Iris Versicolor

Blue Flag; Iris Virginica.

Profile

The rhizomes of Iris versicolor (Iridaceae) are used in herbal preparations for skin and gastrointestinal disorders.

Homoeopathy. Iris versicolor has been used in homoeopathic medicines under the following names: Iris; Iris ver.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Multi-ingredient: UK: Catarrh Mixture; HRI Clear Complexion; Skin

Isobutyl Nitrite

 $C_4H_9NO_2 = 103.1.$ CAS — 542-56-3.

$$O=N$$
 O
 CH

NOTE. The following terms have been used as 'street names' (see p.vi) or slang names for various forms of isobutyl nitrite: Aroma of men; Bolt; Bullet; Climax; Hardware; Krypt tonight; Locker room; Poppers; Quicksilver; Rush; Rush Snappers; Snappers; Thrust; White out; Whiteout.

Isobutyl nitrite is not used medicinally but, as with other volatile nitrites, is abused for its vasodilating and related effects following inhalation (see Abuse, under Amyl Nitrite, p.1437).

Isofagomine

AT-2101 (tartrate). (3R,4R,5R)-3,4-Dihydroxy-5-(hydroxymethyl)piperidine.

 $C_6H_{13}NO_3 = 147.2.$

CAS — 169105-89-9 (isofagomine); 161302-93-8 (isofagomine hydrochloride).

NOTE. The code AT-2101 has also been applied to a topical formulation of diclofenac in hyaluronic acid used in the treatment of actinic keratoses.

Isofagomine is an iminosugar under investigation as the tartrate for oral therapy of Gaucher disease (p.2249). It is a pharmacological chaperone that stabilises the variant lysosomal glucocerebrosidase facilitating its folding and transport from the endoplasmic reticulum into lysosomes, thereby increasing the pool of active endogenous enzyme.

Isometheptene Hydrochloride (BANM, rINNM) ⊗

Hidrocloruro de isometepteno; Isométheptène, Chlorhydrate d'; 1,5,N-Trimethylhex-4-Isomethepteni Hydrochloridum. enylamine hydrochloride; I,5-Dimethylhex-4-enyl(methyl)amine hydrochloride.

Изометептена Гидрохлорид

 $C_9H_{19}N,HCI = 177.7.$

CAS — 503-01-5 (isometheptene); 6168-86-1 (isometheptene hydrochloride).

ATC - A03AX10.

ATC Vet - QA03AX10.

Isometheptene Mucate (BANM, rINNM) ⊗

Isométhentène Mucate d'Isomethenteni Mucas: Mucato de isometepteno. Isometheptene galactarate.

Изометептена Мукат

 $(C_9H_{19}N)_2, C_6H_{10}O_8 = 492.6.$

CAS - 7492-31-1. ATC — A03AX10.

ATC Vet — QA03AX10.

Pharmacopoeias. In Br. and US.

BP 2008 (Isometheptene Mucate). A white crystalline powder. Very soluble in water; slightly soluble in dehydrated alcohol; very slightly soluble in chloroform; practically insoluble in ether. A 5% solution in water has a pH of 5.4 to 6.6. Store in airtight containers. Protect from light.

USP 31 (Isometheptene Mucate). A white crystalline powder. Freely soluble in water; soluble in alcohol; practically insoluble in chloroform and in ether. pH of a 5% solution in water is between 6.0 and 7.5.

Adverse Effects and Precautions

As for Sympathomimetics, p.1407.

Porphyria. Isometheptene mucate has been associated with acute attacks of porphyria and is considered unsafe in porphyric patients.

Interactions

As for Sympathomimetics, p.1407. Isometheptene has been reported to produce severe hypertensive reactions in patients receiving MAOIs.

Bromocriptine. For a report of hypertension and life-threatening complications after use of isometheptene and bromocriptine, see under Sympathomimetics, p.800.

