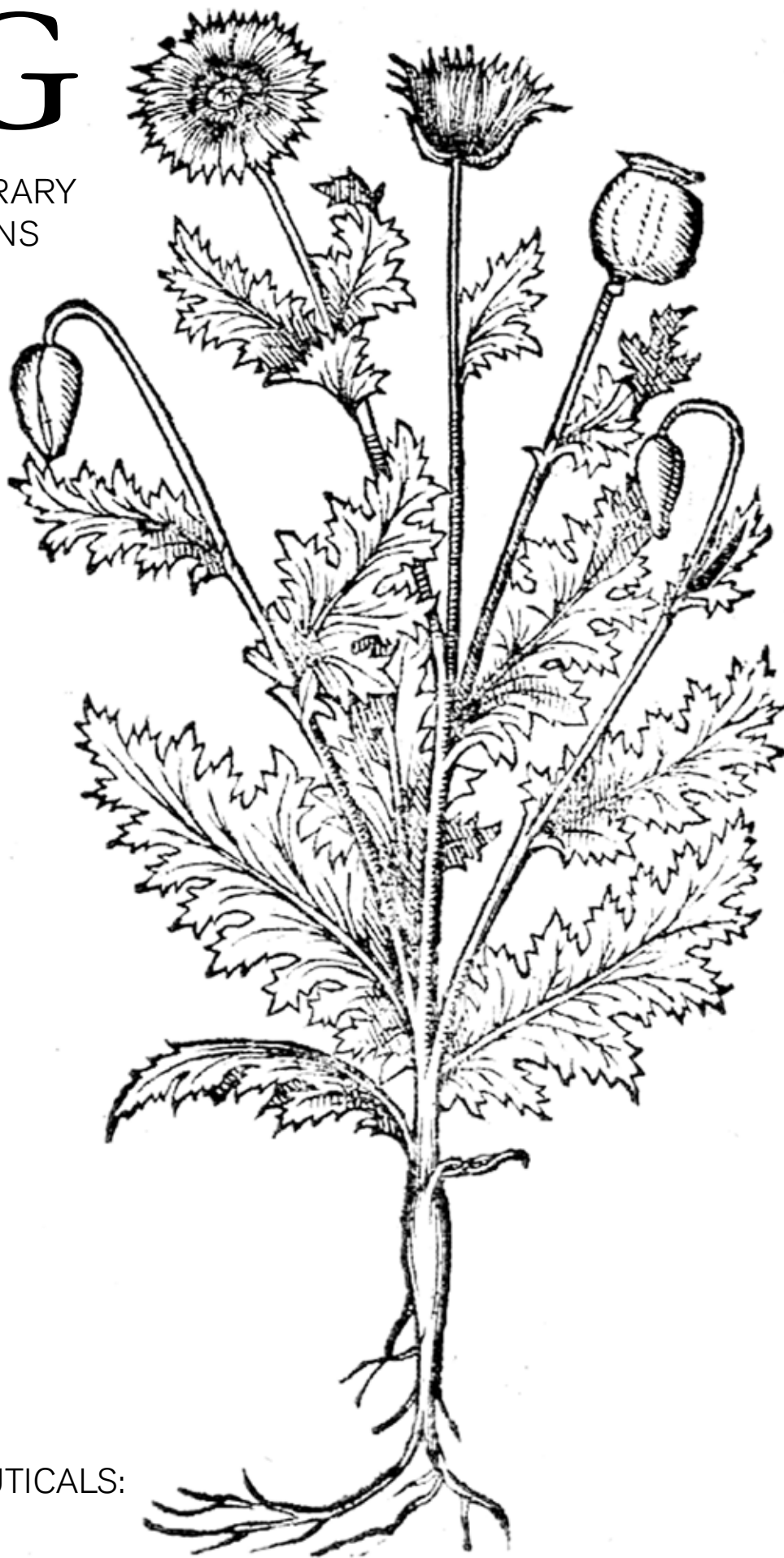


# NYBG

LESTER T. MERTZ LIBRARY  
COLOR OUR COLLECTIONS



PLANTS TO PHARMACEUTICALS:  
HERBAL MEDICINE

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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## About the LuEsther T. Mertz Library

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library is a thriving center for research in the study of botany, horticulture, and the integral role plants play in the sustainable development of humankind. It collects, preserves, and shares more than ten centuries of written and visual documents that are essential to understanding our relationship with the plant kingdom. The Mertz Library's outstanding collections and programs are important educational resources for the scientific, scholarly, and artistic communities worldwide and the public at large.

