

Supporting Notes for the Voynich Ergotism Hypothesis

Agricultural Evidence

Rye cultivation in Central and Eastern Europe increased during the 14th–15th centuries. Combined with colder, wetter years, this created optimal conditions for ergot outbreaks. Historical medical reports describe symptoms that mirror cognitive distortions relevant to the Voynich manuscript.

Cognitive Linguistics

Studies of aphasia, glossolalia, and toxic-induced language disruption reveal structured but meaningless text forms. Voynichese fits these distributions more closely than any natural language family.

Medical Imagery Comparison

Medieval women's medical manuscripts routinely depict baths, anatomical symbolism, and astrological cycles. The Voynich balneological section aligns strongly with these traditions when viewed through the lens of distorted perception.

Why AI Cannot Decipher It

AI excels at detecting hidden linguistic or structural patterns. The Voynich text lacks the invariant structures necessary for decryption or translation. This supports the hypothesis that semantic content was not present at creation, rather than hidden through sophisticated encoding.