Uses and Administration

Isometheptene is an indirect-acting sympathomimetic (p.1408). It is included for its vasoconstrictor effect, usually as the mucate, in some analgesic combination products used to treat acute migraine attacks (p.616). Typical oral doses of isometheptene mucate in migraine are 130 mg at the beginning of an attack, with 65 mg hourly thereafter as necessary, up to a total maximum dose of 325 mg in a 12-hour period.

Isometheptene hydrochloride has also been used in the management of migraine and smooth muscle spasm; it has been given orally, as well as by intramuscular, or occasionally subcutaneous, or slow intravenous, injection. The mucate has also been used in the management of muscle spasms.

Preparations

USP 31: Isometheptene Mucate, Dichloralphenazone, and Acetaminophen Capsules

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Multi-ingredient: Braz.: Cefaldina: Doralgina: Doridina: Dorsedin: Migranette; Neomigran†; Neosaldina; Neuralgina; Sedalgina; Sedol; Tensaldin; **Hong Kong:** Midrid†; **UK:** Midrid; **USA:** Duradrin†; Midrin; MigraTen; Mi-

Isospaglumic Acid (INN)

Acide Isospaglumique; Ácido isospaglúmico; Acidum Isospaglumicum; NAAGA. N-(N-Acetyl-L- α -aspartyl)-L-glutamic acid.

Изоспаглумовая Кислота

 $C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_8 = 304.3.$

CAS - 3106-85-2.

Spaglumic Acid (HNN)

Acide Spaglumique; Ácido espaglúmico; Acidum Spaglumicum. N-(N-Acetyl-L-β-aspartyl)-L-glutamic acid.

Спаглумовая Кислота

CAS - 4910-46-7.

ATC - ROIACOS; SOIGXO3.

ATC Vet — QR01AC05; QS01GX03.

N-Acetyl-L-aspartylglutamate is a mast cell stabiliser and has been used as the sodium or magnesium salts of spaglumic or isospaglumic acids in eye drops for allergic eye conditions and in nasal solutions for allergic rhinitis.

N-Acetyl-L-aspartylglutamate also has a role as a neurotransmitter and has been investigated in CNS disorders.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Arg.: Naabak; Austria: Rhinaaxia; Braz.: Naabak; Naaxia; Chile: Alerbak; Naaxia; Cz.: Naaxia†, Fr.: Naabak; Naaxia; Naaxiafree; Rhinaaxia; Gr.: Rhinaaxia†, Hong Kong: Naaxia; Hung: Naaxia; Rhinaaxia†, Ital: Naaxia; Rhinaaxia†, Ital: Naaxia; Sprin: Naaxia; Philipp.: Naaxia; Port.: Naabak; Naaxia†, Singopore: Naabak; Spain: Naaxia; Switz: Rhinaaxia†, Turk.: Naaxia; Yenez.: Naabak;

Multi-ingredient: Gr.: Naaxia; S.Afr.: Naaxia†; Switz.: Naaxia.

Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride (BANM, rINNM)

Caa-40; Hidrocloruro de isoxsuprina; Isoksupriinihydrokloridi; Isoxsuprin hydrochlorid; Isoxsuprine, chlorhydrate d'; Isoxsuprinhydroklorid; Isoxsuprini hydrochloridum; Izokssuprino hidrochloridas; Izoxszuprin-hidroklorid; Phenoxyisopropylnorsuprifen. I-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(I-methyl-2-phenoxyethylamino)propan-I-ol hydrochloride.

Изоксуприна Гидрохлорид

C₁₈H₂₃NO₃,HCl = 337.8. CAS — 395-28-8 (isoxsuprine); 579-56-6 (isoxsuprine hydrochloride).

ATC — CO4AAOI.

ATC Vet — QC04AA01.

(isoxsuprine)

Pharmacopoeias. In Eur. (see p.vii) and US.

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride). A white or almost white crystalline powder. Sparingly soluble in water and in alcohol; practically insoluble in dichloromethane. A 1% solution in water has a pH of 4.5 to 6.0. Protect from light.

