

## Wall Calendars Published by the Kraków Museum of Pharmacy

Zbigniew Bela (Kraków, Poland)

Wall calendars published by the Kraków Museum of Pharmacy are of educational nature: formally attractive, they show various aspects of ancient pharmacy, thus popularising the history of pharmacy as a branch of the history of science. Each calendar begins with an introduction, which discusses its theme. The remaining twelve pages are calendar pages proper.

The Museum has been designing and publishing the calendars since 2006. The first one is entitled *The Jagiellonian University Museum of Pharmacy in Kraków*. Its front cover shows a reproduction of the chalk drawing of Hygieia by the Polish artist Piotr Stachiewicz, on display in the Museum. The calendar is comprised of 12 short monographs concerning 12 exhibits, such as a capsule for gilding pills, *The Apothecary* by Józef Chełmoński, a jar of cantharides, or an original portion of theriac from Spezieria della Madonna, which in the 17th century was located at the Campo Santo Bartolomeo in Venice.



Front cover of the 2006 calendar



Piotr Stachiewicz (1858–1938) *Hygieia*. Chalk drawing.



The February card devoted to a capsule for gilding pills.

The May card devoted to a jar of cantharides.

The October card devoted to an original portion of theriac from Spezieria della Madonna in Venice.

To give a taste of the calendar's contents, here is the monograph on Józef Chełmoński's paintings *The Apothecary*:

”Józef Chełmoński was an eminent Polish landscape and genre painter, notable for his virtuosity in depicting mood (for example *Indian Summer* or *Cranes*) and movement (for example *A Four-in-Hand*), as well as his love of horse subjects. It was *A Four-in-Hand* that started his great career: the painting was bought in Paris by a certain American multimillionaire, which sparked off international interest in Chełmoński's work.



Józef Chełmoński, *Indian Summer*



Józef Chełmoński, *Cranes*



Józef Chełmoński, *A Four-in-Hand*

*The Apothecary*, which dates back to 1891, was created in Kuklówka – a village in central Poland, where in 1890 Chełmoński bought a plot of ground with a small wooden house. There he worked the land, kept horses and hounds, and, of course, painted pictures.



The painting shows the interior of a 19<sup>th</sup> c provincial pharmacy with two figures: the apothecary and a sickly old woman. *The Apothecary*, now in the collection of a Kraków art connoisseur, is a watercolour and gouache on cardboard.”

The 2007 calendar is entitled *Codex Vindobonensis (AD 512)*. The introduction includes information on the Codex Vindobonensis and its history, on Dioscorides and the contents of his *De Materia Medica*, and, finally, the significance of the work for the history of medicine and pharmacy.



Front cover of the 2007 calendar

The monographs from the codex used in the calendar are of such plants as woolly distaff thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*), Iris (*Iris germanica*), nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*), sarsaparilla (*Smilax aspera*) and Chinese lantern (*Physalis Alkekengi*).

Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

ATPAKYAAIE (sarsaparilla)  
 Carthamus lanatus L.  
 Zielnik, kłosa, polny dzięgiel  
 Egzemplarze rękopiśm. 1780/1800  
 Rękopiśm. rękopiśm.

*Sierpień 2007*

Pn	6	13	20	27	
Wt	7	14	21	28	
Śr	1	8	15	22	29
Cz	2	9	16	23	30
Pt	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	
N	5	12	19	26	

PLIVA

The August card devoted to woolly distaff thistle

Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

IPIE (iris)  
 Iris germanica L.  
 Zielnik, kłosa, polny dzięgiel  
 Egzemplarze rękopiśm. 1780/1800  
 Rękopiśm. rękopiśm.

