

Magnolia Bark Shows Potentially Strong Benefits for Fresh Breath, Oral Hygiene and Oral Health

Draco Natural Product | Jun 26, 2008

(San Jose, CA) June 27, 2008 – The traditional Chinese medicine Hou Po, derived from Magnolia tree bark, was used for digestive problems in ancient China. Today, research has shown the root contains plant antibacterial plant compounds which may explain the benefits for this traditional use.

“A new Wm Wrigley Jr. company study published in the 2008 Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, suggests magnolia bark may also have potential as anti-microbials in functional chewing gum,” says Jerry Wu, president of San Jose, CA-based Draco Natural Products.

According to Draco Natural Products, who offers Magnolia (*Magnolia officinalis*) among the company’s hundreds of certified organic botanical extracts, studies also prove it to be beneficial for oral health by having anti-bacterial effects that help the health of the gums or gingiva, and anti-cavities effects that help protect the teeth from tooth decay.

By protecting gingival tissue from harmful bacterial colonization, Magnolia extract could reduce the risk of periodontal disease and help in its prevention, according to a 2007 Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry study. The antibacterial phenolic compounds in Magnolia extract are responsible for these effects and biphenols known as honokiol and magnolol have antioxidant benefits as well.

The study showed that Magnolia in a chewing gum preparation had a potential halitosis-reducing action by virtue of its strong germ-killing effect against the bacteria responsible for halitosis, and against *Streptococcus mutans*, the bacteria involved in cavities formation.

Scientists found that the compounds magnolol and honokiol were active against *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, and *Streptococcus mutans*, in relatively low concentrations ranging from 8 to 31 mcg/ml. Another study has shown that magnolol works to reduce cavity formation by preventing the sticky tooth attachment and colonization by the bacteria *Streptococcus mutans*. It does this by inhibiting the enzyme Glucosyltransferase (GTF), that bacteria uses to create the gluey binding substance to attach to teeth where it then secretes acids that break down tooth enamel and cause tooth decay.

“Look around and you’ll see a large percentage of the U.S. population chewing gum,” says Wu. “We feel there are numerous opportunities for functional food growth in the chewing gum arena using Magnolia,” says Wu.

“Furthermore, Draco Natural Products Magnolia botanical ingredient is organic certified and harvested free of pesticides and heavy metals, as well as being Kosher certified,” adds Wu.

Draco, the first certified organic botanical extract manufacturer in China, and world leader in the manufacture and supply of botanical raw materials for nutritional supplements, functional foods and beverages, as well as cosmetics, skin care and personal products, attributed sales growth to the introduction of new organic fruit and vegetable products and consumer demand for products with organic ingredients.

In addition to Magnolia, Draco Natural Products offers more than 500 different extracts from herbal botanicals, fruits and vegetables. The company was founded on the concept of creating all-natural, full spectrum botanical ingredients using a proprietary manufacturing process with only purified water.

For more information about the Standardized Full-Spectrum Magnolia, contact Draco Natural Products at 408.287.7871 or visit www.DracoHerbs.com.

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