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Acacia Arabica

Wattle tree, Kikar, Babul, Acacia Vera, Egyptian thorn, Egyptian gum Arabic, Amrad Gum, Thorny Mimosa of India,

السنت العربي

Wattle Tree

Acacia arabica



<http://www.home-remedies-guide.com/herbs/babul.htm>

Babul

Babul is a large tree that grows up to 14 meters high, with thorns on its branches. It has darkish grey bark and yellow flowers in spherical heads. It yields a gum, known as babul

gum.

Babul is planted for its bark. The bark of babul tree contains tannin and gallic acid the leaves and fruits of the tree also contain tannin and gallic acid.

Botanical Name- Acacia arabica

Indian Name- Kikar

- Babul is used in the treatment of diarrhea of ordinary intensity. A mixture of equal parts of the tender leaves with white and black cumin seeds can be administered in doses of 12 grams, thrice daily. An infusion made of the bark of the tree may also be taken thrice daily for the same purpose. The gum used either in decoction or in syrup, is an effective medicine for diarrhea.

- The bark of babul tree is useful in the treatment of eczema. About 25 grams each of this bark and the mango bark should be boiled in about 1 liter of water and the vapors allowed fomenting the affected part. After the fomentation, the affected part should be anointed with ghee.

- Chewing of fresh bark of babul tree daily, helps strengthen loose teeth and arrest any bleeding from the gums. Dirty teeth can be cleaned effectively by brushing them with a powder in which 60 grams of charcoal of babul wood, 24 grams of roasted alum and 12 grams of rock salt have been included.

- The leaves of **babul** tree are effective in the treatment of conjunctivitis. The leaves, ground to a paste, should be applied on the affected eyes at night, supported by a bandage which should be untied the next morning. This removes pain and redness.

- The leaves of babul are also beneficial in treating epiphora- that is watering of the eyes, in which tears flow onto the cheeks due to abnormality of the tear drainage system. About 250 grams of leaves should be boiled in one and a quarter liter of water until only a quarter liter of water is left. This should then be filtered and kept in a well-corked bottle. The eye-lids should be painted morning and evening with this liquid.

- **Babul** gum allays any irritation of the skin and soothes the inflamed membranes of the pharynx, alimentary canal and genitor-urinary organs.

- A decoction of the babul bark, mixed with rock salt, should be used as a gargle in treating tonsillitis.

- The bark of the babul tree is useful in leucorrhoea; its decoction should be used as a vaginal douche for treating this disorder.

- The fresh pods of **babul** tree are effective in sexual disorders like spermatorrhea, loss of viscosity of the semen, frequent night discharges and premature

ejaculation. In Ayurveda, a preparation made from the pods is considered highly beneficial in treating these disorders. It is prepared thus: about 1 to 1.5 meters of coarse cloth is spread evenly and its corners secured. The fresh pods of babul tree are pounded and their juice squeezed. This fresh juice is pasted on the cloth every morning and evening for at least 20 days until a 5-6 centimeters thick layer is formed on it. A small piece of this cloth weighing 5 to 9 grams is cut and boiled in a liter of cow's milk which is taken after adding brown sugar to taste.

It is also said to increase the power of retention of the semen. Even extremely debilitated patients suffering from the bad consequences of masturbation are believed to get rejuvenated by its use and attain normal retentive power. It improves the spermatorrhea.

Another preparation made from the pods is also effective in spermatorrhea. Tender, seedless pods are dried in shade, powdered and mixed with an equal weight of brown sugar. Six grams of this mixture may be taken with milk in the morning.

<http://healthzone.wordpress.com/2006/08/page/2>



Healing Power and Curative Properties of Babul

The leaves, the bark, the pods and the gum of the tree have medicinal virtues. The pods help remove catarrhal matter and phlegm from the bronchial tubes. The gum allays any, irritation of the skin and soothes the inflamed membranes of the pharynx, alimentary canal and genito-urinary organs.

Diarrhea

The various parts of babul tree are useful in diarrhoea of ordinary intensity. A mixture of equal parts of the tender leaves with white and black cumin seeds (*zeera*) can be administered in doses of 12 grams, thrice daily. An infusion made of the bark of the tree may also be taken thrice daily for the same purpose. The gum, used either in decoction or in syrup, is an effective medicine for diarrhoea.

Teeth Disorders

Chewing of fresh bark of this tree daily, helps strengthen loose teeth and arrest any bleeding from the gums. Dirty teeth can be cleaned effectively by brushing them with a powder in which 60 grams of charcoal of babul wood, 24 grams of roasted alum and 12 grams of rock salt have been included.

Eczema

The bark of babul tree is useful in the treatment of eczema. About 25 grams each of this bark and the mango bark should be boiled in about 1 liter of water and the vapors allowed to foment the affected part. After the fomentation, the affected part should be anointed with ghee.