### Library Contact & Hours:

**Phone:** 718.817.8604

**E-mail:** libref@nybg.org

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### Cover: *Papaver somniferum* L.

L'Obel, Matthias de, *Plantarum seu stirpium icons*. Antverpiae, 1581.

The herbaceous plant is known as opium poppy, a key source in pain relief narcotic medications such as Codeine, Morphine and Oxycodone.

### Figure 1: *Arbutus uva-ursi* L.

L'Obel, Matthias de, *Plantarum seu stirpium icons*. Antverpiae, 1581.

Pursell, J. J. "The Herbal Apothecary." *100 Medicinal Herbs and How to Use Them*, 2015.

### Figure 2: *Polygonum bistorta* L.

L'Obel, Matthias de, *Plantarum seu stirpium icons*. Antverpiae, 1581.

Pursell, J. J. "The Herbal Apothecary." *100 Medicinal Herbs and How to Use Them*, 2015.

### Figure 3: *Viburnum prunifolium* L.

Lounsberry, Alice, *A guide to the trees*. New York, 1900.

Pursell, J. J. "The Herbal Apothecary." *100 Medicinal Herbs and How to Use Them*, 2015.

### Figure 4: *Menyanthes trifoliata* L.

Garsault, François A. de, *Les figures des plantes et animaux d'usage en medecine, décrits dans la Matière Medicale de Geoffroy Medecin*. Paris, 1764–1767.

Pursell, J. J. "The Herbal Apothecary." *100 Medicinal Herbs and How to Use Them*, 2015.

### Figure 5: Von baumung der Garten und pflanzung der Bäume [Title Page]

Lonicer, Adam, *Kreuterbuch. Kunstliche Conterfeytunge der Bäume...* Frankfurt, 1577.

### Figure 6: *Mandragora*

Theophrastus, *Theophrasti Eresii De historia plantarum libri decem, Graecè et Latinè...* Amsterdam, 1644.

### Figure 7: *Cosmas and Damianus*

Saint Hildegard, *Physica S. Hildegardis elementorum, fluminum aliquot Germaniae, metallorum, leguminum, fructuum, et herbarum...* Strasbourg, 1533.

