The Nature and Composition of the Insidious 'Red Weed' by

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One of the most important legacies we have been left since the Great Martian War is the prolific spreading of the Red Weed or *Viriditas Sanguine*. Whilst there have been historical efforts to collect the weed, much of this data was lost when Sir Arthur Fitzroy Lancing lead a coup of many of the greatest scientific minds of the world and disappeared in 1823. Most of the efforts in collecting the weed have been with a view to use its properties in relation to Aether energy and not into the nature of the plant itself.

The weed is distinct in color and hues that vary from maroon to scarlet. The thickness of the weed varies from 1" to 5' at its thickest and to the touch it has a distinct unnatural feel; coarse with a slight prickle to it. Disturbing the weed causes a fine red dust to spring from the sprigs or branches and their roots which are the cause of Red Lung, described below. Whilst not penetrating more than a foot into the topsoil and spread widely across an area, it would appear that it is not a large number of these plants that cause the red zones, but rather only a handful. Whether or not it is stretching from a main trunk deep within, or merely a sea of smaller plants, it is clear that more research on this topic is needed.

Most workers who collect *Viriditas* wear thick gloves made from rubber or leather to prevent exposure to the skin, as well as cloths over their mouths and nose. This is primarily to prevent them succumbing to Red Lung Disease, not dissimilar to Black Lung

Disease, commonly found in coal miners, where the subject's lung is infected and covered by the weed rather than by coal dust. Exposure to *Viriditas Sanguine* is not always lethal and some individuals appear to be more resilient than others, just as with black lung and coal miners.
Not only does *Viriditas* Sanguine seem to be perilous to humans, it also has a negative effect on flora and fauna (presumably to the fauna for the same reason as to us). Notably, one of the key animals found in soil, earth worms, seem to be exceptionally vulnerable to *Viriditas*.

In areas where *the weed* is unwanted, the most effective method of driving it back is indeed not fire, which it appears to recover swiftly from, but rather quicklime. The addition of alkaline to the weed is an effective way to remove the weed from an area. It does however, have a lasting effect on the land, stopping the regrowth of much of the natural flora even though the weed is eradicated.
The dangers of V*iriditas* Sanguine has been proven in a previous paper, following a similar pattern to Charles Bonnet's 1754 experiment. As well as the mouse, candle and plant, the experiment was repeated by the addition of *Viriditas Sanguine* and indeed a form of lime. Without the addition of the lime, *Viriditas* killed the mouse in every experiment. With the addition of lime, the mouse survived three out of five times.
Most plants also are inevitably strangled or overcome by *Viriditas* although there are some notable exceptions, including (though probably not limited to) *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash), *Taxus baccata* (Yew),

Juniperus communis (Juniper) *Quercus robur* (common Oak) and somewhat ironically, *Prunus*, flowering cherries. All of these trees are suited to soils more alkaline in nature, indeed, a soil type that *Viriditas* Sanguine struggles to thrive in. However, where the weed gets hold the above plants it forms a symbiotic relationship. The whole plant seems to survive, but with the red hues of *Viriditas* throughout the whole organism.

Further research into this field is important and vital to understanding what is happening to our planet. We need to discover how to utilise or remove this dangerous plant which will require daring, costly and perilous journeys into Red Zones. This is in my humble opinion, absolutely worth the risks and indeed, a necessary cost.

On the Importance of Excising a Small Portion of the Wind pipe in the Operation of Tracheotomy.

By Mr. Porter.

I have often been struck with the fact, that surgical writers, with few exceptions, in describing tracheotomy, lay so little stress upon the removal of a portion of the windpipe in some of those cases requiring operation. According to the directions given by those authors, nothing more is supposed than that the windpipe should.