



International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences

E-ISSN: 2616-4493

P-ISSN: 2616-4485

Impact Factor (RJIF): 5.96

www.homoeopathicjournal.com

IJHS 2025; 9(4): 427-429

Received: 09-07-2025

Accepted: 16-08-2025

Dr. T Ilaya Pallavan

Associate Professor,
Department of Materia
Medica, Dr. HHMC&RC,
Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. AT Senthil Kumar

Professor, Head of the
Department, Department of
Materia Medica, Dr.
HHMC&RC, Tamil Nadu,
India

Gopalakrishnan Selvaraj

CRRI, Dr. HHMC&RC, Dr.
MGR University Tamil Nadu,
India

Quassia amara

T Ilaya Pallavan, AT Senthil Kumar and Gopalakrishnan Selvaraj

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26164485.2025.v9.i4.G.1943>

Abstract

Quassia amara L., famous as bitterwood or quassia, is a neotropical shrub indigenous to the family Simaroubaceae. It is widely distributed in various regions of America and is traditionally used as a digestive stimulant, antipyretic, and vermifuge. It exhibits antimalarial, antiparasitic, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer properties. This article highlights its botanical description, distribution, scientific classification, and its relevance in traditional and modern medicine.

Keywords: *Quassia amara*, simaroubaceae, bitterwood, amargo, quassinoids, medicinal plants

Introduction

The name "Quassia" commemorates Graman Quassi, an African healer introduced the plant's use to European medicine. Modern pharmacological studies attribute its therapeutic activity to quassinoids, which possess insecticidal, and cytotoxic effects. In homoeopathy *Quassia amara* continues to be used for digestive ailments, anorexia, helminthic infestations, and topical treatment of lice.

Synonyms: Bitterwood, Amargo, Hombre grande, Bitter ash, Surinam quassia.

Description

It is a shrub or tree with height up to 10 meters. Leaf opposite, odd pinnate, Dark green. The flowers large, which is spiral twisted curling round one another. The fruits, a droplet sometimes an aggregate of 5 drupelets in the form of Star.

Distribution

Quassia amara is native to tropical regions of America, particularly Suriname, Venezuela and French Guiana. It is cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for medicinal and ornamental purposes.



Fig 1: *Quassia amara* L. - wood (Homoeopathic use)

Scientific classification

- **Kingdom:** Plantae - plants
- **Phylum:** Streptophyta
- **Class:** Equisetopsida
- **Sub Class:** Magnoliopsida

Corresponding Author:

Dr. T Ilaya Pallavan

Associate Professor,
Department of Materia
Medica, Dr. HHMC&RC,
Tamil Nadu, India

- **Superorder:** Rosanae
- **Order:** Sapindales
- **Family:** Simaroubaceae
- **Genus:** *Quassia*
- **Species:** *Quassia amara* L.



Fig 2: *Quassia amara* L. - flower

Epidemiology

Guiana, North Brazil; cultivated in Columbia, Panama, West Indies, Native of Surinam ^[2].

Homoeopathic Preparation

The dried wood, of the branches and trunk of the tree, is coarsely powdered, covered with five parts by weight of alcohol, and allowed to remain eight days in a well-stoppered bottle, in a dark, cool place, being shaken twice a day. The tincture is then poured off, strained and filtered. Drug power of tincture, 1/10. Dilutions must be prepared as directed under Class IV ^[8].

Sphere of action

- Gastric organ
- Eyes
- Liver and spleen.

Characteristics

Pain in hypochondrium which is of drawing type and sensation as if abdomen is empty and retracted; Consistent Urge to pass stool, which is hard at the beginning, peculiar beating pain over the abdomen, extending into extremities. Pain and heaviness in the forehead, with dullness of the head. Anxiety on going to sleep, but disappeared during night. Coldness over back, with constant desire to yawn and desire to stretch out the feet, during fevers. Sensation as if the stomach were full of hot water. Excessive fermentation and acidity with gastralgia.

Mental Generals

Disturbed Sleep with great anxiety and solitude, with no reasons at 1 AM; Inability to sleep; felt wide awake, with mental restlessness, on attempting to study, could only stare at the book due to anxious thoughts, about 3 o'clock, at times he attempted to write, but was so absentminded that he could not find words to express his thoughts, Inability to perform any mental labour, but not due to aversion to work, but from absence of thought ^[2, 12].

Characteristics particular

Head

A peculiar sensation in the head, as if everything would

vanish, followed by excessive weakness, with profuse hot sweat and increased appetite, followed by coldness of the extremities, with internal coldness, that lasting for hours; If hunger is not satisfied, the weakness increased, copious perspiration occurs all over the whole body, followed by gradual relief. Pain and heaviness in the forehead, with dullness of the head. Drawing pain in the left side of the head and face ^[2]. Constant dullness of the head with delusions of Noises in head ^[3].

