

PART- I

VOLUME – II



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

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37. Karanja (St.Bk.)

KARAÑJA (Stem Bark)

Karañja consists of dried stem bark of *Pongamia pinnata* (Linn.) Merr., Syn. *P. glabra* Vent. (Fam. Fabaceae); a glabrous tree, upto 18 m or sometimes more in height, found almost throughout the country upto an altitude of 1200 m.

SYNONYMS

Sanskrit	:	Ghṛtakarañja, Karañjaka, Naktāhvā, Naktamāla
Assamese	:	Korach
Bengali	:	Dahara karanja, Karanja, Natakaranja
English	:	--
Gujrati	:	Kanaji
Hindi	:	Karanj
Kannada	:	Honge
Kashmiri	:	--
Malayalam	:	Pungu, Ungu
Marathi	:	Karanja
Oriya	:	Karanja
Punjabi	:	Karanj
Tamil	:	Pungai
Telugu	:	Ganuga, Kanuga
Urdu	:	Karanj

DESCRIPTION

a) Macroscopic

Bark available in channelled, recurved, slightly quilled, usually 0.2-1 cm thick, lenticellate pieces, more or less smooth; outer surface ash-grey to greyish-brown and internal surface yellowish-white to cream coloured; fracture, short and fibrous, odour, unpleasant; taste, bitter.

b) Microscopic

Bark - Shows 5-20 or more layers of cork, composed of rectangular, thick-walled cells, filled with reddish-brown content, at some places lenticels also appear; secondary cortex 10-15 layered having oval to polygonal, tangentially elongated, thin-walled, parenchymatous cells; beneath secondary cortex a large group of oval to elongated stone cells, arranged in a tangential manner, forming a continuous or discontinuous band; secondary phloem composed of sieve elements, phloem parenchyma, phloem fibre and stone cells, traversed by medullary rays; sieve elements and parenchyma composed of rectangular to polygonal thin-walled cells, alternating with stone cells; fibre small,

polygonal, thin-walled and aseptate, a few associated with stone cells and arranged radially; medullary rays wavy, usually 2-4 cells wide, radially elongated and rounded to oval in shape, a few stone cells scattered in secondary cortex as in secondary phloem; rhomboidal crystals of calcium oxalate found in secondary cortex; starch grains simple, rounded to oval and compound having 2-4 components, present in secondary cortex, phloem parenchyma and rays cells; oil globules found in secondary phloem only.

Powder -Yellowish-cream; shows groups of rectangular to polygonal, elongated, thin walled parenchymatous sieve tube; aseptate fibre and stone cells; rhomboidal crystals of calcium oxalate; rounded to oval, simple and compound starch grains, measuring 3-14 μ in dia, and rarely, oil globules.

IDENTITY, PURITY AND STRENGTH

Foreign matter	Not more than	1	per cent, Appendix	2.2.2.
Total Ash	Not more than	13	per cent, Appendix	2.2.3.
Acid-insoluble ash	Not more than	1.5	per cent, Appendix	2.2.4.
Alcohol-soluble extractive	Not less than	3	per cent, Appendix	2.2.6.
Water-soluble extractive	Not less than	18	per cent, Appendix	2.2.7.

CONSTITUENTS - Flavones and Furanoflavones like Karanjin, Pongapin, Demethoxykanugin, Kanugin, Pinnatin, Tetra-o-Methylfisetin, Gamatin, 5-Methoxyfurano (2", 3" 7 : 8), flavone and 5-Methoxy-3'4' Methylene dioxyfurano (2", 3", 7 : 8) flavone & two new Furano compounds Glabra-I and Glabra-II. It also contains alkaloids and Triterpenoid saponin.

PROPERTIES AND ACTION

Rasa	:	Kaṭu, Tikta, Kaṣāya
Guna	:	Tikṣṇa
Virya	:	Uṣṇa
Vipaka	:	Kaṭu
Karma	:	Kaṇḍūghna, Kaphahara, Pittahara, Vātahara, Viṣaghma, Vraṇaśodhana

IMPORTANT FORMULATIONS - Br̥hanmañjishādi Kvātha Cūrṇa, Mustākarañjādi Kvātha Cūrṇa.

THERAPEUTIC USES - Duṣṭavraṇa, Āntravidradhī, Kṛmiroga, Kaṇḍu, Kuṣṭha, Prameha, Vidradhī, Yoniroga

DOSE - 1-2 g. of the drug in powder form.