

Yashtimadhu (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) or Mulethi



Family - Fabaceae

Synonyms

1. Madhuka
2. Kletaka

Vernacular Name

English -Liquorice, sweetwood

Hindi - Mulathee

Habitat & Distribution

In India, Yashtimadhu is cultivated in Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

Morphology

Habit -Tall perennial plant grows 50 cm to 1 mtr in height.

Stem-Erect

Leaves-Compound, leaflets are 4 to 7 pairs ob-long to elliptical-lanceolate, acute or obtuse.

Inflorescence - Raceme, shorter than the leaves.

Flowers 1 cm long, bluish or violet coloured. Calyx are 2 lipped, upper teeth connate higher than the lower ones. Standard petal is narrow, wings and keel are acute. Stamens are diadelphous. Ovary many ovuled.



Fruit-Pod, oblong to linear, 1 to 3 cm long, flat-tened, straightish, more or less densely echinate glandular many seeded.

Phytoconstituents

Root contains glycyrrhizine, prenylated bioflavone, licoagron, liqucomarin, isoflavone, glycyrrhizin, quercetin, kaempferol, stragaloin, liquiritigenin, isoliquiritigenin, licuraside, liquiritoside, liquoric acid, glabrotide, deoxoglabrolide, glycyrrhizic acid, liconicone, blabridin, liquirazid, liquiritin, glabranine and glabrene

Matra (Dosage)

Churna (Powder) - 1 to 3 g

Adulterants

(Yastimadhu)

Roots of *Glycyrrhiza uralensis* Fisch and *Abrus precatorius* Linn, are often adulterated with liquorice. Even stem pieces of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* is used as an adulterant

Varieties

Dh. Ni. & Ra. Ni.

2 types:

1. Yashtimadhu

2. Klitanaka

Grahya Laxana (Genuine characteristics):

Market sample consists transversely cut pieces of dry cylindrical roots and stolons, more often with a fibrous cut surface, 1 to 3 cm in diameter. External surface is shrunken, rusty brown in colour, long tediously wrinkled with occasional small buds, circular root scars and remnants of encircling leafy scales. Transversely cut surface shows a yellowish brown fibrous structure depicting loose bark, followed by a well marked cambium ring and radiating vascular tissue. On breaking becomes fibrous, has got faint characteristic odour, taste is sweet and mucilaginous.