*Styczeń 2007*

Pn	1	8	15	22	29
Wt	2	9	16	23	30
Śr	3	10	17	24	31
Cz	4	11	18	25	
Pt	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	
N	7	14	21	28	

PLIVA

The January card devoted to Iris

The July page, for example, is devoted to Chinese lantern and shows a reproduction of the original Greek monograph from the Vienna codex, the month's calendar and a Polish translation of the monograph, whose English version reads:

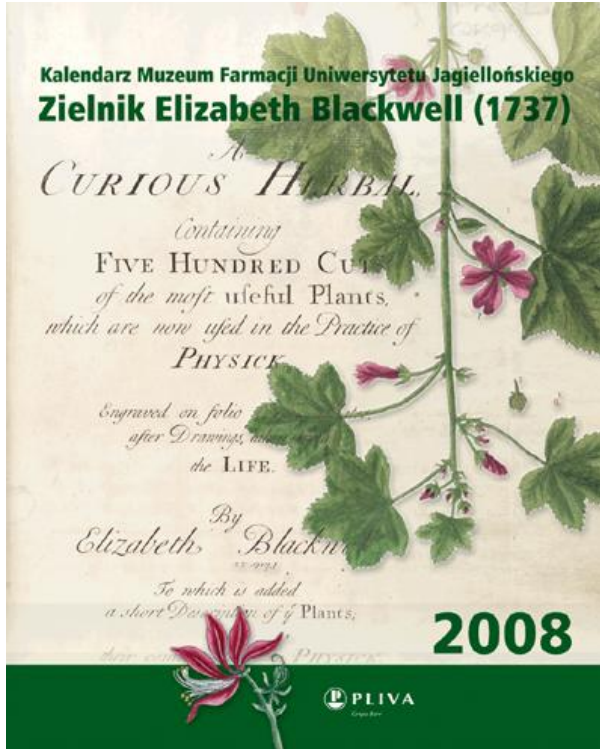


The July page devoted to Chinese lantern

“Chinese Lantern has leaves which look like those of Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara* L.), except that they are slightly broader. When fully grown, the stems bend downward. The bubble-like fruits produce smooth round yellow seeds. The plant is used to make wreaths. As far as its properties are concerned, it can be compared to Bittersweet, the only difference being that bittersweet fruit is poisonous. A decoction of Chinese Lantern seed has diuretic properties and cures jaundice – which is then dried in the shade – can be extracted from Chinese lantern as well as from bittersweet. Both plants have similar properties.”

The theme of the 2008 calendar is the famous herbal by Elizabeth Blackwell. This is how the introduction to the calendar begins: “Both the story of the creation of this herbal and Elizabeth Blackwell’s and her husband Alexander’s biographies could well provide a basis for a romantic adventure novel.” And the last fragment of the introduction reads: “On top of that, Alexander got involved in a plot against the King of Sweden, which was to place the Duke of Cumberland on the Swedish throne. The plot was uncovered and Alexander, charged with high treason, was sentenced to death. The execution took place on 9 August 1747. As in other dramatic moments of his life, Alexander’s sense of humour did not leave him: his head on the

block, he apologised to the executioner and the onlookers that he might place the head not on the proper side, but he had never been in a situation like that before, so he did not know which side was the proper one. Meanwhile, Elizabeth, unaware of what had happened, was on board a ship to Sweden to finally reconnect with her husband.”



Front cover of the 2008 calendar

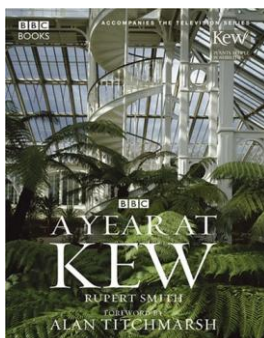


Introduction to the calendar

The same introduction, divided into 12 parts, is printed at the bottom of each of the 12 calendar pages.

The calendar presents several copperplate engravings from Blackwell's herbal, including those which show wake robin, great white bindweed, strawberries, iris, red poppy, and narrow-leaved plantain. The texts that accompany the images, also made in copperplate, consist of English plant names, morphological and medicinal descriptions, and foreign language name equivalents (in Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, German, and Dutch).

Several months after the calendar was published I learnt that it can be seen on display in famous Kew Gardens.



### Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego Zielnik Elizabeth Blackwell (1737)



*Wake Robin* *Cinclus plumbeus* *Artem.*

**Marzec 2008**


Po	3	10	17	24	31
Wt	4	11	18	25	
Sr	5	12	19	26	
Cz	6	13	20	27	
Pi	7	14	21	28	
So	1	8	15	22	29
<b>N</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>

PLIVA

Wzrost / Lataj... (text describing the plant's growth and medicinal uses)

The March page devoted to wake robin

### Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego Zielnik Elizabeth Blackwell (1737)



*Plantago lanceolata* *Plantago lanceolata* *Artem.*

**Listopad 2008**

Po	3	10	17	24	
Wt	4	11	18	25	
Sr	5	12	19	26	
Cz	6	13	20	27	
Pi	7	14	21	28	
So	1	8	15	22	29
<b>N</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>

PLIVA

Wzrost / Lataj... (text describing the plant's growth and medicinal uses)

The November page devoted to narrow-leaved plantain

### Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego Zielnik Elizabeth Blackwell (1737)



*Papaver rhoeas* *Papaver rhoeas* *Artem.*

**Październik 2008**

Po	6	13	20	27	
Wt	7	14	21	28	
Sr	1	8	15	22	29
Cz	2	9	16	23	30
Pi	3	10	17	24	31
So	4	11	18	25	
<b>N</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	

PLIVA

Wzrost / Lataj... (text describing the plant's growth and medicinal uses)

The October page devoted to red poppy

### Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego Zielnik Elizabeth Blackwell (1737)



*Iris sibirica* *Iris sibirica* *Artem.*

**Sierpień 2008**

Po	4	11	18	25	
Wt	5	12	19	26	
Sr	6	13	20	27	
Cz	7	14	21	28	
Pi	1	8	15	22	29
So	2	9	16	23	30
<b>N</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>

PLIVA

Wzrost / Lataj... (text describing the plant's growth and medicinal uses)

The August page devoted to German iris



Plate 75. *White Dittany or Fraxinella. Dictamnus albus or Fraxinella.*

1. It grows to be 2 foot high, the Leaves are a dark Green, and y<sup>e</sup> Flowers red, & sometimes white.
2. It grows wild in several Places of France & Germany; but is planted here in Gardens, & flowers in June & July.
3. The Roots are esteem'd cordial and cephalic, good to resist Putrefaction and Poyson; and useful in malignant and pestilential Distempers.

It is accounted good for Epilepsus & other Disorders of y<sup>e</sup> Head. Opening Obstructions of y<sup>e</sup> Womb, & procuring y<sup>e</sup> Menfes. The Preparations are the Aq. Antepileptic. Theriacal. Pulv. Liberans. Empl. Sipticum. Paracels.

4. Greek; Χαμαίμεδον. Officin. Latin, *Dictamnus albus, or Fraxinella.* Spanish, *Dittamo blanco* Italian, *Dittamo bianco* French *Diptambasturde.* German, *Gemeiner Diptam.* Dutch, *Fraxinella.*

The texts, also made in copperplate, consist of English plant names, morphological and medicinal descriptions, and foreign language name equivalents (in Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, German, and Dutch).

The 2009 calendar, entitled *Pre-War Medicine Advertisements*, shows advertisements for such preparations as Biophytol, Novalgin, Petrogen, Kruschen Salts, Resil and Peristaltin.



Left: Front cover of the 2009 calendar

Right: "Organic phosphorus preparations promote vitality, strengthen the organism, and speed up recovery."

Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego  
Przedwojenne reklamy leków

**NOVALGIN**

poliarthritis rheumatica

„Bayer”

P	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31
Ś	4	11	18	25	
C	5	12	19	26	
Pt	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	
N	1	8	15	22	29

Marzec  
2009

Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego  
Przedwojenne reklamy leków

Uporczywa trucizna w organizmie powoduje reumatyzm

**ZDOBĄDŹ PIĘKNĄ FIGURĘ**

Mały stosunek naturalnej metody zwalczania nadmiernej tłuszczyzny

**SOLE KRUSCHEN**

P	4	11	18	25	
W	5	12	19	26	
Ś	6	13	20	27	
C	7	14	21	28	
Pt	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30
N	3	10	17	24	31

Maj  
2009

Left: “As a pain reliever, Novalgin can well be used instead of morphine.”  
Right: “Kruschen Salts counteract rheumatic pains and obesity.”

Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

Nieznosna dżdżysta pogoda

**REZYL „CIBA”**

Przetwórcja gwałtownej, ostrej wchłaniałość

Kaszel, zaziębienia, zapalenie oskrzeli

**REZYL**

P	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	
Ś	4	11	18	25	
C	5	12	19	26	
Pt	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	
N	1	8	15	22	29

Listopad  
2009

Kalendarz Muzeum Farmacji Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

**PERISTALTINA „CIBA”**

glikozydy z kory kruszyn amerykańskiej

Zaparcia, Dolegliwość przewodu pokarmowego.

**PERISTALTINA „Ciba”**

Zbiór glikozydów z kory kruszyn amerykańskiej

P	7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29
Ś	2	9	16	23	30
C	3	10	17	24	31
Pt	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	
N	6	13	20	27	

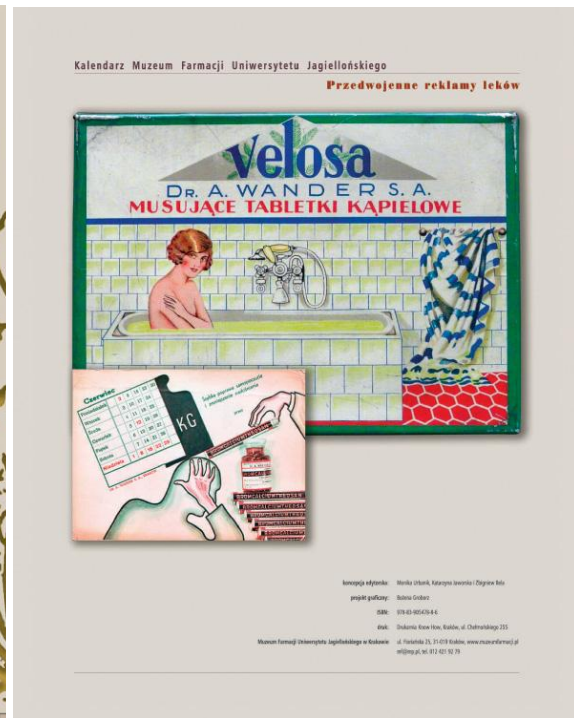
Grudzień  
2009

Left: “Expectorant and disinfectant – to be used in acute and chronic conditions of respiratory organs.”  
Right: “Relieves constipation, especially when chronic, counteracts peritonitis and stimulates catharsis in cases of poisoning.”

At the back of each calendar there is editorial information, and on the back cover miniatures of all the calendar pages are printed.



Editorial page of the 2007 calendar



Editorial page of the 2009 calendar



Back cover of the 2008 calendar



Back cover of the 2009 calendar

The topic of the Museum's 2010 calendar is the apothecary tradition of preparing medicinal wines.

