA Osbaldeston & RPA Wood. Book 3-26. p. 394-396. 2000)

Absinthium (also called *bathypicron*) is a well-known herb, and the best grows in Pontus and Cappadocia on the mountain called Taurus. It is warming, astringent and digestive, and takes away bilious matter sticking in the stomach and bowels. It is urinary, and keeps one from overindulging taken as a drink beforehand. It is good (taken as a drink with *seseli* [3-60 to 3-62] or *celtic nardus* [1-7]) for gaseousness and pains in the intestines and stomach. Three cups of a dilution or decoction of it (taken every day) heals lack of appetite and jaundice. Taken as a drink and applied with honey it expels the menstrual flow. It is good with vinegar for constrictions from [eating] mushrooms. It is an antidote given with wine for (the poison) of *ixia* [3-103] and hemlock, the bites of the shrewmouse, and bites of the sea dragon [2-15]. With honey and saltpetre

[potassium nitrate] it is an ointment for a synanchic [abscessed] throat ; and with water for pustules that appear at night. It is used for bruises with honey, also for dullness of sight [eyes] and pus-filled ears. The vapour of a decoction is used for earache and toothache. Boiled with *passum* [raisin wine] it is a plaster for very painful eyes. It is also applied to hypochondria [nervous gastric disorder], the liver, a painful stomach, and [those] who have suffered long pounded together with Cyprian [possibly rose] wax ointment, but for the stomach mix it with *rosaceum* [1-53]. It is good for dropsy and the spleen mixed with figs, saltpetre [potassium nitrate] and meal of *lolium* [2-116, 4-140]. Especially around Propontis and Thrace a wine is made from it which is called absinthe, which they use in the absence of fever for the purposes previously mentioned. They drink to each other with it in the summer thinking it to cause health. It seems that placed in chests it keeps the garments uneaten [by moths]. Rubbed on with oil it forbids the mosquitos to touch the body [insect repellent]. Ink for writing that is made by steeping it keeps writings from being eaten by mice. It seems that the juice does the same work. We do not allow it in liquid medicines as it is bad for the stomach and causes headaches. Some counterfeit the juice with boiled *amurca* [sediment of buckthorn oil].

The Egyptians call it *somi*, and the Romans, *absinthium rusticum*.