Salirophilia and other co-occurring paraphilias in a middle-aged male:
A case study

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Abstract
Salirophilia is a paraphilic sexual fetish in which individuals experience sexual arousal from soiling or disheveling the object of their desire. To date, there has been no academic or clinical research into salirophilia, and there are no published peer-reviewed papers – not even a single case study. Therefore, this paper presents the first case study account of a salirophile, a 58-year-old heterosexual male. The areas of interest that were examined included his background relating to childhood experiences of sex, other co-occurring paraphilic interests, and a detailed overview of his engagement in salirophlic acts. It was found that his interest in salirophlic acts dated back to his childhood, and based on the account given, the behavior is most likely explained by classical conditioning. It was also found that there were many other paraphilic behaviors that co-occurred with salirophilia, including sadism, urophilia, coprophilia, and zoophilia. The case study highlights the importance of online methods in the recruitment of individuals and the collection of data with sexually paraphilic behavior for academic study.

Keywords: salirophile, case, classical conditioning.

Introduction
According to the latest (fifth) edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5; American Psychiatric Association, 2013), the “term paraphilia denotes any intense and persistent sexual interest other than sexual interest in genital stimulation or preparatory fondling with phenotypically normal, physically mature, consenting human partners” (p. 865). Paraphilias in and of themselves are not necessarily problematic, and for many individuals they are best described as non-normative sexual behaviors (Greenhill & Griffiths, 2015). The DSM-5 section on ‘Paraphilic Disorders’ goes on to say that a paraphilic disorder “is a paraphilia that is currently causing distress or impairment to the individual or a paraphilia whose satisfaction has entailed personal harm, or risk of harm, to others. A paraphilia is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for having a paraphilic disorder, and a paraphilia by itself does not necessarily justify or require clinical intervention” (pp. 865-866).

Prior to the growth of the internet, most of the reported cases of paraphilias in the psychological and medical literature were a consequence of those seeking treatment for their condition (Griffiths, 2012a). However, the internet has led to the formation of many online groups and online forums where like-minded paraphiles meet and discuss their specific paraphilias with each other such as the zoophiles in the Beast Forum (individuals who derive their sexual satisfaction from animals; Maratea, 2011), eproctophiles in the Gassy Forum (individuals who derive their sexual satisfaction from flatulence; Griffiths, 2013), and dacryphiles in the Crying Lovers Forum (individuals who derive their sexual satisfaction from crying individuals;
Greenhill & Griffiths, 2015, 2016), to name just a few. This has led to an increasing number of studies that have used the internet to recruit paraphiles to participate in research studies, as well as the use of online research methods to collect the data such as online interviewing (Greenhill & Griffiths, 2014). Over the last decade, there have been a number of studies that have reported paraphilic behavior by using online methodologies, including studies into feederism (Terry & Vasey, 2011), zoophilia (Beetz, 2004; Miletski, 2005; Williams & Weinberg, 2003), and hypoxphilia (Hucker, 2011). Research has also shown that paraphilic disorders often co-occur (Gosselin & Wilson, 1980).

Salirophilia: A brief overview

Salirophilia – sometimes called saliromania – is a paraphilic sexual fetish in which individuals experience sexual arousal from soiling or disheveling the object of their desire (typically an attractive person) (Griffiths, 2012b). Salirophilic behavior may include a range of activities such as tearing or damaging the desired person’s clothing, messing their hair or makeup, and/or covering them in mud or filth. The paraphilia never involves harming or injuring the person in any way, only messing up how they look in some way, shape, or form which results in sexual arousal. The behavior is thought to be mainly heterosexual in origin, although McCary and McCary (1982) claimed that it was also known to occur within same sex relationships (but did not say on what data this seemingly speculative observation was made).

