

CASCA D'ANTA

Scientific name:

Drimys winteri J.R. Forst & G. Forst⁽¹⁾.

Family: Winteriaceae

Popular names: casca d'anta, winter's bark.

Used parts: dried bark of the trunk and larger branches⁽¹⁾.

Botanical characteristics: The plant is an evergreen tree or shrub, with brownish or gray wrinkled branches. The bark is aromatic and smooth. The leaf blade is coriaceous, oblong-ovate to elliptical, with a somewhat revolute margin. The undersurface is usually contains 2 to 3 seeds. The flowers are solitary or in umbels and often in clusters at the tips of the branches. They are fragrant and white. The sepals are membranous, broadly ovate to reniform. The 4 to 14 petals are also membranous, oblong to narrow-ovate. The 15 to 40 stamens are in to 4 rows. The 2 to 10 carpels are free, ovate or elliptical. They are 9 to 18 ovules on a short seed stalk. The fruit is berry-like, black to violet, fleshy and usually contains 2 or 3 seeds⁽¹⁾.

Habitat: Antarctic, America, southern parts of South America, along the Straits of Magellan and north to Chile, Brazil⁽²⁾.

Chemical composition: sesquiterpenes (drimenol, drimaniol⁽⁵⁾ drimenin, confertifoline, polygodial, isodrimenine, winterin, valdiviolide, fuegin, futranolide, cryptomeridiol, 1--p-cumaroyloxypolygodial), volatile oil (eugenol, caryophyllene, 1,8-cineol, pinenes)⁽¹⁾, acride resin, tannic acid, oxide of iron, colouring matter and various salts⁽²⁾.

Indications: Carminative, stomachic, tonic effects⁽¹⁾, stimulant, antiscorbutic⁽²⁾, to treat several diseases, including dolorous processes⁽³⁾.

Dose:

Inside use: 30 g powder bark⁽²⁾ as an infusion⁽¹⁾.

Others informations:

1. Previous pre-clinical experiments revealed that the hydroalcoholic extract of this plant showed anti-allergenic, anti-inflammatory and antinociceptive properties⁽³⁾.
2. Sesquiterpenes of the drimane type have attracted particular interest because of their antifeedant, plant growth regulation, cytotoxic, antimicrobial and insecticidal properties⁽⁴⁾.

References:

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3. CECHINEL, V. et al. Isolation and identification of active compounds from *Drimys winteri* barks. **Journal of ethnopharmacology**, v. 62, p. 223-227, 1998.
4. MALHEIROS, A. et al. A sesquiterpene drimane with antinociceptive activity from *Drimys winteri* bark. **Phytochemistry**, v. 57, p. 103-107, 2001.

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