

148. *GARCINIA HANBURYI* Hook. F. (CLUSIACEAE) — Gamboge

Formerly widely used in medicine, it is now used primarily as a coloring matter. The gum resin, known as gamboge, is rarely administered anymore unless mixed with aloes or calomel.¹⁶ Said to have bactericidal and protistocidal activities (against *Aerobacter*, *Enterovirus*, *Micrococcus*, *Mycobacterium*). Long used in lacquer, metal finishes, and watercolors in China since the 13th century.³³ It was used to make the golden yellow ink of Thailand. Gamboge paint is an emulsion in water.⁵

Reported to be diuretic, emetic, poison, purgative, vermifuge, gamboge is a folk remedy for edema.²

Resin contains gambogic acid and three garcinolic acids.¹⁶ With the resin is found 15 to 25% of a gum, similar to gum acacia.

Toxicity — The resinous bark exudates are drastic purgatives, causing, also, griping, nausea, and vomiting.¹¹ Too large doses can be fatal.¹⁶ “It certainly purges, and if the dose is increased causes vomiting also; four grammes are recorded as proving fatal by the production of gastro-enteritis.”⁵