According to Milner, Dopke, and Crouch (2008) and Griffiths (2012b) – and again without providing any empirical evidence for the claims – salirophilia appears to be related to other fetishes and paraphilias including urophilia (deriving sexual pleasure from urine), coprophilia (deriving sexual pleasure from feces), mysophilia (deriving sexual pleasure from filth, particularly women’s soiled panties), sploshing (deriving sexual pleasure from wet substances – but not bodily fluids – being deliberately and generously applied to either naked or scantily clad individuals, and sometimes referred to as ‘wet and messy’ fetishism – ‘wamming’), bukkake (the act of many men ejaculating over a man or women simultaneously; there are also variations of this where men ejaculate over photographs and pictures and referred to as ‘face painting’), and omorashi (deriving sexual pleasure from having a full bladder and/or feeling sexually attracted to someone else who has a full bladder). Salirophilia may also extend to other areas, such as forcing a sexual partner to wear torn or poorly fitting clothing which makes the person look more unattractive (Griffiths, 2012b). Other variations of the paraphilia may also include becoming sexually aroused from acts of vandalism and defacement of statues, and photos of attractive people (including celebrities). Videos of individuals ejaculating over celebrity photographs are known as “tributes” within the fetish community (Griffiths, 2012b).

As far as the present author is aware, there is no empirical research directly on salirophilia (not even a single case study). McCary and McCary (1982) noted that although salirophilia has been described as a category separate from sexual sadism, they claim that most cases of salirophilia would meet the criteria for sexual sadism, as described in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders. However, as Milner, Dopke, and Crouch (2008) noted in a review of ‘paraphilias not otherwise specified’, it is unclear whether cases exist in which the salirophilic behavior (e.g., the act of damaging clothing) is distinct from a focus on the suffering and humiliation of the sexual partner. They also noted that the extent of overlap of salirophilia with bukkake, mysophilia, urophilia, and coprophilia is unknown.

Treatment for salirophilia appears to be rarely sought unless the condition becomes problematic for the individual in some way. Although the individual may feel compelled to engage in the paraphilic behavior, anecdotal evidence suggests that the great majority manage to integrate their paraphilic behavior within their day-to-day life without harm to anyone (including themselves) (Griffiths, 2012b).

Method

To date, there has been no academic or clinical research into salirophilia, and there are no published peer-reviewed papers. Therefore, this paper presents what the author believes is the first case study account of a salirophile. The case in question has been given a pseudonym (“Jeff”) and he gave full consent for his case to be written up on the understanding that he could not be identified, and that he was guaranteed full anonymity and confidentiality. Jeff first approached the author following the publication of an article about
Background relating to childhood experiences of sex

Jeff was asked about his early sexual experiences relating to his saliophilic interests. Jeff claimed his first engagement in a saliophilic act was when he was young, “possibly before [his] teenage years”, and that the practice went back to his childhood. He recalled that masturbation was viewed as “dirty” by his parents. He also recalled that when he was very young, he was told by his parents that his penis would drop off, and that he was chastised for having an erection (even though he was a child and not old enough to understand). He recalled:

“I have a strong memory of a family holiday staying at a motel and swimming and having a visible erection which some older girls saw and ‘giggled’ about and I was verbally chastised by my parents and embarrassed but didn’t know why it happened being that young. I can’t be sure of the age when I masturbated as a child, but my parents would interrupt me and disapprove verbally. I know I had fantasies and wanted to masturbate in strange places outdoors. I remember a period where we had an old large garage...I remember at a younger age masturbating in this dirty garage and actually lying under a cabinet in dirt with a singlet while masturbating. I have a memory of being caught by a person renting the garage but was unsure if he knew what I was doing.”

This was Jeff’s earliest recollection of how his saliophilic interests may have originated. When he was older and married, he recalled “benign kinky sex” with his (then) wife and enjoyed it when she was breastfeeding and “squeezing her nipples and squirting her breast milk on her body.” In relation to this, Jeff admitted:

“I wasn’t thinking of it as breast milk but viewing it as defilement with semen. Other activities with my wife included restraining with ropes, light whipping, and humiliation acts like having my wife lick my feet. After my divorce and living alone for approximately 15 years I started viewing pornography. Straight sex in pornography was boring to me. I enjoyed BDSM [bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism] pornography particularly rape scenarios with a wide range of BDSM activities”

Jeff’s first longer-term relationship after divorcing his wife lasted a year and was with a woman more than 20 years younger than himself. Jeff claimed this woman enjoyed being abused but not injured, and enjoyed “bondage, light torture like wax play, whipping, and face slapping.” Because of Jeff’s forensic background, he used to read a lot of crime stories about murderers and his girlfriend at the time would read some of his books highlighting particular torture scenes of serial killers. He claimed that this was also erotic to his girlfriend.

