


NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Valeriana officinalis (garden heliotrope)

Since ancient times people have believed garden heliotrope to be a cure for epilepsy and a host of other disorders, thus accounting for one of the plant’s alternative names—all heal. In the 16th and 17th centuries, herbalists considered the herb a sedative for “nervous disorders” such as “hysteric complaints,” an antispasmodic for convulsions, and a remedy for bad coughs and for constipation. It has been said that the herb drives cats into a frenzy.

It is pictured on a commemorative stamp for the International Congress of Pharmacology, issued by Czechoslovakia in 1971 (Stanley Gibbons 1982, Scott 1775).

L F HAAS