



Ratin jot (Alkanet root)



Botanical Name - Alkanet tinctoria

Part Used - Root

Common Names/Synonyms - Bugloss, spanish bugloss root, orchanet root, Alkanet Root, dyer's bugloss root.

Alkanet root is obtained from Alkanna tinctoria, Tauscher (N.O. Boragineae), a small herbaceous plant with perennial root growing in sandy soil in southern Europe, Hungary, and Asiatic Turkey, our supplies being derived chiefly from Hungary.

Description

The drug consists of deep reddish purple, simple, tapering roots averaging about 15 cm. in length, and 12 mm. in thickness near the crown, to which slender branches and the remains of leaves are attached; the latter have a purplish colour, and bear numerous, bristly hairs.

The root has a very remarkable appearance. The outer layers, which are deeply coloured, easily exfoliate, separating from the wood in large, papery flakes or strips; these are readily removed, and the exterior of the root is then the inner layers of cortical tissue. It is not smooth but more or less deeply furrowed longitudinally, the furrows being often so deep as to divide the wood into separate woody strands. Cut transversely in the upper part the root exhibits a dark violet spot in the centre, and a woody ring containing several radiating strands of dense woody tissue separated by large wedge-shaped masses of parenchyma; the bark is yellowish near the wood, but becomes coloured and laminated towards the exterior. From near the crown of the root downwards the violet spot in the centre becomes larger and the colouring matter in the bark penetrates deeper until by their union the separation of the strands of wood is complete.

The root when handled stains the fingers red. It has no perceptible odour or taste.

The students should observe

- (a) The dark reddish purple colour of the parenchymatous tissue and whitish colour of the wood,
- (b) The hairy remains of the leaves.

Note :- Rate of the products Mention in the Website will be verified by day to day fluctuation in the Indian Agro Market Actual Rate of the Products will be provide at the time of final Confirmation of Order

Propagation and Planting

It requires moderately fertile, humus rich, moist but well drained soil. The seeds germinate in 1-3 weeks at room temperature. Or you can sow them outside in July so that they can establish themselves in the fall and then flower in the spring - plants grown that way will be larger. It likes full sun and moist soil. Common alkanet is a short-lived perennial or biennial, depending on conditions, forming a rosette of leaves the first year and flowering the second year. It gets 1-4ft/.3-1.3m tall and is hardy down to -30F/-34C (zone 4). Harvest the roots before the flower stalk appears.

Uses

Alkanet is used for colouring oils, ointments, &c; the tincture, diluted with an equal volume of water, is used for the microscopical detection of fat and oil, which it colours red.

Medicinal Applications

It helps the morphy and leprosy. It stays the flux of the belly, kills worms and helps the fits of the mother. Its decoction made in wine, and drank, strengthens the back, and easeth the pains thereof. Used to treat digestive difficulties such as ulcers and also helps liver functions, clearing up jaundice and treating kidney stones. When used to make an ointment, it can treat wounds such as snake bites by either applying topically directly to the site or ingesting orally. Can also relieve skin inflammation, such as smallpox or measles. An ointment made of it is excellent for green wounds, pricks or thrusts. Traditionally used to soften and smooth the skin.

Preparation of Lake Pigment

Pigments and dyes are not identical, although there are cases in which the same coloring matter which yields a dye or stain may give rise to a pigment. A pigment is, in fact, a substance which is insoluble in the vehicle with which it is mixed to make a paint, while a dye is soluble. A lake pigment is a natural organic pigment prepared when a dye has been precipitated on a powdered, colorless, inorganic substrate. The term derives from the Latin word lacca, used in the Middle Ages to denote both lake pigments and the Lac dye. Because of its transparency, aluminum hydroxide is the most commonly used substrate or carrier. Barites, such as barium sulfate, provide an opaque lake pigment. Other compounds used as carriers are: chalk, clay, gypsum, tin oxide, zinc oxide, white earth, and green earth. Often a mordant, such as tannic acid, lactic acid, or sodium phosphate, is used to fix the dye to the substrate.

Alkanet Root Powder

A natural botanical powder ready for infusion in oil. Powdered alkanet root can be used as a soap dye and will colour red/blue/mauve depending on the pH.

Alkanet will colour CP or HP soap from ared/purple to blue/purple depending on the pH of the soap. If you discount the water content, the colour tends to be a more red/purple. When using base Oils with more yellow such as Mango butter and Rice Bran Oil, or Orange and Mandarin Essential Oils these will subtly alter the final colour.

As an approximate guide, infuse 1 - 2 tablespoons into 100ml of Olive Oil. You can also infuse into water using one of our Heat Sealable Tea bags (don't overload the bags - 1 tablespoon per large teabag). We recommend a double or triple infusion for the best results. See our Recipes page for infusion instructions. This quantity of infusion will colour approximately 1.5kg of soap.

Alkanet can also be stirred through soap at trace to have a more speckly result.



History

Alkanet root apparently has been used as a dye since the earliest recorded history. The first reported use can be found in the works of the Greek botanist and scholar Theophrastus (c. 300 B.C.) and around 77 C.E., Dioscorides described the properties of the red dyestuff in more detail in his De Materia Medica. The Stockholm Papyrus or Papyrus Graecus Holmiensis, details dyestuffs and techniques in almost a recipe fashion as it was practiced in Egypt in the third and fourth centuries C.E. The great detail in which the preparation of the fibers and the dyeing materials and the dyeing process itself are recorded has led scholars to believe that it had to have been practiced for thousands of years previously in order to raise the process to such a science and art. It discusses mordanting the fibers using alum, copper and iron oxides to darken or "sadden" the red, blue, green and purple dyes, as well as the occasional use of tin and zinc. It describes over ten different recipes for using alkanet (*Anchusa tinctoria*) root as a dye. In dyeing, alkanet root gives burgundies and purples in an alkaline dye bath. Extracting first with alcohol enhances the color and then adding the extract solution to pre-mordanted wool or silk in a dye bath. Precipitated on an inert base, alkanet root yields a purple lake pigment. It is also used in varnishes for fine wood products, such as violins.

Oil Absorption and Grinding

No data has been published on the oil absorption and grinding qualities of lake pigments made from alkanet root.

Permanence and Compatibility

Lake pigments made from alkanet root are considered to be fugitive.

Toxicity

The essential coloring matter of the alkanet root is considered to be non-toxic.

Quality Assurance

As we believe in providing quality products that are close to nature, we conduct various stringent quality tests under the supervision of the experts. These tests are performed with due care from the very initial stage of procurement of the products to the final stage of delivery to the end users.

Packaging

We also provide reliable packaging of the Alkanet root and other Alkanet root products. During the packaging procedure, we keep the hygienic level high and also ensure that there is no human touch. Moreover, the packaging has also helped in the easy and safe delivery of the products.

We are dealing with various esteemed clients located in India as well as in the markets of New Zealand and Dubai. We also promise to serve a superlative range of Alkanet root and Alkanet root products which includes green Alkanet root powder to our new customers as we serve to our existing satisfied clientele. The frequent and concrete feedbacks from our customers have also helped in the advancement of the managerial activities and serving the products as per the demand prevailing in the market. Last but not the least; we are also looking forward to provide more beneficial deals in the forthcoming years.



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