ergot
ergot
(noun) UR-got

A fungoid cereal disease; fungal bodies obtained from it used in medicine.

Methods used to procure abortions included traditional herbal remedies, savin, ergot of rye, penny royal, slippery elm, squills and hierpicra; compounds of aloes and iron; and compounds of iron and purgative extracts.

Jeffrey Weeks, *Sex, Politics and Society*.

**Ergot** is a very common disease of the cereals. The fungus producing it was discovered in 1853, but for centuries previous its injurious effects upon the human body were recognized, and it was observed that **ergot** of rye was the most poisonous. Taken in large doses, **ergot** will produce nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, and weakness of the heart.


Sufferers experienced hallucinations and some scholars have matched 17th-century witch hunts with the cold, wet summers that produce **ergot** infection in ripening rye.


LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) is a manufactured drug, from the parasitic fungus **ergot**, first made in the course of an attempt to prepare new therapeutic drugs.


"I have no real perception that we are any better off today treating migraine than we were 40 years ago when drugs containing **ergot** came onto the market," he said.