

PHARMACOGNOSTIC STUDIES OF CASSIA FISTULA (LEGUMINOSAE)

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Cassia fistula is a medicinal plant growing in India, Sri Lanka, Malaya, Java and Philippine Islands. Leaves and fruit pulp of Cassia fistula are used as purgatives while the root and stem bark are used for fever, heart disease and pneumonia in Ayurvedic medicine.

The macroscopy and microscopy of the parts used in Ayurvedic medicine (bark, leaves, roots and flowers) of C.fistula were studied. The diagnostic features of these could be used for identification and authentication of the different parts.

The powder microscopy of the bark, leaves, roots and flowers were also studied. The differences in these could be used to detect and distinguish different parts of Cassia fistula incorporated into a preparation. Suitable TAS (Thermal extraction, transfer and application method for substances on a microscale, according to Stahl) profiles and TLC profiles for the different parts of C. fistula were developed. These profiles can also be used to distinguish the different parts of C.fistula and to detect their presence in a preparation.

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References:

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