

best poultices and the uses attributed to it are many, including the reduction of swollen glands (mixed with milk and brewer's yeast), for severe rheumatism and gout (mixed with vinegar and bran), and to arrest the spread of gangrene. A pinch of the powder is said to stop tooth decay (if used at onset) and allay toothache.<sup>2</sup> Indians used mashed bark to ease removal of lead from gunshot wounds. To assist in childbirth, a tea from the roots, bark, or sap was often used. Bricklin<sup>127</sup> mentions the use of slippery elm bark with jimsonweed for treating eczema, and gives an old miner's remedy of sucking stocks of the bark with a little kerosene added to prevent coal dust from sticking to the throat. According to Dioscorides, used in a bath, slippery elm heals broken bones. Potawatomi Indians used the bark for cramps and eye inflammations, and a splinter of the bark was used to pierce boils.<sup>45</sup>

The wood contains compounds like cholesterol, campesterol, beta-sitosterol, citrostadienol, dolichol, and the sesquiterpene 2-hydroxy-5-isopropyl-6-methoxy-8-methyl-3-naphthaldehyde, 5-isopropyl-3,8-dimethyl-2-naphthol, and 2-hydroxy-5-isopropyl-8-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-3-naphthaldehyde.<sup>33</sup> The bark contains pentoses, methylpentoses, and hexoses, which, after hydrolysis, give galactose and traces of glucose and fructose, two polyuronides, galacturonic acid, L-rhamnose, and D-galactose. In addition to mucilage, the bark contains (twin crystals of) calcium oxalate.<sup>2</sup>

**Toxicity** — The pollen is allergenic.<sup>210</sup>