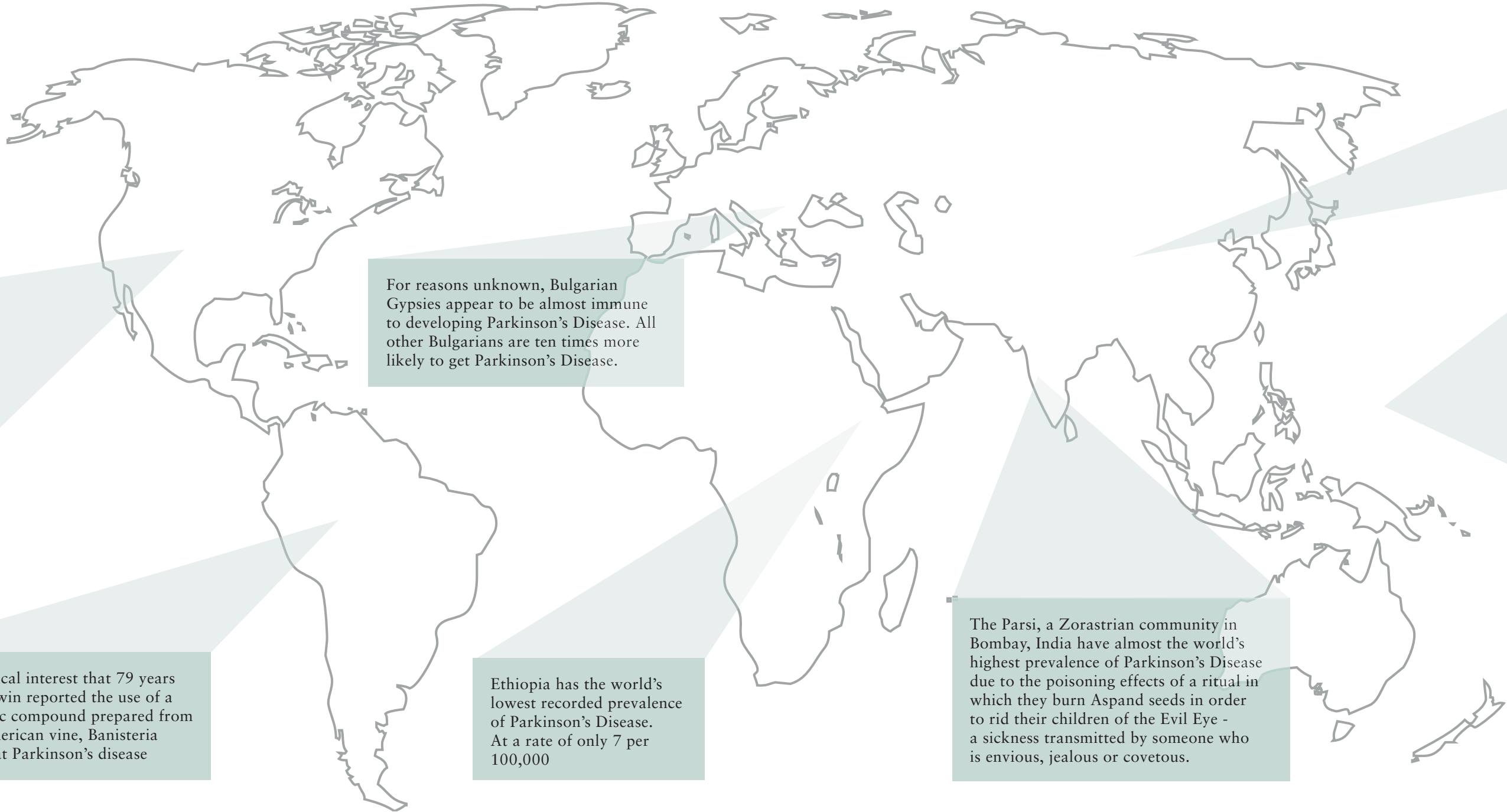


The names Parkinson's disease, shaking palsy and paralysis agitans all refer to the same illness.

The world's highest prevalence of Parkinson's Disease is in Nebraska, U.S.A. with 329.3 people per 100,000 population. It is possible that the very high number in Nebraska is due to the heavy use of insecticides in what is largely a farming area.

It is of historical interest that 79 years ago Louis Lewin reported the use of a hallucinogenic compound prepared from the South American vine, Banisteria Caapi, to treat Parkinson's disease



In China alone there are more than 1.7 million people with Parkinson's Disease.

Many people in the Pacific island of Guam have developed Parkinson's Disease, due to feasting on flying foxes, a species of bat that can be as big as six feet across. This is because the bats eat cycad seeds which contain a potent neurotoxin.

The Parsi, a Zoroastrian community in Bombay, India have almost the world's highest prevalence of Parkinson's Disease due to the poisoning effects of a ritual in which they burn Aspad seeds in order to rid their children of the Evil Eye - a sickness transmitted by someone who is envious, jealous or covetous.

Ethiopia has the world's lowest recorded prevalence of Parkinson's Disease. At a rate of only 7 per 100,000