USP 31 (Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride). A white, odourless, crystalline powder. Soluble 1 in 500 of water, 1 in 100 of alcohol and of $0.1\bar{N}$ sodium hydroxide solution, and 1 in 2500 of 0.1N hydrochloric acid; practically insoluble in chloroform and in ether. pH of a 1% solution in water is between 4.5 and 6.0. Store in airtight containers

Adverse Effects

Isoxsuprine may cause transient flushing, hypotension, tachycardia, rashes, and gastrointestinal disturbances. Maternal pulmonary oedema and fetal tachycardia have been reported after intravenous use in premature labour.

Pulmonary oedema. Pulmonary oedema has been reported in mothers given isoxsuprine for premature labour.1,

- Nagey DA, Crenshaw MC. Pulmonary complications of isoxsu-prine therapy in the gravida. *Obstet Gynecol* 1982; 59 (suppl): 38S-42S.
- 2. Nimrod C, et al. Pulmonary edema associated with isoxsuprine therapy. Am J Obstet Gynecol 1984; 148: 625-9.

Precautions

Isoxsuprine is contra-indicated after recent arterial haemorrhage. It should not be given immediately post partum, nor should it be used for premature labour if there is infection.

In women being treated for premature labour, the risk of pulmonary oedema means that extreme caution is required and the precautions and risk factors discussed under Salbutamol Sulfate, p.1132, apply.

Pregnancy. Ileus was found to be more common in the offspring of mothers who received isoxsuprine than in matched controls.¹ The incidence of respiratory distress syndrome also rose as the isoxsuprine concentration in cord blood exceeded 10 nanograms/mL; likewise the incidence of hypocalcaemia and hypotension rose progressively with increasing concentrations. The cord concentrations correlated inversely with the drug-free interval before delivery and it was suggested that with frequent assessment of uterine response it should be possible to avoid delivering infants at a time when they have high plasma-isoxsuprine concentrations.

In another study² of the association between ruptured membranes, beta-adrenergic therapy, and respiratory distress syndrome, it was found that both therapy with isoxsuprine and premature rupture of membranes were individually associated with a lowered incidence of respiratory distress syndrome, but when present together they resulted in an increased risk of respiratory distress syndrome. It was suggested that therapy with beta-adrenergic drugs including isoxsuprine should be restricted to patients with intact membranes.1

- 1. Brazy JE, et al. Isoxsuprine in the perinatal period II: relationships between neonatal symptoms, drug exposure, and drug concentration at the time of birth. *J Pediatr* 1981; **98:** 146–51.
- 2. Curet LB, et al. Association between ruptured membranes, tocolytic therapy, and respiratory distress syndrome. Am J Obstet Gynecol 1984; 148: 263-8.

Pharmacokinetics

Isoxsuprine hydrochloride is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. The peak plasma concentration occurs about 1 hour after an oral dose. A plasma half-life of about 1.5 hours has been reported. Isoxsuprine is excreted in the urine mainly as conju-

Uses and Administration

Isoxsuprine is a vasodilator that also stimulates beta-adrenergic receptors. It causes direct relaxation of vascular and uterine smooth muscle and its vasodilating action is greater on the arteries supplying skeletal muscles than on those supplying skin. Isoxsuprine also produces positive inotropic and chronotropic effects

Isoxsuprine hydrochloride has been used to arrest premature labour (p.2003), but drugs with a more selective action are now preferred. It has also been given in the treatment of cerebral and peripheral vascular disease.

For use as a vasodilator, isox suprine hydrochloride is given by mouth in doses of 10 to 20 mg 3 or 4 times daily.

To arrest premature labour, isoxsuprine hydrochloride is given initially by intravenous infusion in doses of 200 to 500 micrograms/minute, adjusted according to the patient's response, until control is achieved. It is now common practice to give beta agonists by syringe pump when using them to delay premature labour. Maternal blood pressure and hydration, and maternal and fetal heart rates should be monitored during the infusion. Once labour has been arrested intramuscular injections of 10 mg are given every 3 to 8 hours for several days. Prophylaxis may be continued by mouth with 30 to 90 mg daily in divided doses

The resinate has also been used similarly.

