

Quinoid substances are present not only in other species of *Dalbergia* (*Nigra*, *Retusa*, etc.) but in plants belonging to numerous other families; 2,6-dimethoxy-1,4-benzoquinone has been discovered in more than 25 different plants and woods (2). Although cross-reactions are possible between different types of dalbergiones (3, 4) and between other quinones such as primin (1, 11), our patient had negative reactions to some of these substances (Table 1).

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Immediate-type hypersensitivity to *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn)

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Crataegus monogyna is a densely branched thorny shrub belonging to the rose family (Rosaceae). It is native to Britain and Continental Europe and is extensively used for hedging and screening in British gardens. Hairs from the fruit have been reported to cause nodose conjunctivitis (1), and corneal laceration from the concealed thorns may result in blindness (2). There are, however, no previous reports of cutaneous immediate hypersensitivity to this species.

A 48-year-old woman presented with a 4-month history of irritation and watering of the eyes after moving into a new home, the garden of which contained numerous hawthorn plants. She noticed swelling of the eyelids after working in the garden. The swelling would resolve after a few hours. The patient had no prior history of similar symptoms and no personal or family history of atopy. Patch tests to hawthorn leaf and fruit were negative. Prick testing

with the fruit produced a 12 mm wheal with pseudopodia, and testing with the leaf resulted in a 6 mm wheal with pseudopodia. Prick testing with the Bencard standard series of 10 food and inhalent allergens was negative, other than group B2 (grass pollens) which produced a 9 mm wheal.

Prick tests with the plant in 17 control subjects were negative. We conclude that our patient has an immunologically-mediated contact urticaria to *Crataegus monogyna*.

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