

that the correct diagnosis for the 65-year-old woman in the study by Polley et al. (1) was visceral leishmaniasis caused by infection with *L. martiniquensis*.

References

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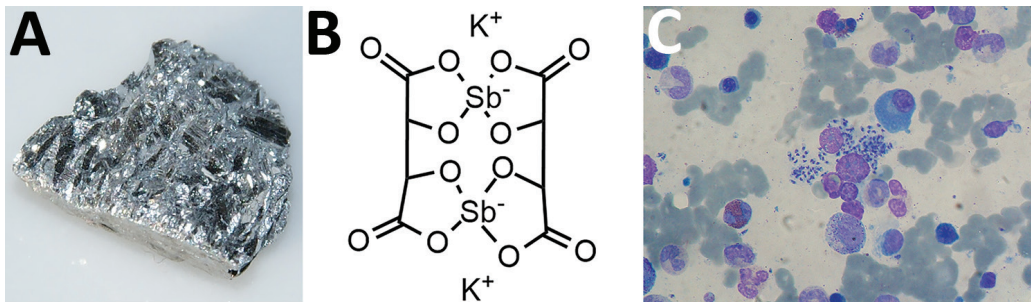
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etymologia

Antimony [an'ti-mo'ne]

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One hundred years ago, John Brian Christopherson (1868–1955) discovered that antimony potassium tartrate was an effective treatment against schistosomiasis. Antimony had been previously used against visceral leishmaniasis, *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense*, and yaws. The ancient Egyptians used antimony paste as mascara. In the Middle Ages, it was used as a laxative, which, after swallowing and retrieval, could be reused. Alchemists used it to harden lead.



A) Antimony, unknown author, <http://images-of-elements.com/>, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9084452>;
 B) Antimony potassium tartrate trihydrate, Changelot, own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47342907>;
 C) Bone marrow aspiration: Leishmaniasis (*Leishmania* sp.) in liver transplant recipient, Paulo Henrique Orlandi Mourao, 2009, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leishmaniasis#/media/File:Leishmania_2009-04-14_smear.JPG;

Its name might have been derived from the Egyptian word for the metal *sdm*, from which the Greek *stimmī*, then the Latin *stibium*, then the French *antimoine* were derived. A more interesting, but unlikely, origin is that the French *antimoine* translates as monk's killer, referring to its toxicity to religious alchemists. Antimony potassium tartrate remained the treatment of choice for schistosomiasis until the development of praziquantel in the 1980s.

Sources

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