Preparations

USP 31: Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride Injection; Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride Tablets

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Arg.: Duvadilan; Fadaespasmol†; Isodilan; Isotenk; Samaruc; Uterine; Austria: Xuprin; Braz.: Inibina; Gr.: Duvadilan†: India: Duvadilan; Indon.: Duvadilan; Hystolan; Israel: Vasolan†; Ital.: Vasosuprina Ilfi; Mex.: Vadosilan; Philipp.: Duvadilan; Port.: Dilum; Thai.: Duvadilan†; USA: Vasodilan; Vox.suprine; Venez.: Duvadilan

lvy

Břečťanový list (ivy leaf); Efeu; Gebenių lapai (ivy leaf); Hederae folium (ivy leaf); Herba Hederae Helicis; Lierre, feuille de (ivy leaf); Lierre Grimpant; Muratinlehti (ivy leaf); Murgröneblad (ivy leaf).

Pharmacopoeias. *Eur.* (see p.vii) includes the leaf and also a form for homoeopathic preparations.

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (by Leaf, Hederae Folium). The whole or cut, dried leaves of *Hedera helix*, collected in the spring. It contains a minimum of 3% of hederacoside C ($C_{59}H_{96}O_{26} = 1221.4$), calculated with reference to the dried drug. Protect from light.

with reference to the dried drug. Protect from light. **Ph. Eur. 6.2** (Hedera Helix for Homoeopathic Preparations; Hedera Helix ad Praeparationes Homoeopathicas). The fresh, young, fully developed but not yet lignified branch of *Hedera helix*, harvested immediately before or at the beginning of flowering. Protect from light.

Profile

The dried leaves of ivy, *Hedera helix* (Araliaceae), contain saponins, and extracts are reported to have expectorant and space molytic actions. Ivy leaf is used for catarrh and chronic inflammation of the respiratory tract. It has also been applied externally.

Fresh ivy leaves can cause allergic contact dermatitis.

Homoeopathy. Ivy has been used in homoeopathic medicines under the following names: Hedera helix; Hed. hel.

♦ Reviews.

1. Hofmann D, *et al.* Efficacy of dry extract of ivy leaves in children with bronchial asthma—a review of randomized controlled trials. *Phytomedicine* 2003; **10:** 213–220.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Arg.: Athos, Cedric; Austria: Prospan; Sedo-Efeu; Braz.: Abrilar; Chile: Aeromed; Hedilar; Cz.: Hedelix; Helkir; Prospan; Fr.: Activox Lierre; Prospan; Ger.: Bronchilon; Bronchoforton; Bronchostad Hustenloser; Cefapulmon monot; Efeu; Gallith; Hedelix; Prospan; Sedotusin Efeu; Sinuç; Tuma; Gr.: Prospan; Mex.: Panoto-S; Poli: Bronchopect; Hedelix; Hederasal; Hederoin; Helical; Prospan; Singapore: Prospan; Spain: Arkotus; Switz.: Comprimes contre la toux†; DemoPetcol Junior; Prospan; Pumonal eco natura; Venez.: Prospan;

Multi-ingredient: Arg.: Celu-Atlas: Expectosan Hierbas y Miel; Garcinol Max†; Nio Marine; Snell Patch; Varisedan Gel; Australi.: Asa Tones: Australi.: Asa Tones: Australi.: Asa Tones: Australi.: Bronchipret: Fr.: Promincil†; Ger.: Bronchipret; Muc-Sabona†; Naranopect P; Tussiflorin forte†; Hung: Bronchipret; Indon.: Bronchipret; Itali.: Dermoprobynf; Flebbideric; Golatux, Hederix; Pol.: Apil-Heik; Hedelicum; PiniHeiks Rus.: Bronchipret (Брюжипрет): Insti (Инсти): Spain: H Tussan; Switz.: Bronchofuliud N†; Bronchosan Nouvelle formule†; Demo Elixir pectoral N; DemoPectol: Dragees S contre la toux†; Drosinula†; Foral†; Hederix Kernosan Elixir; Liberol Dragees contre la toux†; Liberol Sirop contre la toux†; Estilles pectorales Demo N; Thal.: Solvopret.