### Figure 8: [Physician in apothecary shop]

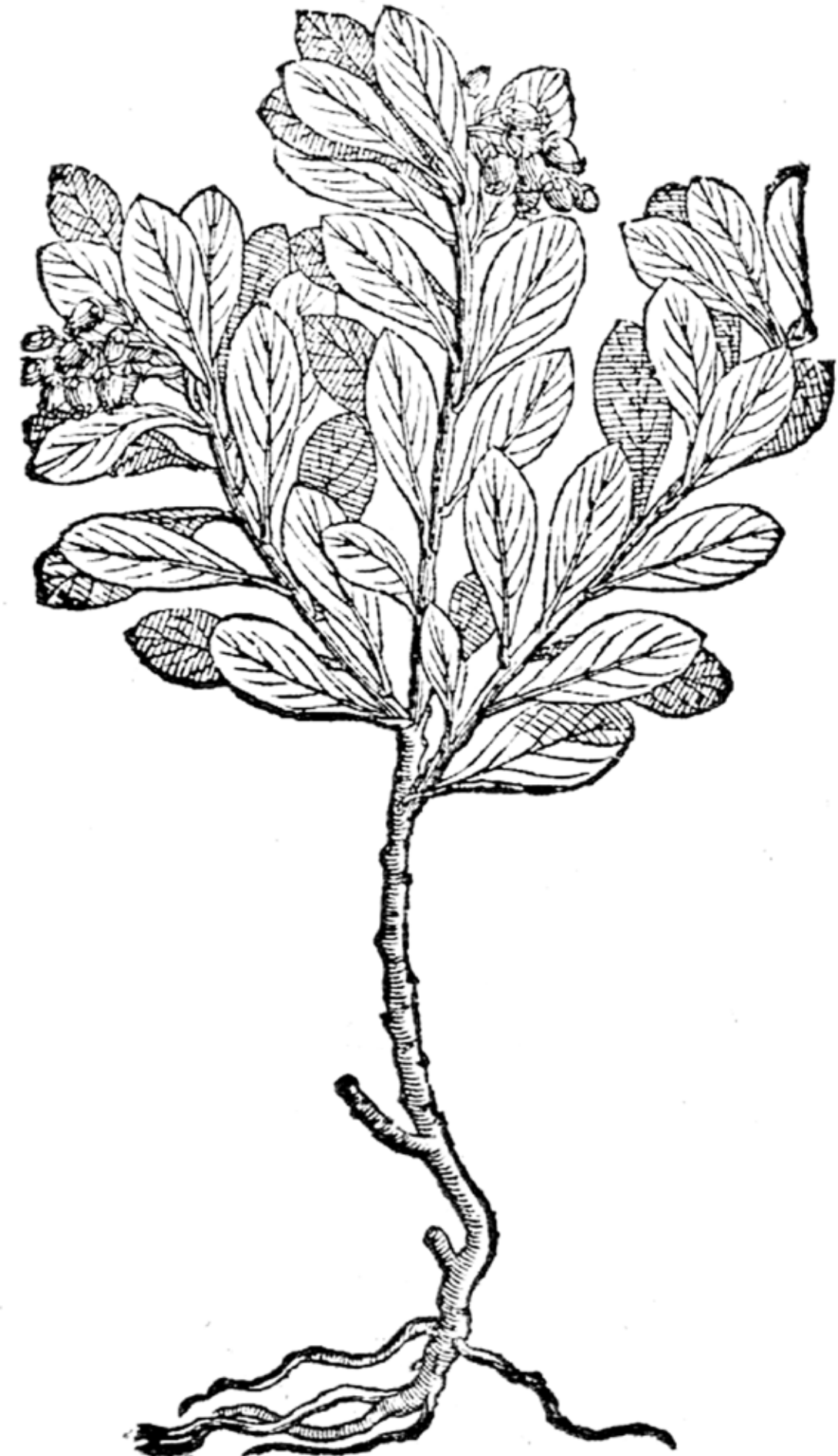
Pruss, Johann, *Ortus sanitates. De herbis et plantis...* Strasbourg, 1497.

### Figure 9: [Plants resembling teeth]

Porta, Giambattista della, *Phytognomonica Io. Baptistae Portae Neap. octo libris contenta*. Naples, 1588.

### Figure 10: *Botanique Pharmaceutique Renou, Jean de, Les oeuvres pharmaceutiques.*

Renou, Jean de, *Les oeuvres pharmaceutiques. A Lyon: Chez Antoine Chard, 1626.*



*Arbutus uva-ursi* is also known as Bearberry, a plant species carrying diuretic and astringent properties to help with kidney stones and the bladder system. —Pursell, 2015.

