

Traditional Uses: The taste is sour and bitter, and the potency is cool and coarse. It is used for the following: As a poison antidote, treating diseases of the lymph and the eye, bile disorders, and overcoming diarrhea. It is an ingredient of the following traditional prescriptions: Arur-18, Bavru-8, Bongar-13, Bragshun-5, Braivu-17, Givan-11, Gurgum-3, 7, Dashun-6, 23, Dumtal, Degd-6, 8, 15, 20, and Lish-16 [5–7].

Chemical constituents: Protoberberine alkaloids, particularly berberine (0.36%) [8]. Leaves contain flavonoids, fruit contains organic acids and ascorbic acid [9].

Qualitative and quantitative assays: Alkaloids in the plant are determined by the precipitation reaction. Total alkaloid content is determined by a gravimetric method [10].

Qualitative and quantitative standards: Loss on drying, not more than 13.0%. Ash, not more than 23.0%. Organic matter, not more than 2.0% and mineral matter, not more than 0.5%. Total alkaloid, not less than 0.4% [10].

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