Jamaica Dogwood

Fish Poison Bark; Piscidia.

Profile

Jamaica dogwood, the root bark of *Piscidia erythrina* (*P. piscipula*; (*Lehthyomethia piscipula*) (Leguminosae), has analgesic, antispasmodic, and sedative properties. It is mainly used for insomnia due to neuralgia or nervous tension. The bark and twigs of Jamaica dogwood have been used as a fish poison.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Multi-ingredient: Fr.: Jouvence de l'Abbe Soury; Schoum; **Ital.:** Sedatol; Soluzione Schoum; **Spain:** Solucion Schoum; **UK:** Anased; HRI Calm Life; Nodoff; Slumber; **Venez.:** Femendol.

Java Tea

Arbatinių inkstažolių lapai; Jaavalainen tee, Intialainen munuaistee; Jávai vesetealevél; Javate; Orthosiphon; Orthosiphonblätter; Orthosiphonis folium; Ortosifón; Trubkovcový list.

Pharmacopoeias. In Eur. (see p.vii).

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Java Tea). The fragmented, dried leaves and tops of stems of *Orthosiphon stamineus* (*O. aristatus*; *O. spicatus*). Protect from light.

Profile

Java tea is used in herbal medicine mainly for the treatment of urinary-tract disorders.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Fr.: Urosiphon; Ger.: Ardeynephron; Carito mono; Diurevit Mono; Nephronorm med; Orthosiphonblatter Indischer Nierentee; Repha Orphon.

Multi-ingredient: Austria: Solubitrat; Fr.: Dellova†; Promincil†; Tealine†; Ger.: Aqualibra; BioCyst; Canephron novo†; Dr. Scheffler Bergischer Krautertee Blasen- und Nierentee; Hantee 400 N; Hamtee STADA; Hamtee-Steiner; Heumann Blasen- und Nierentee Solubitrat 5†; Hevert-Blasen-Nieren-Tee N; Heweberberol-Tee; Nephro-Pasc†; Nephronorm med†; Nephrubin-N†; Nierentee 2000†; Nieron Blasen- und Nieren-Tee V†; Presselin Arterien K 5 P†; Presselin Nieren-Blasen K 3†; Urodil phytof; Indon.: Renax; Ital: Lipaver; Pol.: Ginjal; Spain: Lepisor†, Urisor†; Switz.: Bilifuge; Demonatur Dragees pour les reins et la vessie; Phytomed Nephro†; Prosta-Caps Chassot N; Tisane pour les reins et la vessie.

Jin Bu Huan

Profile

Jin bu huan is a traditional Chinese remedy used as a sedative and analgesic and variously stated to contain *Lycopodium serratum* or *Polygala chinensis*. Adverse effects including CNS depression and acute hepatotoxicity have been attributed to its alkaloidal content of L-tertahydropalmatine.

Adverse effects. Acute hepatitis has been reported in 7 previously healthy patients after taking jin bu huan; symptoms occurred again in 2 after re-use. It was noted that the content of plant material did not seem to correspond to the labelled species. Hepatitis and extreme fatigue have also been reported in 3 adults after taking jin bu huan for periods ranging from 6 days to 6 months. 2

Accidental ingestion of jin bu huan by 3 children² produced profound lethargy and muscle weakness. Two of the children also developed respiratory depression and bradycardia.

- Woolf GM, et al. Acute hepatitis associated with the Chinese herbal product jin bu huan. Ann Intern Med 1994; 121: 729–35.
- Horowitz RS, et al. The clinical spectrum of jin bu huan toxicity. Arch Intern Med 1996; 156: 899–903.

luniper

Baccae Juniperi; Boróka tobozbogyó; Enbär; Enebro; Genièvre; luniperi pseudo-fructus; Jalovcový plod; Juniper Berry; Juniper Fruit; Juniperi Fructus; Juniperi Galbulus; Juniperi Pseudo-fructus; Kadagių vaisiai; Katajanmarja; Szyszkojagoda jałowca; Wacholderbeeren: Zimbro.

