

PHARMACOGNOSTICAL STUDIES ON SARACA INDICA
(LEGUMINOSAE) AND TERMINALIA CHEBULA
(COMBRETACEAE)

M.D.J. Wijayabandara and K.T.D. de Silva
Department of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The bark of Saraca indica is much used for uterine affections especially menorrhagia, bleeding piles and dropsical swellings and the flowers are used for haemorrhagic dysentery. The bark of Terminalia chebula possesses diuretic and cardio-tonic properties.

The macroscopy and microcopy of the parts used in Ayurvedic system of medicine of Saraca indica (bark, seeds and flowers) and Terminalia chebula were studied. The diagnostic features of these could be used for identification and authentication of the different parts.

The characteristic features to identify these parts in dried form and to detect their presence in a preparation were obtained by studying the powder microscopy, TAS (Thermal extraction, Transfer and Application method for substances on a microscale According to Stahl) Profiles and TLC profiles. These could be used in the authentication, detection and quality control of Ayurvedic products which include T.chebula and S.indica.

(We gratefully acknowledge NARESA for the financial assistance given for this project).

References:

- Stahl, E. (1973) Drug analysis by chromatography and microscopy. Michigan:Ann Arbor Science Publishers Inc.
Wagner, H. and et al (1994). Plant Drug Analysis. New York Springer-verlag, Berlin:Heidelberg.