

Astringents

- The substance that cause the contraction or shrinkage of tissue and that dryup secretions.
- They are capable of arresting haemorrhages and reducing secretions of mucous membrane of stomach or intestine by precipitating proteins.

Black Catechu

Synonyms: Cutch, kattha, khadir, khair

Family: Leguminosae

Biological source: It consists of dried aqueous extract of the heartwood of the plant *Acacia Catechu*.

Organoleptic characters:

Colour - Light brown to black

Odour- None

Taste - Very astringents

Size - 2-5 to 5 cm

Chemical Constituents:-

- It contains about 10% of acacatechin.
- The other chemical contents of black Catechu are Catechu red, quercetin, and gum.

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- Acacatechin is also known as Acacatechin.

Therapeutic efficacy:

- It is used as styptic and antidiarrheal agent.
- It used for relaxed condition of throat, mouth and gums.
- Kattha is used as a astringents and for cooling and digestive purposes.
- It also used for printer inks.

Myrobalan

Synonyms:- Chebulic myrobalan, harde, haritaki.

Family: Combretaceae.

Biological Sources

- Myrobalan is the mature dried fruits of *Terminalia chebula*,

Chemical Constituents

- Myrobalan contains about 30% of the hydrolysable tannins, which consists of chebulinic acid, chebulagic acid and D-galloyl glucose.
- It contains free tannic acid, gallic acid, ellagic acid, and resin myrobalanin. Anthraquinone glycosides, sennosides have been reported in myrobalan.

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Therapeutic efficacy

- Myrobalan is reputed in Indian system of medicine as a drug for various types of diseases.
- It is used externally in chronic ulcers, wounds, piles, and as stomachic.
- It is one of the drugs of the well-known preparation 'Triphala'.
- powder of myrobalan is used in dental preparations
- It is used in dyeing and tanning industry and also in treatment of water used for locomotives.