

ACACIA (*Acacia* spp.)

Family: Mimosaceae (*Leguminosae*).

Part used: All parts of the plant: flowers, resin, bark, leaf, pods, stems, fruit, spines, root, and root bark.

Collection: The parts of the plant may be gathered at any suitable time of the year: the pods when green, the flowers when in bloom. The roots should be chopped into small sections before drying. The gum may be gathered by breaking off several lower limbs and returning in a few days (or, more traditionally, a line may be cut into the lower part of bark with a sharp hatchet and the gum collected after formation). The collected plant will last quite a long time if well dried, double plastic bagged, and stored in a dark place, off the floor.

Actions: Antimalarial, astringent, antibacterial, antimicrobial, antitarrhal, hemostatic, anthelmintic, antifungal, mucilaginous (roots and gum), anti-inflammatory, sedative (flowers and leaves).

Active against: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella* spp., malaria, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

About Acacia

Acacias are quite useful for ulceration in any part of the gastrointestinal tract and for excessive mucus, catarrh, diarrhea, dysentery, gum infection, and hemorrhage. Though rarely used for parasitic infestation in the United States, they are common for that use in other cultures. One species, *Acacia anthelmintica*, is specific for worms in Abyssinia; another, *A. nilotica*, is specific for malaria in Nigeria; and another, *A. polyacantha*, is specific for malaria in Tanzania. They share a common use throughout the world for amebic dysentery.

Acacias, or mimosas as they are sometimes called, grow throughout the temperate world. The United States has several species, *Acacia angustissima* (the only thornless acacia), *A. constricta*, and *A. greggii* being the more common. They grow throughout the southern part of the country as far north as Kansas, from California to Florida. The latter two species are southwestern. Acacia, rarely used now in the United States, continues to be a primary medicinal plant throughout the rest of the world, especially in Asia and Africa. Researchers have noted