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Acacia nilotica



Synonym:

Gujarati: Baval / Babul

Hindi: Babool / Kikar

English: Gum Arabic Tree / Egyptian Thorn / Babul

Botanical name: *Acacia nilotica* (syn. *Vachellia nilotica*)

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Chemical Constituent:

- Tannins – major constituent, responsible for astringent properties
- Flavonoids – quercetin, kaempferol derivatives
- Gums (Gum Arabic) – polysaccharides
- Saponins
- Sterols – β -sitosterol
- Gallic acid, Ellagic acid

Therapeutic Effect:

- Astringent: Useful in diarrhea, dysentery, bleeding gums

- Antimicrobial: Effective against bacteria and fungi
- Anti-inflammatory: Reduces swelling and irritation
- Wound Healing: Promotes tissue repair
- Dental Care: Strengthens gums and teeth
- Antidiabetic: Bark extracts show hypoglycemic activity

Marketed preparation:

- **Babool Tooth Powder / Toothpaste – for oral hygiene**
- **Herbal Decoctions – bark-based for diarrhea and ulcers**
- **Ayurvedic Formulations – used in gum care and wound healing**
- **Gum Arabic – used in pharmaceuticals and food industry**

Key Constituents:

- Tannins – astringent, antimicrobial
- Flavonoids (Quercetin, Kaempferol) – antioxidant, anti-inflammatory

- β -sitosterol – hypoglycemic, cholesterol-lowering
- Gums (polysaccharides) – demulcent, stabilizer

Uses:

- **Medicinal:**
 - **Diarrhea, dysentery, bleeding disorders**
 - **Oral hygiene (gum strengthening, tooth care)**
 - **Wound healing and antimicrobial treatment**
- **Industrial:**
 - **Gum Arabic used in food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals**
- **Traditional:**
 - **Bark decoction for sore throat and ulcers**
 - **Twigs used as natural toothbrushes (datun)**