

**Taraxacum officinale**  
**Weber ex F. H. Wigg.**

**Dandelion Root**

*Taraxaci officinale Radix*

*Asteraceae*

Dandelion root is one of the primary cholagogues (bile stimulants) used in Western herbal medicine. Both the root and leaves are used singularly and together. The characterization provided is of the root alone.

**A. Root**

**Transverse section:** Thin cork; in young roots, the narrow primary cortex consists of roundish parenchyma cells and no laticifers and is separated from the secondary phloem by an endodermis; secondary phloem is wide with concentric, interrupted rings of laticifers and sieve tissue alternating with concentric rings of parenchyma and sieve tissue that may appear collapsed; rectangular, thin-walled parenchyma cells; small, irregularly shaped laticifers, some containing yellow-brown latex; secondary xylem with vessels up to 100 µm diameter and few parenchyma cells; two medullary rays may be present, but are frequently absent; pith, fibers, starch, and crystals are absent.

**Longitudinal section:** Laticifers form a reticulate network; scalariform vessels.

**B. Rhizome**

**Transverse section:** Cork; secondary cortex; secondary phloem similar to that in the root; secondary xylem with distinct medullary rays; central parenchymatous pith.

**Powder:** Abundant parenchyma, sometimes with laticifers attached; fragments of cork; scalariform vessels.