Tonsillitis

A decoction of the bark, mixed with rock salt, should be used as a gargle in treating tonsillitis.

Conjunctivitis

The leaves of babul tree are effective in the treatment of conjunctivitis. The leaves, ground to a paste, should be applied on the affected eyes at night, supported by a bandage which should be untied the next morning. This removes pain and redness.

Epiphora

The leaves are beneficial in treating epiphora that is watering of the eyes, in which tears flow onto the cheeks due to abnormality of the tear drainage system. About 250 grams of leaves should be boiled in one and a quarter liter of water until only a quarter liter of water is left. This should then be filtered and kept in a well-corked bottle. The eye-lids should be painted morning and evening with this liquid.

Leucorrhoea

The bark of the tree is useful in leucorrhoea (White Discharge). Its decoction should be used as a vaginal douche for treating this disorder.

<http://www.henriettesherbal.com/eclectic/kings/acacia.html>

Acacia vera (*A. arabica*). Near the Nile this tree is known as the *Ssant* or *Sont*, Egyptian thorn, or Egyptian gum arabic tree. It inhabits Egypt, Arabia, India, and is found abundantly as far south as Abyssinia, and westward to the regions of the Senegal. It produces an inferior brownish or reddish gum.

The best quality of gum arabic—that known as Kordofan gum, Turkey gum, or White Sennaar gum—is perfectly colorless, of a shining, conchoidal, vitreous fracture, opaque in mass, but transparent in small fragments, hard but pulverable, inodorous, and of a faintly sweetish and viscous taste. It is generally in tears, round or angular, and seldom larger than a hazel nut. The very pale, yellowish-white, yellowish-red, or brownish tears belong to the second quality, and may be rendered colorless by the action of sunlight, or when treated with chlorine water. The specific gravity is from 1.33 to 1.52. It almost invariably forms a white powder.

Cold or hot water dissolves its own weight of gum arabic, forming a thick mucilaginous solution, and from which the gum may be obtained by evaporation, or by precipitation with, excess of alcohol; the concentrated solution may be kept much longer than the dilute, which latter, especially in warm weather, undergoes the acetous fermentation. The gum is also soluble in solutions of the pure alkalis, lime water, and dilute acids. Alcohol does not dissolve it, neither does ether or the oils. When boiled with sulphuric acid an unfermentable variety of sugar is formed; but with nitric acid it passes into mucic, malic, and finally into oxalic acid.—(Ed.) Treated with a solution of the neutral perchloride of iron, the mucilage of gum arabic becomes a light reddish jelly; with a solution of borax it forms a firm, colorless jelly, which is liquefied by powdered sugar; and, with a solution of sugar, it furnishes, by desiccation, a clear, hard, amorphous mass. Its decomposition is readily effected by the strong acids. The gums known as Gedda, Jiddah, and Turic gums were varieties of Kordofan gum.

Gum arabic does not deteriorate if kept dry, but its concentrated mucilage, after a long time, will become sour (acetic acid). Hot water is said to hasten this fermentation, if employed in making the mucilage. Dilute solutions of the gum become moldy. A few drops of sulphuric acid added to it—the solution being poured off from the resultant precipitate of calcium sulphate—is said to prevent this change—(*Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 1872).

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Acacia-arabica>

Medicine

Bark

According to Hartwell, African [Zulu](#) take bark for [cough](#). It acts as an [astringent](#) and it is used to treat [diarrhea](#), [dysentery](#), and [leprosy](#)

Bark and root

[Masai](#) are intoxicated by the bark and root decoction, said to impart [courage](#), even [aphrodisia](#), and the root is said to cure [impotence](#).

Bark or gum

In West [Africa](#), the [bark](#) or [gum](#) is used to treat [cancers](#) and/or [tumors](#) (of [ear](#), [eye](#), or [testicles](#)) and [indurations](#) of [liver](#) and [spleen](#), [condylomas](#), and excess flesh.

[Sap](#) or [bark](#), leaves, and young pods are strongly [astringent](#) due to [tannin](#), and are chewed in [Senegal](#) as an [antiscorbutic](#).

Leaves

The bruised leaves are poulticed and used to treat [ulcers](#).

Resin

In [Lebanon](#), the [resin](#) is mixed with orange-flower infusion for [typhoid](#) convalescence.

Root

The Chipi use the [root](#) for [tuberculosis](#). In [Tonga](#), the [root](#) is used to treat [tuberculosis](#)

Seed pods

[Egyptian Nubians](#) believe that [diabetics](#) may eat unlimited [carbohydrates](#) as long as they also consume powdered pods.

Wood

In Italian Africa, the wood is used to treat [smallpox](#).

In [Ethiopia](#), certain parts of the tree are used as a lactagogue.(increase milk supply)