

Abstract

THE MEMORY OF WATER: A MYSTERY ABOUT TO BE SOLVED. DISSIPATIVE STRUCTURES IN EXTRA HIGH WATER SOLUTIONS OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE.

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“Memory of water” is a journalistic expression, used for the first time in the French newspaper “*Le Monde*”, soon after the publication in the international scientific review *Nature* of Jacques Benveniste’s famous article (1988) which pointed out, through biologic trials, that homeopathic dilutions of substances (that were so diluted that they did not contain any molecules of the substance initially dissolved in water any longer) produced in a statistically relevant degree biologic effects typical of the substances initially dissolved. The colourful expression “memory of water” was the extreme fanciful journalistic synthesis (not used by Benveniste) of a phenomenology still unexplained that in recent scientific publications has found possible ways to experimentally validate the reality of a whole class of new chemical-physical phenomena concerning liquid water.

Apparently, in fact, it’s really possible to get chemical-physical information depending on the recent or remote “history” of a water sample (Prigogine would say: breaking of time symmetry), similarly to what happens with magnetic materials (Prigogine: breaking of space symmetry). It’s more and more undisputable that the so called memory of water, brought up after the publication of the work carried out by Benveniste’s group, is connected to the capacity of such solvent, a complex highly variable system, to be influenced by even small perturbations, such as mechanical actions or electromagnetic stress, so as to move away from the initial conditions of balance. The expression “memory of water”, thus, becomes comprehensible and acceptable, as it falls within one of the paradigms totally accepted by the scientific community, that is the Thermodynamics of Irreversible Processes we owe to Nobel Prize for Chemistry (1977), Ilya Prigogine.

In the last ten years our team has dealt with this question, studying from a chemical-physical point of view some properties of water once it has undergone the original procedure characteristic of homeopathic preparation: as everybody knows, it’s a repetitive method including consecutive dilutions of solutes of medical interest and adequate succussions. This procedure repeated a number of times leads to systems containing no more molecules other than the ones of the solvent itself, that is in this case, pure water. Can the “new water” so obtained be really “different” from the initial water?

Answering this question has been our challenge and we can reveal the answer, unexpected but definitely supported by experimentation, to be positive.

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applicazioni\Microsoft\Modelli\Normal.dot
Titolo: Abstract
Oggetto:
Autore: Studio
Parole chiave:
Commenti:
Data creazione: 19/11/2007 9.35
Numero revisione: 3
Data ultimo salvataggio: 19/11/2007 9.35
Autore ultimo salvataggio: SCUOLA MEDICINA OMEOPATICA
Tempo totale modifica4 minuti
Data ultima stampa: 04/12/2007 18.07
Come da ultima stampa completa
Numero pagine: 1
Numero parole: 413 (circa)
Numero caratteri: 2.357 (circa)