







SHAPE
What it resembles.



COLOUR
What it reminds us of.



PATTERN
What it seems to echo.



TASTE / SMELL
What its properties suggest.



BEHAVIOUR
What it appears to imitate.



HABITAT
Where it grows.



SEASON
When it appears.



NAME
Linguistic association.



A "signature" could be a clue —
not just a shape.



Medicina
Naturalis

Herbarium

1. THE CLUE COMES FIRST?



*It's red...
maybe it treats blood?*



*Observation
leads to a hypothesis.*

2. THE MEDICINE COMES FIRST?



*People used it...
then noticed it's red.*



*Experience
leads to an explanation.*

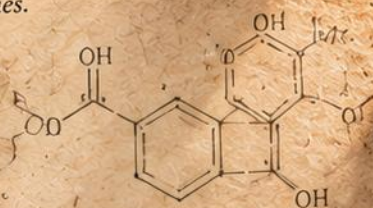
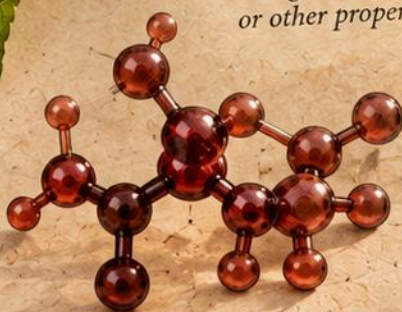


1. PLANT

A visible feature
in nature.

2. CHEMISTRY

Natural compounds
that give colour, taste
or other properties.



anthraquinones
(tannins, flavonoids, etc.)

3. BIOLOGICAL EFFECT

These compounds can
interact with the body
in real ways.



e.g. antioxidant
anti-inflammatory
wound healing

A visible feature can be linked to chemistry.
And chemistry can have biological effects.

Ethnobotany

Plant Science

PLANT
QUINONES

A 2026 STUDY ASKED:

“Are red-sap plants
more likely to be used
for blood-related disorders?”

RED-SAP PLANTS
associated with
blood-related disorders

OTHER PLANTS
associated with
blood-related disorders

3x
more likely

Red-sap species were approximately three times
more likely to be used traditionally for
blood-related disorders.

The researchers also identified plant relationships and suggested
that red quinones — found in some red-sap plants — may help
explain the association.

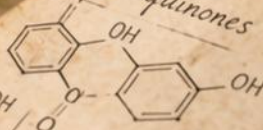
This does NOT prove the Doctrine of Signatures.

It shows that at least one signature-based prediction
can correspond to a measurable ethnobotanical pattern
with a plausible biochemical explanation.

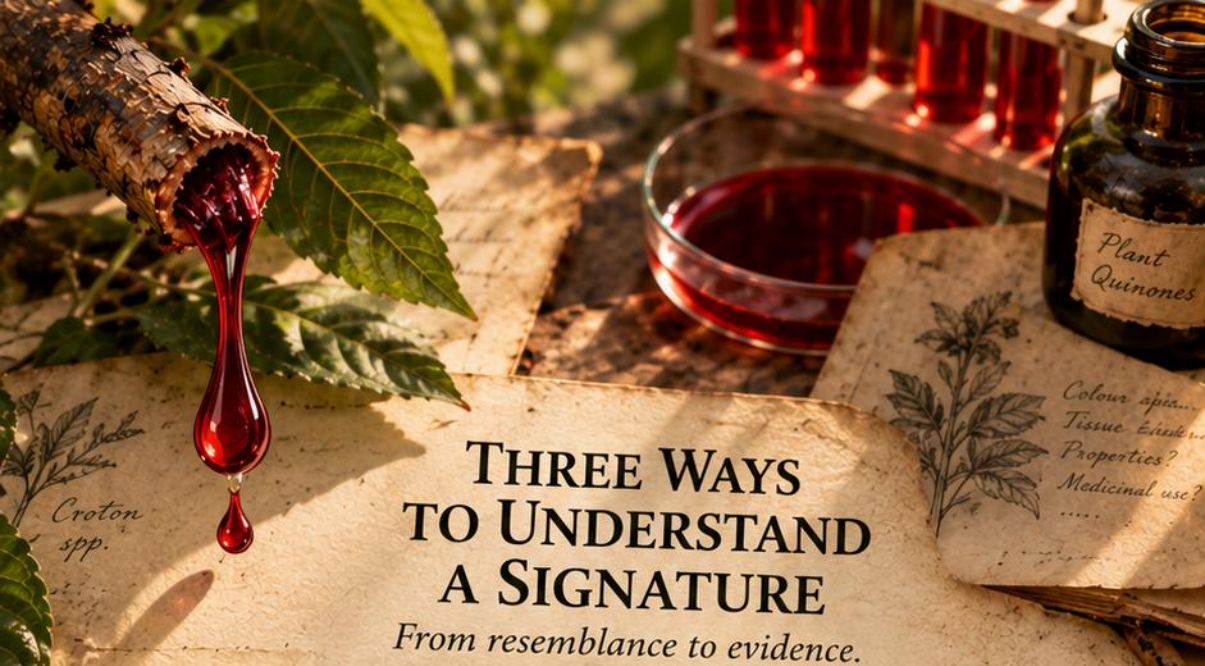


Source: Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2026)

Red quinones



• Pigmentation?
• Wound healing?
• Anti-inflammatory?



