

Terminalia chebula* Retz.*Chebulic Myrobalan Fruit*****Chebulae Fructus*****Sanskrit: Haritaki****Combretaceae**

Chebulic myrobalan, more commonly referred to in the herb trade by the names *harada* or *haritaki*, is an ingredient in the most widely used formula of ayurvedic medicine: the three-fruit combination *triphala*, which consists of harada with amla (*Phyllanthus emblica*) and behada (*Terminalia bellerica*). The three fruits are often sold combined. Although the quality of the fruits can vary substantially, the identity is typically correct. Fruits are traded in whole form and with the seed removed. This characterization describes both the fruit and the seed.

A. Fruit

Surface view: Exocarp of small, polygonal, thin-walled cells with small triangular cell wall thickenings at their corners.

Transverse section: Exocarp epidermis of rectangular cells with thin or slightly and irregularly thickened walls; a

one-layer hypodermis occurs just below the exocarp; outer mesocarp consists of large parenchyma cells with thin or slightly thickened walls; a narrow ring of tangentially elongated sclereids occurs several cell rows inside the outer mesocarp; at regular distances, radial rows branch off the ring toward the center; groups of longitudinally elongated sclereids are frequently attached; parenchyma cells outside this ring are considerably smaller than those to the inside and have cell walls that are wavy and irregularly thickened; large calcium oxalate cluster crystals (40–50 μm diameter) are abundant in the mesocarp; small cluster crystals (15–20 μm diameter) occur in rows paralleling the bicollateral vascular bundles; broad endocarp consists of a complex network of sclereids in various shapes and sizes, but mostly elongated, and large spheroidal secretory ducts (up to 600 μm diameter); simple starch grains are rounded or oval in shape, measuring 2–7 μm in diameter.

Powder: Transparent parenchyma cells with irregular cell wall thickenings and calcium oxalate cluster crystals; fragments with sclereids form a complex network; fragments of the exocarp are plentiful when seed is not removed.