“[We used to go] to a river with a beach front in Western Sydney which had secluded bush areas with sandy isolated walking tracks. We both would fantasize about using the area for rape scenario and for me it was the fact of potentially being able to push her over in the sand as she walked with her hands tied behind her and tripping over with the sand sticking to her body turning me on. Another woman I saw for only three months enjoyed BDSM activities consenting to being tied up. She would happily lick my feet which was erotic to me and was viewed as a humiliating act to the face of the person. She enjoyed ‘water sports’ [urinating on individuals or being urinated upon] but we never actually did that.”
Jeff was asked what he personally liked about salirophiliac activities. As an educated man with obvious knowledge of psychological theory, he reported that his behavior was most likely explained by behavioral (classical) conditioning and that the behavior could be generalized to other similar activities. More specifically, he reported:

“I believe it is hard to define what aspects of salirophilia I personally like. I have a view that it is a simple psychological classical conditioning which has paired an act, or environment with sexual stimulation and eroticism and ultimately an orgasm. I just find the defilement of an attractive woman’s body erotic. If I am unable to defile a partner with dirt I substitute dirt with spit or water sports in the case of bedroom play. Even wax play (dripping wax on a woman’s body) is salirophiliac to me.”

Engagement in salirophiliac acts

Jeff was asked how often he engaged in salirophiliac practices. He responded by saying that he engages “in solitary practices regularly” but “very infrequently with female partners.” Jeff admitted that “normal” sex is boring to him. To achieve “high sexual arousal, salirophiliac activities are usually necessary in association with other BDSM activities.” However, he did admit that there had been periods in his life where he had a female partner that was “not kinky in any way at all” and that in one instance he “went several months not doing activities involving salirophilia and was just having straight sex.” The salirophiliac activities resumed immediately after that relationship broke up with Jeff performing activities in a solitary manner and/or searching for a suitable partner. He also admitted that he paid a woman twice during a six-month period to “participate in salirophiliac activities, defiling her with dirt in a factory rape scenario.” He said it was “extremely difficult” to find other like-minded female partners that share his interests. He reported:

“I have a young woman in her 20s who will participate in [salirophiliac sex] with me for money. I don’t regard it as prostitution as I’m the only person she does this with or engages in any other sexual activity for money. It is mainly the fact she is a mother of a 4-year old and needs money. I am on alternate sex sites for dating [bdsm.com and alt.com, and adultmatchmaker.com] but salirophilia is not discussed unless I am communicating with a woman who enjoys rape scenarios and role playing and I suggest the practice then. I have attempted to find specific groups of people who enjoy salirophiliac activities but have had no success”.

Jeff was specifically asked how partners reacted to his interest in salirophilia. Rather than respond in a general way, he highlighted specific examples. For instance:

“Recently a female I spat on during sex which she did not object to after told me I treated her like a piece of meat, but didn’t say no to the act. Another woman I had a one-night stand with who was a mild masochist enjoyed me spitting on her face body and in her mouth. Most women I suggest to do activities in an environmental situation with dirt mistrust me and think they are going to [be] injured severely or even murdered, because it invariably requires the activities to be done in an isolated environment. I have women who agree to meet and the description I detail including the aspect of the environment being filthy and that they would be defiled with dirt turned them on with statements like ‘you got me so wet and horny.’ They say they want to do it then change their minds which is usually associated with safety issues. The activities involving sadistic behavior [wax play, whipping, breasts and nipple torture] they have no objection to, but the fact it is in an isolated factory concerns them as far as safety is concerned”.

Jeff admitted that he found it “extremely erotic” to watch others engage in salirophiliac acts in the form of pornography and online videos. However, he had not witnessed an actual salirophiliac act watching someone else in a real situation. He admitted that he watched pornography involving “forced bukkake, spit play, and rape in forests.” Jeff asserted that there are “very few if any videos” that are specifically labeled as salirophiliac. He said they were usually associated with other titles like “rape, outdoor, humiliation, spit play, vomit, etc. where the content just happens to show a particular act which I would find salirophiliac and arousing.” He also said that sometimes he would accidentally come across online video clips that featured women being abused in a dirty environment. Another type of video Jeff found sexually stimulating was those involving “the use of insects on the body as a form of torture.” These were mostly Japanese in origin and available on specialist pornography websites.
He also reported:

“I have a particular porn star that appears to specialize in pornography associated with rotten food play with her allegedly appearing visibly distressed by having rotting decomposing food rubbed over her body and being forced to eat it. Another similar video [that is sexually stimulating] is a garbage scene where the woman in addition to having rotten decomposing food rubbed over her body [has a] master [who] has worms put over her face and breasts and forced to have them in her mouth and crawl up her nose. Another [internet video involves a woman who] is forced to pick up live worms in her mouth and transfer them to another container. The television show ‘Fear Factor’ in Britain and Australia often has beautiful women performing tasks for prize money involving acts that are a turn on due to the defilement nature of the quest such as being forced to eat revolting combinations of rotting food, and being submerged in foul type fluids. One episode the women were in a pool of leeches. [These] were attached all over their bikini-clad bodies which their boyfriends had to remove them with their mouths in a certain time period. Other examples include women with decomposing liquid garbage poured over their heads and their heads are in a container of blowflies where they had to eat fruit which was swarming with the flies. These activities were very erotic to me.”

Other co-occurring paraphilic and fetishistic interests

Jeff was also asked if he had any other co-occurring sexual interests (e.g., other paraphilias and fetishes). He responded by saying that he had developed “numerous sexual interests” over a period of 30 years and that he was “continually trying to find new interests or fetishes.” He then went on to say his salirophilia has distinct crossovers into other types of sexually paraphilic behavior, including aspects of sadism, urophilia, coprophilia, and zoophilia (the latter from a voyeuristic perspective rather than engaging in any sexual contact with animals), and he was adamant he would never engage in any sexual behavior that was illegal:

“An analogy would be like a person starting on a drug which may be benign then progressing to other drugs for more effect. Some fetishes or activities have no sexual interest to me or ‘turn me on’. The following is a list of activities, scenarios, fetishes etc. that are very arousing to me…entomophilia (using insects like meal worms and garden worms), sexual arousal with smooth shaven armpits, sadism, urolagnia [urophilia]. Coprophilia videos interest me only for the visual defilement effect. I would not be able to participate in a coprophilic act myself but probably watch such an activity and view it erotically. I find bestiality a salirophilic act probably viewing the dog licking the woman and dog semen as something filthy physically for the woman. [In] a video of a dog raping a woman [that I watched], the rape aspect was not stimulating to me, but the restrained woman’s face and [her] breasts being licked by the dog [was]. A similar prison porn video of a restrained girl being licked by a dog all over her body was sexually stimulating to me. Again due to the criminal nature of that act I would never partake in such activity.”

Jeff was specifically asked if there was any connection between his salirophilic fetish and any other fetishistic behaviors that he engaged in. In response to this, Jeff said there was a connection between salirophilia and “watching coprophilia videos Interest me only for the visual defilement effect. I would not be able to participate in a coprophilic act myself but probably watch such an activity and view it erotically. I find bestiality a salirophilic act probably viewing the dog licking the woman and dog semen as something filthy physically for the woman. [In] a video of a dog raping a woman [that I watched], the rape aspect was not stimulating to me, but the restrained woman’s face and [her] breasts being licked by the dog [was]. A similar prison porn video of a restrained girl being licked by a dog all over her body was sexually stimulating to me. Again due to the criminal nature of that act I would never partake in such activity.”

He was also asked whether his salirophilic acts could be described as sexually masochistic. He replied by saying that with solitary practices it is masochistic, but with a partner willing to consent to being defiled he viewed it as sadistic, as part of BDSM play with a partner. Interestingly, Jeff said:
“I have no intention of seeking psychological or psychiatric treatment for [my] paraphilia. I believe it doesn’t cause issues not in my working life but privately there is a risk of legal action for access to properties illegally. I utilize an abandoned factory and a farm with recently another large derelict farm which is on the market for sale, and I have the ability to utilize it for ‘sex games’. Over the past 16 years…living in a semirural environment I have had access to over 25 properties for isolated sexual activities picked purely for the filthy environment. Solitary activities have involved masochistic behavior. My seeking out of such properties would be similar to persons practicing breath play or autoerotic asphyxiation which is usually solitary in nature with masochistic activities and if not done in the privacy of their home is done in isolated places like the bush. If a female partner is prepared to participate I will usually take them to a factory I have used for 15 years. I am able to stop the practice if I get into a relationship where the female is not consenting, and am happy doing other BDSM activities. As I stated, some women are fearful only because of the environment and isolation fearing for their safety, or they are concerned about being caught on a property which we are trespassing…Other than the issue of trespassing, I’m comfortable with my salirophilia tendencies.”