THREE WAYS TO UNDERSTAND A SIGNATURE

From resemblance to evidence.

1

SYMBOL

It looks like it.

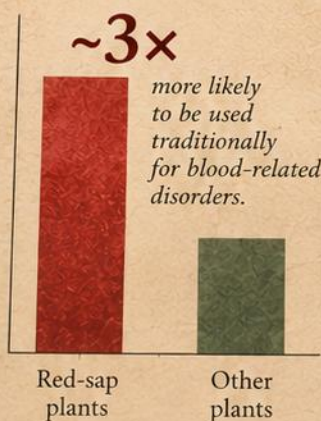


*Red sap
resembles blood.*

2

CORRELATION

*It happens more often
than expected.*

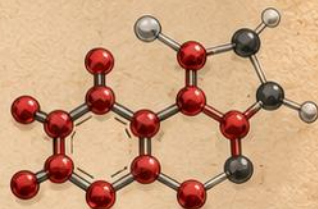


*A 2026 study found red-sap species
were approximately three times more
likely to be used for blood-related
disorders than other plants.*

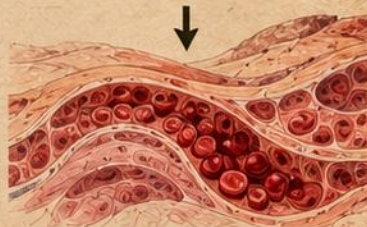
3

MECHANISM

We can begin to explain why.



Red quinones
(and related compounds)



*These compounds may help explain
potential wound-healing and
anti-inflammatory effects.*

This does not prove the Doctrine of Signatures.

*It shows that at least one signature-based prediction
can be tested — and may have a plausible biochemical explanation.*





See
Remember
Share



Knowledge
lives on



PLANT
KNOWLEDGE

PEOPLES
TRADITIONS

LIVING
MEMORIES

A memorable sign
can help knowledge
survive generations.



Nature speaks.
Humans remember.



SIGNATURES

What does nature appear to tell us?

DOCTRINE OF SIGNATURES

Visible characteristics suggest hidden properties.



→



Shape resembles an organ



→



Colour resembles a condition



→



Taste / smell suggests a physiological effect



→



Habitat suggests an area of use

≠

SIMILARS

What does the substance do to us?

HOMEOPATHIC SIMILARS

A substance can indicate a remedy if it produces similar symptoms in a healthy person.



→



Substance produces headache-like symptoms



→



Substance produces breathing-related symptoms



→



Substance produces digestive symptoms



→



Substance produces inflammatory symptoms



RELATED ≠ IDENTICAL

Different observations. Different reasoning.
A shared interest in how nature and the human body connect.



Atropa belladonna

Observation
Similitude?
Properties?



Observation

Experiment

Understanding

Better
questions
lead to
deeper answers.

~~IS THE DOCTRINE TRUE?~~

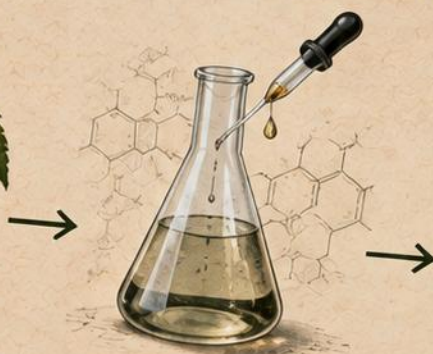
WHEN CAN NATURE'S CLUES ACTUALLY TELL US SOMETHING?

Instead of a yes or no, we can investigate.



ETHNOBOTANY

*What patterns occur
in traditional
knowledge?*



CHEMISTRY

*What might produce
those patterns?*



PHARMACOLOGY

*Do they correspond to
measurable biological
effects?*

Don't defend the whole doctrine.
Don't dismiss the whole doctrine.
Test specific predictions.



*Curiosity
fuels progress.*

Observation
Question
Test
Understand

Observe

Look closely
at the natural
world.



A
DEEPER
LOOK
AT A MORE
CONNECTED
WORLD

Question

Ask what
it might mean.



Test

Look for evidence.
Explore patterns.
Stay curious.



Understand

Combine knowledge.
Find deeper answers.
Keep exploring.



A resemblance isn't proof.
But it can be a clue worth investigating.



SAME QUESTIONS. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.



Observe more
Question more
Test more
Understand more
Live more fully