Figure 2



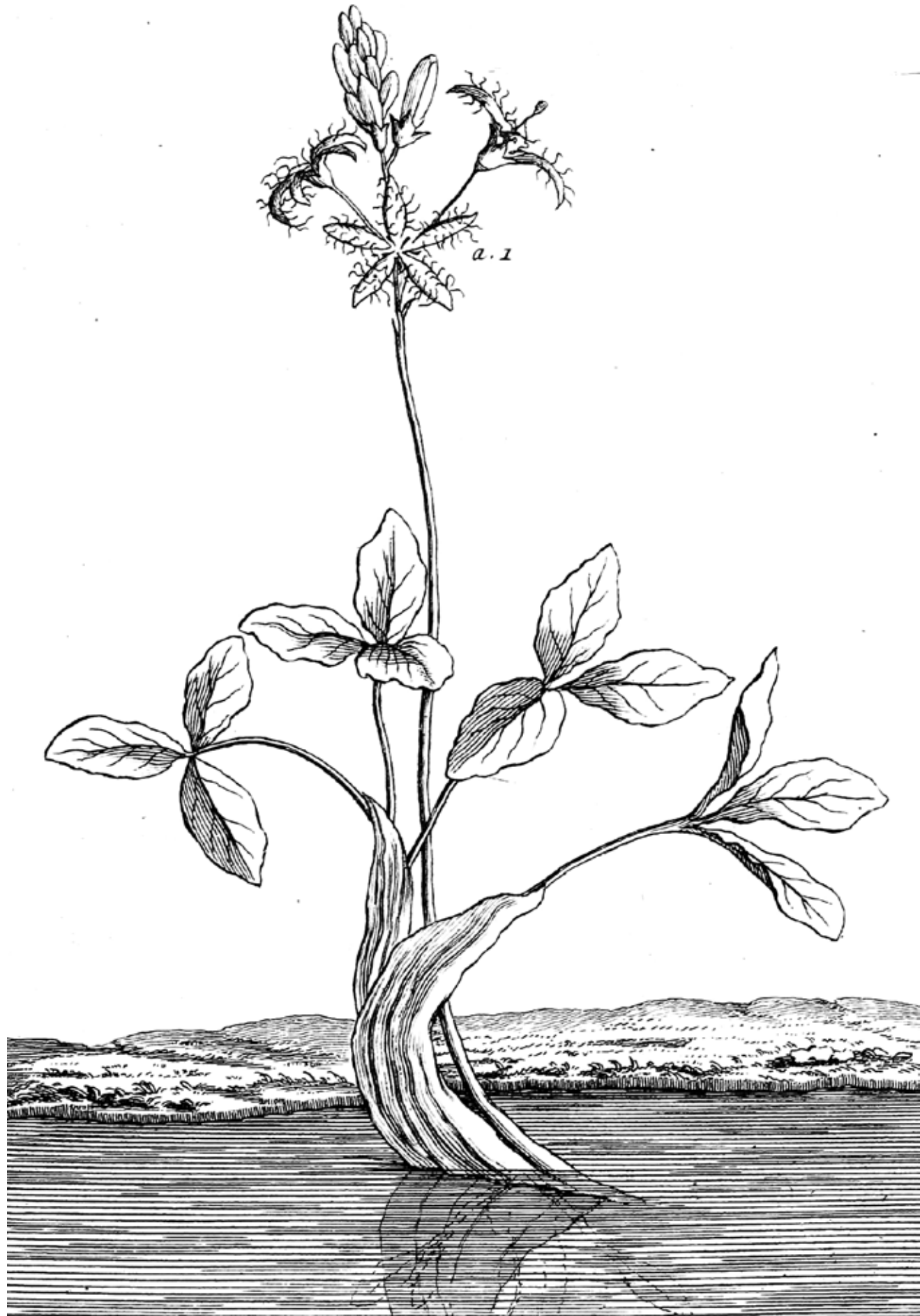
A perennial herb, *Polygonum bistorta* L. acts as an astringent and eliminates toxins from the body. —Pursell, 2015.

Figure 3



With the common name Black haw, this shrub performs as a relaxant, affecting the gastrointestinal, reproductive and nervous system. —Pursell, 2015.



