20TH CENTURY

At the end of the 19th century one plant had been shown to cause Krimpsiekte. The colloquial Dutch name "Krimpsiekte" commonly replaced ‘nenta’ and refers to the clinical manifestations of the condition.

During the 20th Century numerous reviews, additional plants and elucidation of the toxic principles appeared in articles and textbooks.

Two textbooks that appeared are Henning (1932) and Steyn (1949) which reviewed the lists of additional plants and identification of toxic principles. E.g. Steyn (1949) mentions a "cotyledon toksiene" (Cotyledon toxin) belonging to the ‘picrotoxin group’ that stimulates the central nervous system and consequent paralysis.

The disease ‘nenta’ and associated plants were extensively reviewed in 1962 by Drs Watt and Breyer-Brandwijk. The taxonomy reflects the names of plants as of 1962. The references include South African authors e.g. Soga, Hutcheon and Steyn. Of note is the change Cotyledon ventricosa to Cotyledon ventricosus.

A review of this atlas is beyond the scope of this note.

Further taxonomical changes have occurred since e.g. Cotyledon to Tylecodon in 1978.