**Incipit liber de Vinis editus ab Arnaldo de Villa Nova.**

**Laudamus vinum de bona vite**  
 te ad conficiendum vina medicinalia: et maxime palmenis sive albi cu sit in subtilia subtili? et receptibilis impressioni? color? et amplius? vini palmenis sive albi in copiositate in eo p singula membra cu delectatione et appetentia? et quatenus actus eorum q in eo existunt. Sicut est grecu aut sile q? q? sita p siderato? peniti medici i hac arte de hoc q? intellet? sal. cu dicit. Vinu q? palmenis est melior? saporis? odor? q? cetera vina alia. Et vina q? de fortia p femeripia vbi expedit snt medicinalia? et vbi no efficiunt venena. Volentes igit ad hui? vsum p?ctionem vinu? qd in hui? artificio lan de bte meret eligere: recipiam? multu de vinitis albis de bono loco: et cu eo certis p?tionibus? res fin medicas semiti? curitudo? imponam? et dau dam? in vase boni ligni: moze alioz vinoz et p?ciat? et p?ciat? ibi q? a natura qd arte est co?prehensum. Res aut? q? ponede sit in musto: du p natura? ebullitione ip? musti adimuit? inter? colluctant? et polliat? purativ? eam: et incorporat? virtus ipar? vino musto: et de puratur? vinum ipsum induens operatione illarum rerum: tato melius quanto delectabilius suscipitur: et penetrabilius per singula membra virtus huius vini delatosis acrione desinat: vnde natura vigorat? fortius et citius resistit nocentibus: quando ad ministratur sicut et vbi oportet. Et istud est presertim de iuuam? to qd in hui? ebullitione non resoluit? virtus reru neqz alterat? neqz debilitat? sed quando ebullit? cum igne cum quo: et si fiat sit ignis leuissimus et continuatus sine fumo. Et istud est fecur? qd fit in vegete: vt cooperat? foramen vegetis cu scutella parua: vt fiat exalatio vtilitatis: cu modica elevatione a latere vno: vt rep? ma? qd ascendit ad interiora. Et qui fit cu igne vas cooperat? tunc enim no eueniat nec amittit? de vite ip? a n? reru. Potest etia met? ri cu sit cu igne: qd? et quantum de decoctione res sustinet? et regere igne: illud no est parte p?sideratis. Sed qui fit cu vegete exaltat? ab hoc: et relinquit? opacis nature. Et vina quide? meli? et se p?prietas magna in natura bñana. Incipit eni? usus absolute de

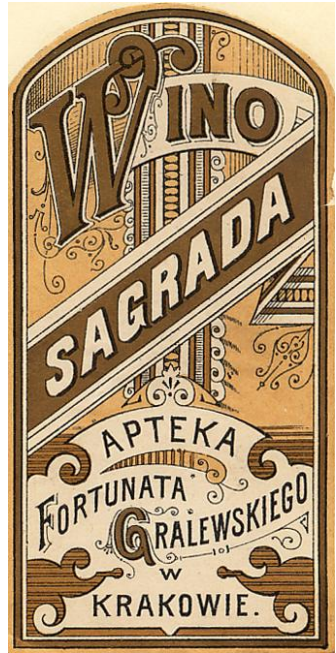
**Vinum ad memoriam reparanda**

et contra obliuionem. R. s. piperis lon. galange. an. 3. ii. gariof. gubeba. an. 3. F. nucis indice. 3. iii. et. f. fiat pullus qui ligetur lente in saculo et ponatur in vino bono lib. vi. bullenti extra ignis: et cooperat? ne respiret? ne pmitat? clarificari: et cum opus est aliquid ducatur: nec sacculus de vino remoueat? valet etiam ad celestia? dum infrigidatos et humidos deliccandos: et contra omne? bñ? crassiam flegmatis et ventositatis.  
**Vinum in quo bullire. s. e. epichimi**  
 mi vel infuse fuerint per nocem colati et bibulum: flatuos: h?maticos: melancholicos iuuat ad experientiam.  
**Vinum eustrale ad oculos: ponatur**  
 de ipsa herba in musto et fiat vinum eustratum: cuius visu oculi sanum reuocantur: et auferit impedimentum eorum et de fecrum visus in quocunqz homine de quocunqz etate: si sit in habitu sine flegmatico? prope? sine pingui. Et est qui portumit? nihil videns per longu? tempus et infra annum restitutus est ad visus vius eius. Ipsa enim herba calida est et sicca: et habet hoc a p?prietate: et quando puluis eius comeditur cum rubeo ononum facit idem: vel de puluere recipitur cum vino. Et super sunt testes fide digni que fecerunt in seipis: et qui non poterant legere sine ocularibus: et legent? postmodu? ab?qz illis etiam literas subleu? rem. Et vno vni eustrati non habet par in proficiendo visu. Si autem vinum esse nimis forte temperatur cum aqua feniculi et si opus est addatur sucarum necessarium.  
**Vinum in quo steterit cuncta campana**  
 per triduum mirabiliter visum clarificat.  
**Vinum cum tertia parte aque rosarum**  
 in quo remolitas fuerit turbia ter etincta. et decocta per diem naturalem: aut de aloz dissoluta fuerit cum modico zucaro colligatum absterge? cancias oculorum: et mundificat et confortat et clarificat visum: et non permittit humores fluere ad oculos et fluxus dispersat et lachrymas litigat.  
**Vinum salutarium diuersi diuersi**

