

Pausinystalia johimbe
(K. Schum.) Pierre ex Beille

Yohimbe Bark

Johimbae Cortex

Rubiaceae

Yohimbe bark is native to western Africa, where it was traditionally used as a sexual stimulant, primarily for men, and for the treatment of impotence. It is rich in the alkaloid yohimbine, which has been used for erectile dysfunction in medicine for more than 100 years.

Surface view: Cork cells are polygonal in outline.

Transverse section: Thin, red-brown cork consists of cells with thickened and considerably pitted walls;

cortex (absent in older stems) parenchymatous, roundish cells with brown walls, cells partly filled with calcium oxalate microsphenoidal crystal sand; secondary phloem broad, with a regular structure of fibers and medullary rays: mostly red-brown medullary rays, one to three (up to five) cells broad, conspicuous radial rows of fibers with a small cell lumen are between medullary rays; solitary fibers within rows, separated by parenchyma cells, or in groups of two or three; idioblasts containing crystal sand are abundant; starch is absent.

Longitudinal section: Fibers without pits.

Powder: Numerous fragments of fibers with thick, unpitted walls; brown parenchyma with idioblasts containing crystal sand; sclerenchymatous cork.

