

Healing in the Changes of Time - Species Tychonis Brahe

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The creator of the miraculous drug named **Species Tychonis Brahe** (lat. Species – tea mixture) was none other than famous Danish astronomer, astrologer, and alchemist Tycho Brahe.



Figures 1. and 2.: Apothecary jars of Species Tychonis Brahe (Spec. Tychon.)

Brahe trusted the effect of his medicine so much that he asked Emperor Rudolf II to keep his prescription a great secret.

The composition of Species Tychonis Brahe in 1909 was as follows: *Aloe contusae* gr. 480, *Funghi Laricis concisi* gr. 60, *Gummi resinae Myrrhae contusae* gr. 60, *Radicis Gentianae concisi* gr. 28, *Rhizomatis Angelicae concisi* gr. 60, *Calami* gr. 60, *Galangae* gr. 30, *Inulae* gr. 60, *Pimpinellae* gr. 60, *Rhei* gr. 30, *Zedoariae* gr. 60, *Stigmatum Croci* gr. 12.

According to preserved data, the herbal mixture Tychonis Brahe was a “panacea” for various ailments. It was effective in suppressing stomach pain and gallstones, fever, infections, plague and all epidemic diseases. The tea mixture was also used by patients for various skin and blood diseases. Brahe himself used the tea because he believed in its miraculous effects and considered this drug more valuable than gold. He claimed that if it were still associated with antimony, it would be able to cure all diseases of the human body. He also allegedly gifted Emperor Rudolf II this miraculous medicine.

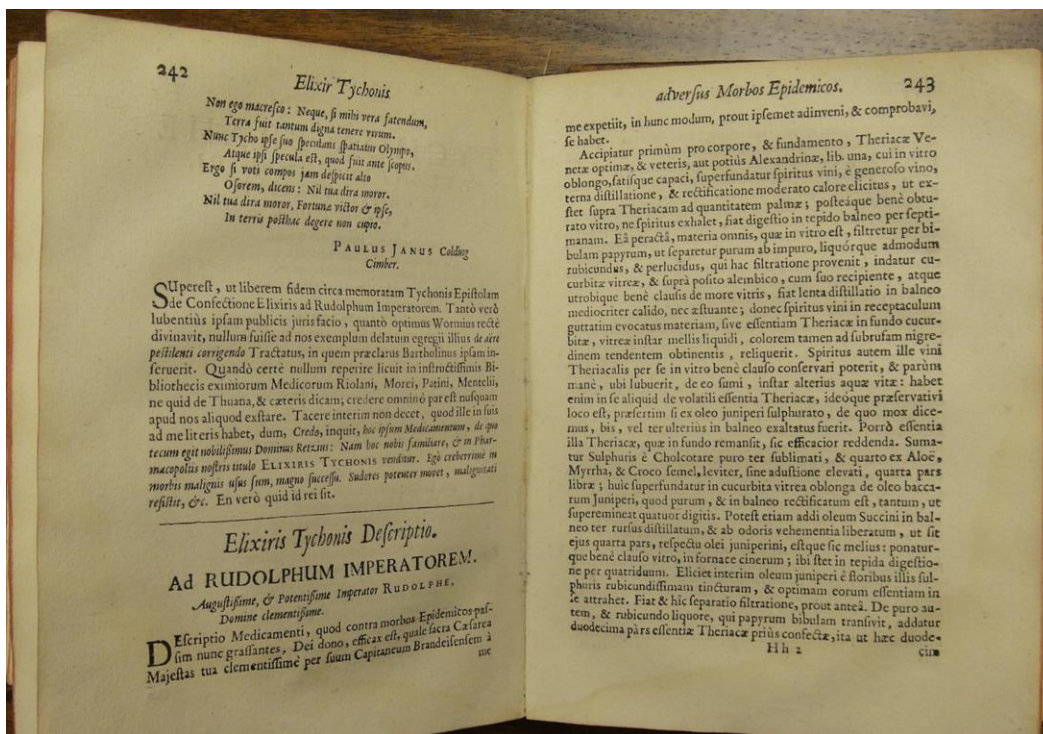


Figure 3.: *Species Tychonis Brahe* was still in pharmacies and pharmacopoeias in the early 20th century

The original composition of *Species Tychonis Brahe* consisted of the noble Venice theriac, aloe, sulphur, myth, saffron, anise, gentian, *Suillus Luteus* (or slippery jack), and juniper oil. The ingredients were infused for four days, then filtered, angelica extract, clear absinthe, *Carabis Albi* essence were added and then distilled for eight days. Drug dosing was 12 times a day; 8 and 10 drops in water mixed with *Prunella Vulgaris*, *Angelica Archangelica*, or *Cnicus Benedictus*. A sapphire hyacinth tincture, as well as gold and pearls, were added for a stronger mixture. The composition of *Species Tychonis Brahe* has changed over the years, with Venetian theriac still being the main ingredient.