Jeff also provided great detail about how he selected derelict and decrepit houses in which to engage in salirophilia sexual practices. One of his methods was to search out “places that are filthy for sex games” by checking real estate windows for available rental properties and examining the photographs of the properties. Jeff would check to see if the property was unfurnished and vacant, and examined pictures of the backyard and garages to see if they would be suitable for salirophilia sex.

**Discussion**

The present study comprises a descriptive overview of a paraphilia that has never been written about in any detail in previous psychological and medical literature. Consequently, the case study accounted here is of existential value and a novel addition to the little that is known about this specific paraphilia. The prevalence and incidence of salirophilia is assumed to be negligible, given the fact that no previous case studies have ever been published in peer-reviewed literature. As with many other paraphilias, Jeff’s sexual arousal was characterized by seemingly intense sexual urges, fantasies, and behaviors that involved unusual activities. Furthermore, and as with other paraphilic behaviors, Jeff had very specific criteria for the behavior to be sexually arousing (Griffiths, 2013).

Jeff’s account of his early salirophilia experiences appears to echo the majority of scientific research on the development of fetishes and paraphilias which states that such behaviors originate from behavioral conditioning and/or sexual imprinting (in this case classical conditioning), where being sexually aroused is paired with something that is not inherently sexual (in this case, squalid and dirty surroundings while masturbating) and then starts to become an erotic focus in and of itself (Akins, 2004; Bereczkei, Gyuris, & Weisfeld, 2004). As Jeff noted himself, he viewed the roots of his salirophilia as “simple psychological classical conditioning which has paired an act, or environment with sexual stimulation and eroticism and ultimately an orgasm”.

Although based on the testimony of a single individual, this account confirms previous speculations by Milner, Dopke, and Crouch (2008) and Griffiths (2012b) that salirophilia appears to co-occur with other paraphilias such as urophilia, coprophilia, and bukkake. Jeff’s view was that some of these paraphilic behaviors are actually subclasses of salirophilia rather than separate paraphilias (e.g., urophilia). One interesting observation is that Jeff himself had never sought treatment for his paraphilic behavior, even though the use of residential properties to engage in some acts bordered on being criminal. In this case, his salirophilia sexual interests were non-normative and unproblematic – although if he had been caught by others utilizing properties that he did not own, the behavior may have been considered a paraphilic disorder, at least by others if not himself. The other co-occurring paraphilias were also considered non-normative rather than disordered, as all other paraphilic behavior was consensual.

Previous authors of paraphilic case studies (e.g., Griffiths, 2013; Terry & Vasey, 2011) have argued for the scientific value of case studies, which includes their role in the generation of new research questions and hypotheses, as well as their utility in highlighting rare phenomena. The salirophilia case outlined in this paper arguably fulfils the values of such observations. However, the present case study is not without its limitations. Clearly, this is a single
case study and Jeff’s account is unlikely to be representative of the whole salirophilic community. Other etiologies and/or developmental routes into salirophilic behavior may be possible. Consequently, further research is needed to assess the extent to which the case study presented here is representative of salirophilia more generally, and the extent to which the developmental and etiological pathways are more complex than what is described in the present paper. This particular case also highlights the need for further research into salirophilia’s occurrence with other paraphilic and fetishistic behavior, as there is little empirical data on this particular paraphilia.

Finally, this case study highlights the importance of online methods in the recruitment of individuals and the collection of data with sexually paraphilic behavior for academic study. Without the internet, it is unlikely that the present case study would have contacted the present author, and the present author would not have been able to carry out the interview online. The online medium appears to be particularly useful for collecting data on unusual sexual paraphilias because online data collection is arguably much better for collecting sensitive material, compared to traditional offline methods (Griffiths, 2012).

References


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