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Possible drug reaction, eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) syndrome in an infant

To the Editor: It was with interest I read the article on the DRESS syndrome in the December issue of SAJCH.¹ The toxicology of *Spirostachys africana* is well recognised. Commonly known as tamboti, it produces copious milky latex which was apparently used in the treatment of the patient.

This latex is reported in Palgrave's *Trees of Southern Africa* to be extremely toxic, and was used as a fish poison and to tip arrow heads.² Applied topically it can cause severe skin irritation and even eye damage. It is amazing that the patient reported did not die. Also

interesting is that African children of the area known as the 'Old Transvaal' are generally warned about its poisonous nature.

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