Figure 4.: Tycho Brahe - an excellent astronomer and alchemist. He was the most accurate observer of the starry sky until the invention of the telescope

Tycho Brahe (1546 – 1601), born Tyge Ottesen Brahe (often incorrectly referred to as Tycho de Brahe), was a Danish astronomer. He descended from an old aristocratic family. His family sent young Tyge to his uncle Jörgen Brahe, who was childless and provided him with an excellent education. Tyge studied philosophy, rhetoric, law, astronomy, chemistry, and alchemy. At first, he worked as an astronomer for King Frederick II of Denmark who had an observatory built on the island of Hven. Brahe named him Uraniborg. He had an expansive herb garden in orderly flowerbeds, where he grew herbs of excellent quality. There were alchemical laboratories, workshops, an observatory, a library, and a paper mill on Uraniborg. In the laboratories, he experimented with drugs according to Paracelsus concept. Brahe was convinced that alchemy was intended for the production of effective drugs. He believed that the star position also affects the collection of medical plants and that the location and position of celestial bodies have an impact on the preparation of medicines. He invented many medicinal products. From his letters to Henrik Rantz from 1597, we know of three things: the anti-plague elixir, Tycho Brahe tincture, and an

antidote to epilepsy. He made drugs for free and gave them to his family, friends, and high-ranking personalities. Brahe wrote only a few letters and prescriptions about his production of herbal medicines, as he kept this type of research a secret, unlike his astronomy research. After having disputes with the Danish king, he accepted an invitation of Emperor Rudolf II in 1598. The emperor offered him a castle in Benátky nad Jizerou where Brahe began preparing a new observatory. As the Emperor's court astronomer, he worked there until his death, which is also full of legends.

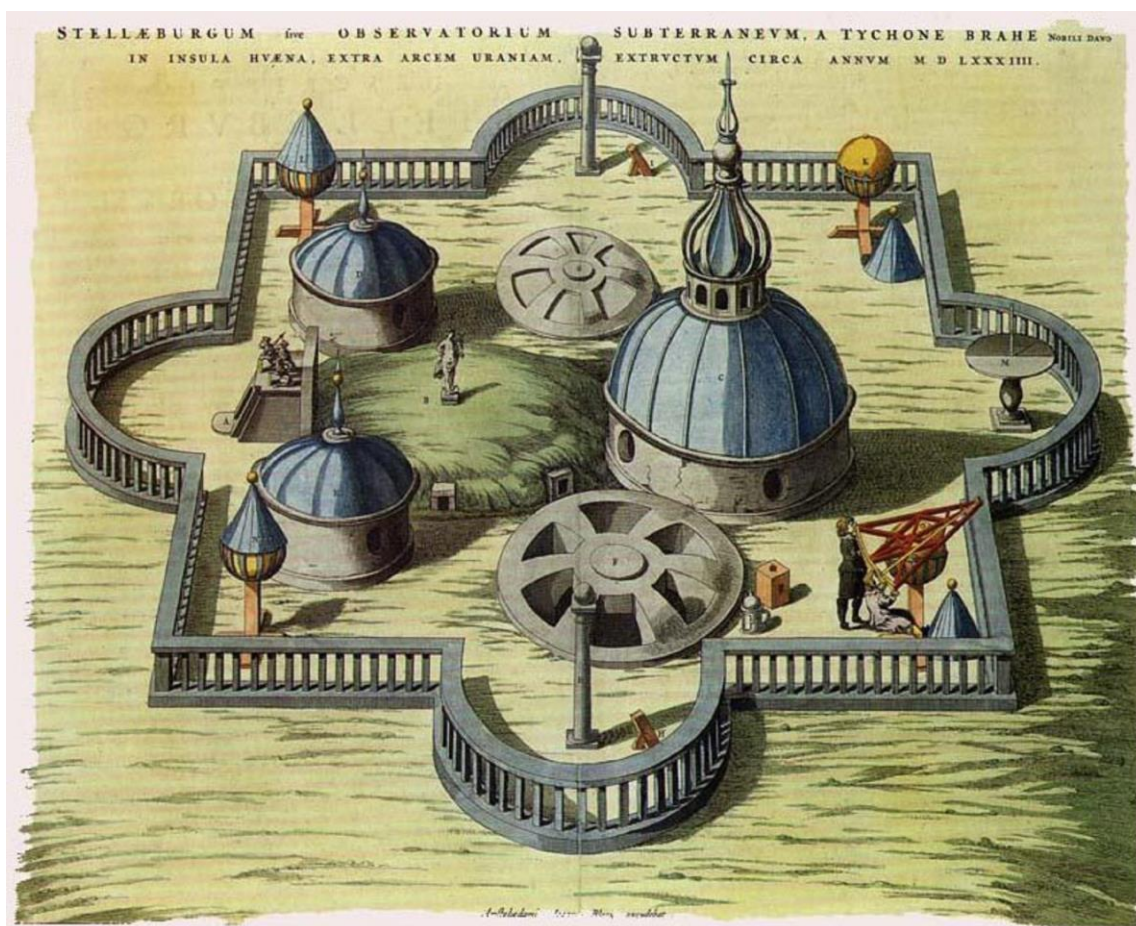


Figure 5.: Uraniborg Observatory built between 1576 and 1580 on the island of Hven between Sjaelland and Skåne in Sweden (at that time it was part of Denmark)

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Tycho Brahe
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Figures 6. and 7.: Brahe also created a “universal medicine” elixir called *Medicamenta Tria*, the main ingredient of which was mercuric sulfrate. During the Renaissance, mercury was considered a universal means of treating various diseases



Figure 8.: The statue of Tycho Brahe

Sources of illustrations

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