


33 Spreen O, Benton AL. *Neuropsychological examination for aphasia (NCCEA)*. Victoria: University of Victoria Neuropsychology Laboratory, 1977.


### NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

**Rauvolfia serenettii** (moonshine plant)

The genus *Rauvolfia* was named after the 16th century German physician and explorer Dr Leonhard Rauwolf. It grows in most tropical forests of the Pacific, South America, Asia, and Africa and there are more than 100 species.

The plant—called chandrika or “moonshine plant” in Sanskrit—has long been valued in India as a sedative and hypnotic in the treatment of insanity, or “moon disease”. Its active ingredient is reserpine, isolated from the root of the rauvolfia in 1952, revolutionised the treatment of mental illness and hypertension. Holy men in India, including Mahatma Gandhi, have reportedly chewed the root of the rauvolfia to help achieve a state of philosophic detachment while meditating. It is shown on a medicinal plant set of stamps issued by New Caledonia in 1988 (Stanley Gibbons 831, Scott 579).

*L F HAAS*
Rauvolfia sevenetii (moonshine plant).

L F Haas

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1995 58: 547
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.58.5.547

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/58/5/547.citation

**Email alerting service**

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/