Neck

Slight/severe drawing pain in the cervical muscles ^[2].

Stomach

Great inclination to Nausea. Drawing pain in stomach associated with a sensation as if the stomach were full of hot water ^[2]. Excessive fermentation and acidity with gastralgia. Atony dyspepsia with gas and acidity. Heart burns and gastralgia. Abdomen feels empty and retracted. Dyspepsia after infectious disease especially grip dysentery. Cirrhosis of liver and ascites ^[19, 18]. Qualmishness. Regurgitation of food.

Abdomen

Drawing pain in both hypochondrium, with sensation of emptiness in abdomen and retracted to the spinal column. Pain is very acute in the right hypochondriac region; the severe pain lasted only the first day, but for several days the pain was dull. On palpation Abdomen is hard and distended. Recurring pains in the abdomen, between the umbilicus and stomach, lasting for several days. A peculiar beating through the abdomen, extending into the extremities, with general nervous troubles ^[2]. Liver spleen enlarged.

Stool

Stool at the start feels dry and hard needs great efforts to expel then becomes pasty and thin ^[2].

Urine

Excessive desire to urinate. Impossible to retain micturition. Profuse urine, As soon as child wakes up the bed is drenched. Scanty urination ^[2].

Respiratory organ

Hoarseness of voice during change in weather. Abdomen is empty and retracted to spinal column with pain during deep breath.

Back

Coldness over spine and back ^[12].

Fever

Sensation of coldness over the spine with constant inclination to yawn and desire to stretch out the limbs. Associated with fever ⁽²⁾. Fever-cholera-infection ⁽¹⁵⁾

Extremities

Drawing pain in the calf muscles. Cold extremities with sensation of internal coldness

Sleep

Anxiety returns on going to sleep but disappeared at night ^[2].

Relation**Compare**

- FEVER, Cedron.
- WORM, Cina ^[3]
- Carbo vegetabilis, Hydrastis canadensis ^[16]

Dose

Mother tincture 1 to 30 drops ^[16]. First to third potency or spoonful doses of aqua quassiae ^[19].

Potency

Potencies 2x and higher with dispensing alcohol ^[8].

Conclusion

Quassia amara exhibits a wide range of properties like anti-diabetic, anti-malarial, anti-ulcerogenic, and anti-fertility effects. Its homoeopathic attributes support actions in areas such as *Eyes, Liver, spleen, Gastrointestinal tract*. As a safe, eco-friendly, and cost-effective herbal drug, *Quassia amara* holds promise for inclusion in the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

References

1. Therapeutic evaluation of *Quassia amara* Linn - A critical review [Internet]. ResearchGate; 2021 [cited 2025 Sep 24]. Quasix. *Quassia amara* - Technical data sheet [Internet]. Quasix.eu; [cited 2025 Sep 24].
2. Quasix. *Quassia amara* - Technical data sheet [Internet]. Quasix.eu; [cited 2025 Sep 24].
3. *Quassia amara* [Internet]. Wikipedia; [updated 2025 Sep 21; cited 2025 Sep 24].
4. Quassia:Uses, side effects, and more [Internet]. WebMD;[cited 2025 Sep 24].
5. Varma PN, Indu V. Encyclopedia of Homoeopathic Pharmacopeia. RADAR database.
6. Murphy R. Homeopathic Remedy Guide. RADAR database.
7. Farrington EA. Lesser Writings with Therapeutic Hints and Some Clinical Cases. RADAR database.
8. Varma PN, Indu V. Side Effects. RADAR database.
9. O'Connor J. The Americana Homeopathic Pharmacopeia. RADAR database.
10. Burnett JC. The Disease of Practical Materia Medica. RADAR database.
11. Bradford TL. Index of Homeopathic Proving. RADAR database.
12. Clarke JH. Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica. RADAR database.
13. Pulford A. Homeopathic Materia Medica of Graphic Drug Picture and Clinical Comments. RADAR database.
14. Allen TF. Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica. RADAR database.
15. Murphy R. Homeopathic Medical Repertory. RADAR database.
16. Blackwood AL. A Manual of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pharmacology. RADAR database.
17. Vermeulen F. Concordance Materia Medica. RADAR

database.

18. Lilienthal S. Homeopathic Therapeutics. RADAR database.
19. Boericke W. Pocket Manual of Homeopathic *Materia medica*. RADAR database.

How to Cite This Article

Pallavan TI, Kumar ATS, Selvaraj G. International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences. 2025;9(4):427-429.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.