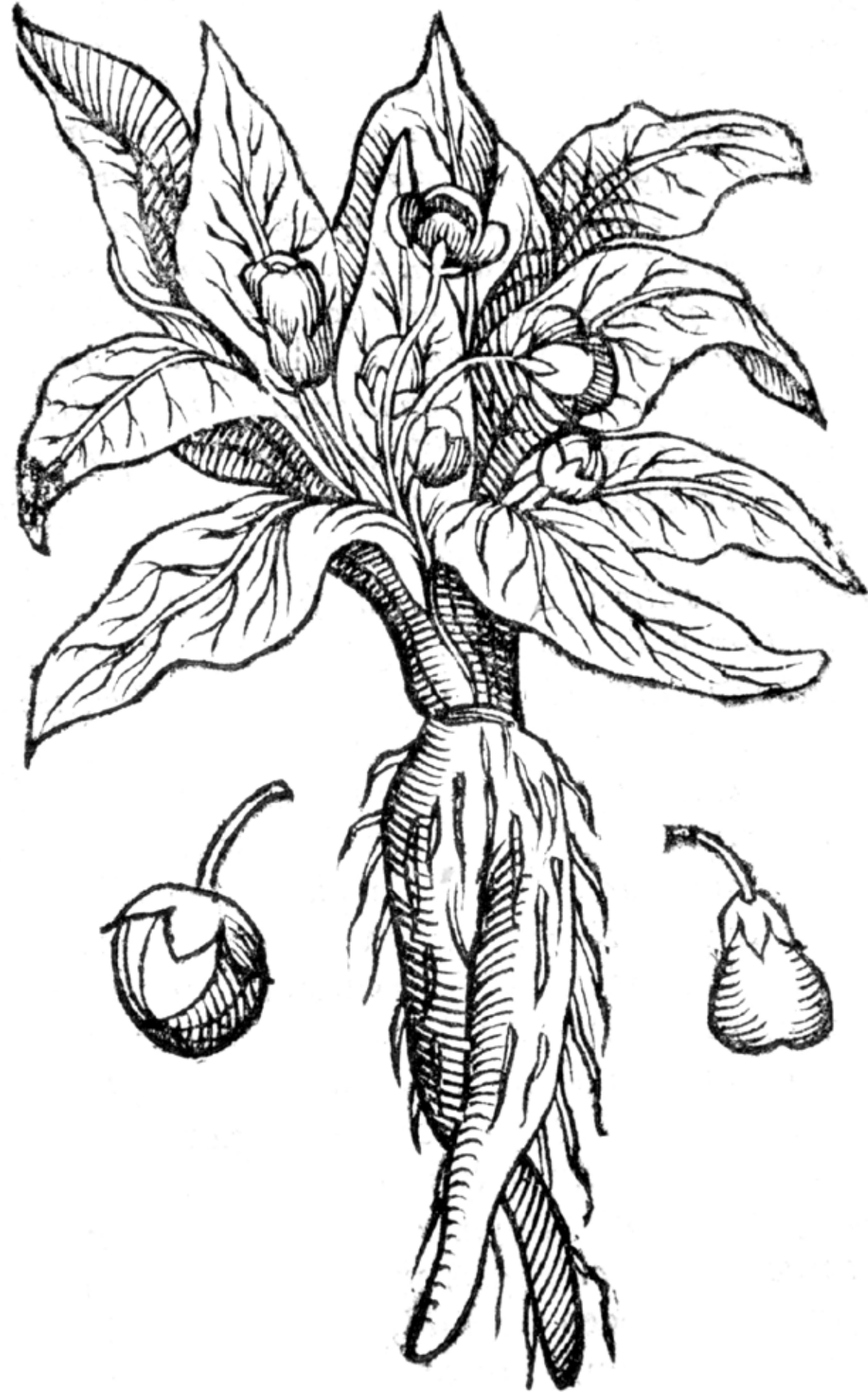


Commonly known as Bogbean, the bitter, pungent flower clears lymphatic system congestion issues, removing waste accumulation. —Pursell, 2015.



"A large part of this book is focused on the distillation of plant matter to extract curative oils and waters, and may be the first to suggest steam for use in the distillation process."—*The Renaissance Herbal*, 2013.

Figure 6



[De historia plantarum...] "Included with the scientific approach to plants were superstitions connected to their perceived magical powers."  
—*The Renaissance Herbal*, 2013.

