

THE AYURVEDIC PHARMACOPOEIA OF INDIA

PART- I

VOLUME – II



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AYUSH

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8. Arjuna (St.Bk.)

ARJUNA (Stem Bark)

Arjuna consists of the stem bark of *Terminalia arjuna* W.& A. (Fam. Combretaceae); a large deciduous tree, commonly found throughout the greater parts of the country.

SYNONYMS

Sanskrit	:	Kakubha, Pārtha, Śvetavāha
Assamese	:	Arjun
Bengali	:	Arjuna
English	:	--
Gujrati	:	Sadad, Arjuna, Sajada
Hindi	:	Arjuna
Kannada	:	Matti, Bilimatti, Neermatti, Mathichakke, Kudare Kivimase
Kashmiri	:	--
Malayalam	:	Nirmasuthu, Vellamaruthi, Kellemasuthu, Mattimora, Torematti
Marathi	:	Arjuna, Sadada
Oriya	:	Arjuna
Punjabi	:	Arjon
Tamil	:	Marudam
Telugu	:	Maddi
Urdu	:	Arjun

DESCRIPTION

a) Macroscopic

Bark available in pieces, flat, curved, recurved, channelled to half quilled, 0.2-1.5 cm thick, market samples upto 10 cm in length and upto 7 cm in width, outer surface somewhat smooth and grey, inner surface somewhat fibrous and pinkish, transversely cut smoothed bark shows pinkish surface, fracture, short in inner and laminated in outer part; taste, bitter and astringent.

b) Microscopic

Stem Bark -Mature bark shows cork consisting of 9-10 layers of tangentially elongated cells, a few outer layers filled with brown colouring matter; cork cambium and secondary cortex not distinct and medullary rays observed traversing almost upto outer bark; secondary phloem occupies a wide zone, consisting of sieve tubes, companion cells, phloem parenchyma and phloem fibres, traversed by phloem rays, usually uniseriate but biseriate rays also occasionally seen; in the middle and outer phloem region, sieve tubes get collapsed and form ceratenchyma; phloem fibres distributed in rows and present in groups of 2-10; rosette crystals of calcium oxalate measuring 80-180

μ in dia., present in most of the phloem parenchyma, alternating with fibres; idioblasts consisting of large cells having aggregates of prismatic and rhomboidal crystals of calcium oxalate in row throughout the zone, measuring 260-600 μ in dia., starch grains, mostly simple, compound of 2-3 components, sometimes upto 5 components, round to oval, elliptical, measuring 5-13 μ in dia., distributed throughout the tissue (absent in *T. alata*); in a tangential section the uniseriate phloem rays 2-10 cells high and biseriate, 4-12 cells high; in longitudinal section rosette crystals of calcium oxalate found in the form of strands in phloem parenchyma.

Powder - Reddish-brown; shows fragments of cork cells, uniseriate phloem rays, fibres, a number of rosette crystals of calcium oxalate, a few rhomboidal crystals, starch grains simple and compound, round to oval, elliptic, having 2-3 components with concentric striations and small narrow hilum, measuring 5-13 μ in diameter.

IDENTITY, PURITY AND STRENGTH

Foreign matter	Not more than 2 per cent, Appendix	2.2.2.
Total Ash	Not more than 25 per cent, Appendix	2.2.3.
Acid-insoluble ash	Not more than 1 per cent, Appendix	2.2.4.
Alcohol-soluble extractive	Not less than 20 per cent, Appendix	2.2.6.
Water-soluble extractive	Not less than 20 per cent, Appendix	2.2.7.

CONSTITUENTS - Tannins

PROPERTIES AND ACTION

Rasa	:	Kaṣāya
Guna	:	Rukṣa
Virya	:	Śīta
Vipaka	:	Katu
Karma	:	Bhagnasandhānakara, Hṛdya, Kaphahara, Pittahara, Vraṇanāśana, Vyaṅga Hara

IMPORTANT FORMULATIONS - Pārthādyariṣṭa, Nāgārjunābhra Rasa, Arjuna Ghṛta.

THERAPEUTIC USES - Medoroga, Vraṇa, Hṛdroga, Kṣataḥṣaya, Prameha, Tṛṣṇā, Vyaṅga.

DOSE - 3-6 g. of the drug in powder form.