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Babul (Indian gum)





Synonym

- Gujarati: Baval (બાવળ), Babaria (બબરિયા).
- Hindi: Babool (बबूल), Babool gond (बबूल ગોંડ).
- English: Indian Gum Arabic, Egyptian acacia .

Botanical name

- *Vachellia nilotica*

Family

- Fabaceae

Chemical Constituents

- Babul gum contains galactose, arabinose, rhamnose, aldobioronic acids, and mineral salts such as calcium, magnesium, and potassium.
- Additional active constituents include tannins, flavonoids, phenolic compounds, gallic acid, saponins, sucrose, mucilage, stearic acid, and chlorides.
- The bark and pods are rich in tannins (12–20%), while the gum is composed mainly of high-molecular-weight polysaccharides.

Therapeutic Uses

- Used traditionally for oral health (as a natural toothbrush, to treat bleeding gums, mouth ulcers), wound healing, skin diseases, and burn injuries.
- Acts as an astringent, demulcent, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antioxidant agent.
- Supports digestive health, relieves diarrhea, soothes gastrointestinal irritation, and manages constipation.
- Recognized for benefits in respiratory disorders, arthritis, bleeding disorders, diabetes management, and detoxification in Ayurveda.