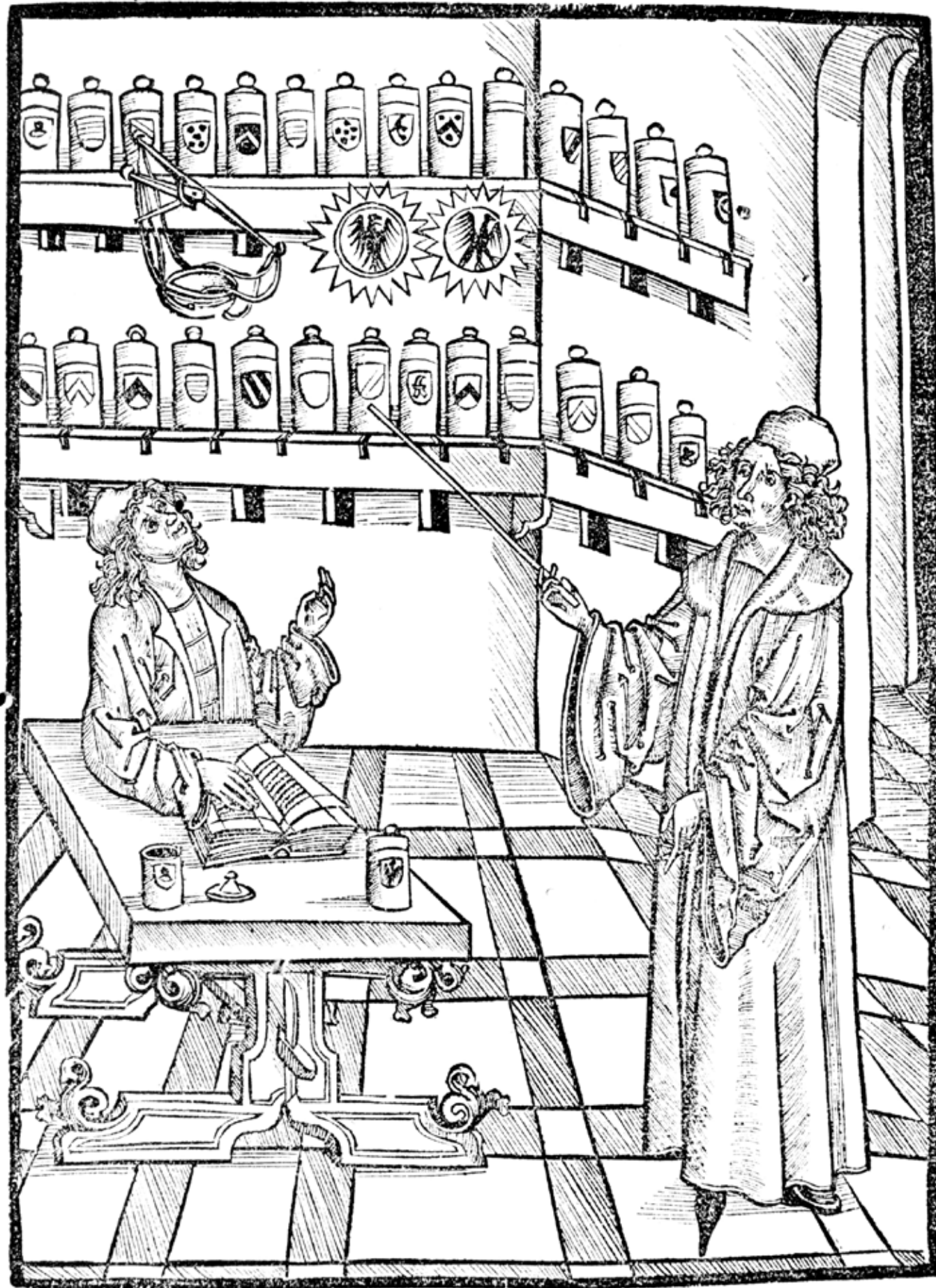
Figures 7



"Twin brothers Cosmas and Damianus were early Christians who practiced medicine, and subsequently became patrons of physicians and surgeons."  
—*The Renaissance Herbal*, 2013.

