

WIDOW'S BANE

(*Mortifera viduarum*)

CLASSIFICATION:

Lethal. Banned under the Dangerous Substances Act of 1743.

ORIGIN:

First documented in medieval witch trials. Named for its frequent use by those seeking to dispose of unwanted spouses, as it mimics natural heart failure in its victims.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES:

Widow's Bane appears as a crystalline powder, nearly odorless when dry. When dissolved in liquid, it transforms the beverage to a distinctive crimson hue, often mistaken for red wine or berry cordial. This coloration is one of the poison's most notorious characteristics and has led to its detection in numerous attempted poisonings throughout history.

EFFECTS:

Victim experiences sudden cardiac arrest within 15 minutes of ingestion. Initial symptoms include chest tightness, difficulty breathing, and acute pain radiating through the left arm. Death follows swiftly, appearing to casual observers as natural heart failure.

DETECTION:

Standard magical examination reveals traces of Widow's Bane in the victim's bloodstream for up to 48 hours post-mortem. The Revelius Toxicum charm will cause residual traces to glow deep purple.

ANTIDOTE:

Bezoar stone, if administered within 90 seconds of ingestion. After this window, no known antidote exists.

■ **WARNING:** Possession of Widow's Bane without Ministry license is punishable by imprisonment in Azkaban. Report any suspected cases immediately to the Department of Magical Law Enforcement.