

CARBOHYDRATE RELATED DRUGS

Nitin Machhindra Bhand*

Anand Charitable Santha's College of Pharmaceutical Science and Research Ashti, Dist-Beed.

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***Corresponding Author**

Nitin Machhindra Bhand

Anand Charitable Santha's
College of Pharmaceutical
Science and Research Ashti,
Dist-Beed.

ABSTRACT

Carbohydrate plays important role in our life. In recent year, there has been a great effort devoted to investigation of different carbohydrate related drug. This review summarizes the Biological source, Family, Distribution, Plant Description, Chemical tests and uses of drug. Which are helpful for further whole information about gum and plant.

KEYWORDS: Carbohydrate drug, Acacia, Tragacanth.

INTRODUCTION

Carbohydrate are organic compound found in the major parts of fruit, vegetable, legumen and cereal grains. They carry out many functions in all living organism. One of their primary function of carbohydrate is to provide energy to our body. Some of carbohydrate also give the therapeutic effect such as Acacia which inhibit the growth of periodontic bacteria. Some carbohydrate also use in pharmaceutical preparations for thickening and emulsifying agents.

This review mainly focus on carbohydrate related drug include Acacia and Tragacanth. Their physical, chemical properties, Biological source, Distribution, Chemical test, various Uses in pharmaceutical preparation and in daily life.

1. ACACIA



Fig. No. 1: Acacia gum.

Biological source

It is dried gummy exudation from stem and branches of *Acaciaarobica*, *A.senegal*.

Family

Fabaceae (alt. Leguminosae)

Distribution

The *Acacia* plant species abundant through Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, Asia and the America. In India it is collected from Western Ghat, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.^[1]

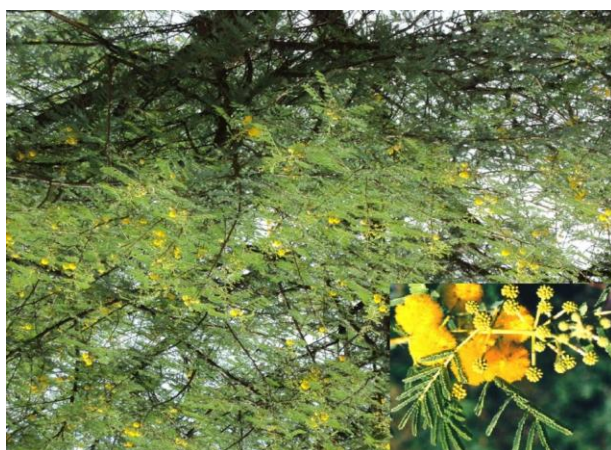


Fig. No. 2: Acacia plant.

Plant description

It is medium size evergreen tree with a short trunk, found in whole dried part of plant. It normally attains height of 15m and having girth of 1.2m. Although tree reaches to a height of 10 to 60 feet. It produces golden yellow flowers with fragrance. The flowers are small with five small petals. The branches are purplish to gray with very small glands. The leaves are compound pinnate, but in some species the leaflets are suppressed, vertically flattened. Bark is a rough dark brownish to nearly black in colour with longitudinally and deeply cracked fissured. Pods are flat shaped 7.5-15.0 cm. Leaves are from 2.5- 5cm long.^[4]

Description of gum

The gum is white in colour. Sometime it forms brown or cream colour. The outer surface of gum is smooth and dull. The dried gum is brittle in nature. The test of gum is mucilaginous like and it is odourless. The gum is soluble in water and it forms acid. It contains 5% ash.

Chemical test

1. Lead acetate test

Aqueous solution of gum + lead acetate = Heavy white precipitate.

2. Iodine test

Aqueous solution of gum + iodine solution = No blue colour.

3. Reducing sugar test

Hydrolysis of an aqueous solution of acasia with dil. HCL yeilds reducing sugar further boliling it with Felhlings solution to give bricks red precipitate of cuprous oxide.

4. Borax test

Aqueous solution of gum + Borax = stiff translucent mass.

Uses

1. Acacia gum is use as a demulcent in pharmaceutical preparations.

2. It shiw wound healing effect.

3. It inhibit growth of periodontic bacteria.

4. It is use as emulsifier and a thickning agent in icing, fillings, chewing gum and other confectory item.

5. Acacia gum use in Dietary fibre and food aditives.

6. It is used for Enhancement of vegetable shelf life.

7. It also reduce cholestrol level.

8. It show protective effect against Dental erosion.^[8]

Storage

It should be store in coo, clean and dry place. It does not deterioat due to long storage under favourable conditions.

2. TRAGACANTH

Fig. No. 3: Tragacanth Gum.

Biological source

Astragalus gummifer or other species of Astragalus.

Family

Leguminosae.

Distribution

The thorny shrub of tragacanth normally grows at an altitude of 1000-3000 meters and the primary source is desert highland of northern and western part of Iran. Apart from Iran it is naturally found in various countries, viz, Iraq, Armenia, Syria, Greece and Turkey. Very few species of Astragalus are located in India, viz, Kumaon, Garhwal and Punjab.

Description

This species is shrubby, with small branches and short woody gray stem surrounded by thorns. The compound leaves are stipulate with elliptical leaflets (pinnae) borne in opposite pairs. The rachis of the leaf is extended into a sharp thorn.



Fig. No. 4: Tragacanth tree.

Chemical test

1. Aqueous solution of Tragacanth + Conc. Hydrochloric acid = Boil = No Red colour form.
2. Sample of Tragacanth + Ruthenium red solution = No Pink colour form.
3. Aqueous solution of tragacanth + Lead acetate = Heavy white precipitate form.
4. Sample solution + Drops of Ferric chloride = Deep yellow precipitate forms.

Uses

1. Tragacanth is used as emulsifying, binding and demulcent.
2. Orally, tragacanth is used both for diarrhoea and as a laxative.

3. Topically tragacat is an ingredient in toothpaste, hand lotions, and vaginal creams and medicinal jelly like spermicidal jelly.
4. Its use as a binding agent for preparation of tablet and pills.

Storage

It should be stored in cool, clean and dry place. It does not deteriorate due to long storage under favourable conditions.

CONCLUSIONS

The above information gives the detail about Acacia and Tragacanth gum and plant. It also gives information about Description, Distribution, Chemical test and uses. This information is also used in pharmaceutical industry for preparation of medicinal products.

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