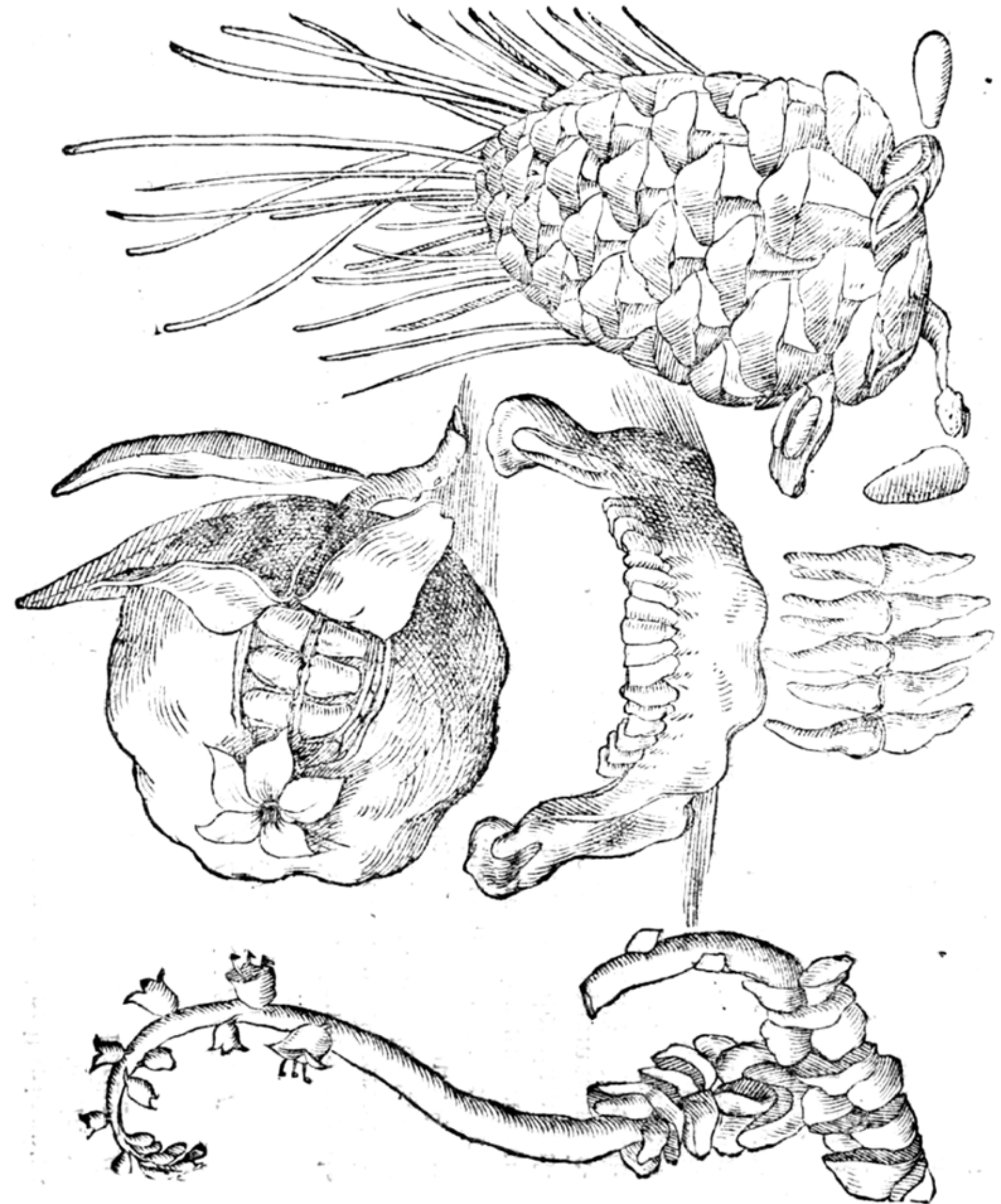


Figure 8



"It's [Ortus sanitatis...] index by ailment made it a useful guide for the medieval physician, as well as the apothecaries who prepared physicians' remedies." —*The Renaissance Herbal*, 2013.

Figures 9



"The Doctrine of Signatures is an ancient theory stating that the physical form or attributes of a plant are its "signature" or sign, indicating which parts of the human anatomy it can heal." —*The Renaissance Herbal*, 2013.

Figure 10