modo faciunt: qui aliqui suspendit? fasciulis salute in vaseo alio qui coquit? quocunqz mododu? fiat res vt nec corruptu? nec alteratum: sed in sua permanent bonitate: reperit mirabilis visus eius in omni remolitione gignuaru? et dolore dentium et comotioe eorum: et per apicolum membris nervuolozum: et reuocant membra laxa: debilitata propter flegma vel humi citate? humozis aquosi sicut in paralisi et bululimodi. Et tentant in multis habentibus? dolores et contractions? spasmosas nervuorum inunctione? eius vno decoctio eius: et aliquotiens liberant sunt. Et est res certa et melior que inueniatur in hoc casu: et valet in epilepsia? p?prie: et causis stomachi et maritis: qui sunt loca neruosa.  
**Vinum abstergens faciem et manus.**  
 dissoluatur cararum vegetis albificatum in igne et distillatum per filterum et congelatum in bono vino greco permittatur donec clarificetur et lauetur facies vel manus: et non tergatur nec necesse est et exicatum lauetur cum aqua. Idem facit vinum in quo dissoluta fuerit clara? out donec sit currentis: sed expediret remouat omni die secunda: vltus autem buisimodi abluo? bñis absterget autem: subleuat pellem: sanguinem ad superficiem perducit: et applanat corrugationem.  
**Vinum ysopi virtutem habet diureticam**  
 distillandi: consumendi: et attrahendi. ponitur cum eodem liquoribus: et est vinum sanum et potius pro eis: et valet in tussi? humida et epistia. Et multo eius visus eius sanas illam magis me in pueris: et loca quidem humozis si lauetur cum eo? tunc cat et sanat: vt est pulmo et matris: et aperit vias vocales: et facit vocem claram. Est enim herba calida et sicca. Et ad idem? valet vinum decoctionis liquiritie et cardui sicca: et confert asma? si. Item vinum limphatum tepidum in quo dissoluta sunt penit? die de sero in introitu? et receptu? aperit? pecus strata? habilitat ad epi?ran dñi: et fert? tussis: et maturat catarrhos. Et vno? ysopi? vni de ysopo: sanat? ysopios et aducos: et maxime pueros.  
**Vinum confortans omnia membra**  
 principalia et sanitatem eorum conferens fiat de. s. albo. 3. i. car dano?no? domestico. 3. ii. cinamomo. 3. i. macis. 3. f. coriandri p?parati. 3. i. rosarum rub. 3. i. colatur et clarificatum in vase mundo sequetur et vtatur.

Left: The initial page of Arnald de Villanova's treatise *Liber de Vinis*. The first words read: "Incipit Liber de vinis. Laudamus vinum de bona vite ad conficiendum vina medicinalis." ("Here begins the Book of Wines. Praise be to wine from a good vine from which medicinal wines are made.")

Right: Pages from Arnald de Villanova's treatise *Liber de Vinis*, which includes such formulas as *Vinum ad memoriam reparanda* ("Wine that improves memory"), *Vinum ysopi virtutem habet diureticam*... ("Hyssop wine that has diuretic properties...") and *Vinum confortans omnia membra* ("Wine that strengthens all the members of the body").



**VINUM CASCARAE SAGRADAЕ.**  
**Vinum Rhamni Purshianae.**  
**Wino kaskarowe.**

Extracti fluidi Cascarae Sagraeae examarati 500  
 Vini Malaga detannisati 500  
 Odgoryczony wyciąg kaskarowy wyparowuje się do pozostałości 200 cz., rozpuszcza w winie malaga pozbawionem taniny i po 8-iu dniach przesącza.