Pharmacopoeias. In Eur. (see p.vii).

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Juniper). The dried ripe cone berry of *Juniperus* communis. It contains not less than 1% v/w of essential oil, calculated with reference to the anhydrous drug. It has a strongly aromatic odour, especially if crushed. Protect from light.

Profile

Juniper is the source of juniper oil (below). It has carminative, diuretic, antiseptic, and anti-inflammatory properties. It is used in herbal medicine and as a flavour in gin.

Homoeopathy. Juniper has been used in homoeopathic medicines under the following names: Juniperus communis; Juniperus communis sicc.; Juniperus communis e fructibus siccatis; Junip. c.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3) Cz.: Plod Jalovce \dagger .

Multi-ingredient: Arg.: Water Pill c Potasio†, Austral.: Arthritic Pain Herbal Formula I; Lifesystem Herbal Formula I Arthritic Aid†, Profluid†, Protemp†, Austria: Mairazeller; St Bonifatius-Tee; Broz.: Pilulas De Witts†, Canad.: Herbal Diuretic; Herbal Laxative plus Yogurt; Cz.: Abfuhr:Heilkrautertee†, Fr.: Depuratum; Mediflor Tisane Antirhumatismale No 2; Ger.: Amara-Tropferi, Gastrol S†, Junisana†, Presselin Stoffwechsel-Tee Hapeka 225 N‡; Ital.: Broncosedina: Pol.: Cholesol; S.Afr.: Amara; Switz.: Heparfelien; Kermosan Heidelberger Poudre; Phytomed Nephro†; Tisane pour les reins et la vessie; UK: Backache; Watershed.

Juniper Oil

Borókaolaj; Enbärsolja; Enebro, aceite esencial de; Essence de Genièvre; Genièvre, huile essentielle de; luniperi aetheroleum; Jalovcová silice; Juniper Berry Oil; Juniperi Aetheroleum; Juniperi Etheroleum; Kadagių vaisių eterinis aliejus; Katajanmarjaöljy; Oleum Juniperi; Wacholderöl.

Pharmacopoeias. In Eur. (see p.vii).

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Juniper Oil). The essential oil obtained by steam distillation from the ripe, non-fermented berry cones of *Juniperus communis*. A suitable antoxidant may be added. A mobile, colourless to yellowish liquid with a characteristic odour. Store in well-filled airtight containers at a temperature not exceeding 25°. Protect from light.

Profile

Juniper oil has been used as a carminative and as an ingredient of herbal remedies for urinary-tract disorders and muscle and joint pain. It is also used in aromatherapy. Prolonged use may cause gastrointestinal irritation and there may be a risk of renal damage from high doses.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Ger.: Caprisana†; Leukona-Stoffwechsel-Bad†; Roleca Wacholder.

Multi-ingredient: Austral.: Medinat PMT-Eze†; Austria: Berggeist; Belg.: Olbas; Braz.: Solvobil; Ger.: Dolo-cyl; Kneipp Rheumabad; Nierentee 2000†; Nieroxin N†; Olbas; Ital.: Flodolor; Otosan Natural Ear Drops}; Pol.: Analgol; Olbas; Pinimentol; Pulmonii; S.Afr.: Oleum Salviae Comp; Spain: Emolytar; Polytar; Switz.: Bain antirhumatismal†; Frixo-Dragon Vert†; Huille Po-Ho A. Vogel; Liberol Baby N; Olbas; Pinimenthol Baby†; Spagyrom; Ziegella; UK: Diuretabs; HealthAdi Boldo-Plus; Olbas; Olbas for Children; Sciargo; St Johnswort Compound; Watershed.

Kallidinogenase (BAN, rINN)

Callicrein; Kalidinogenasa; Kallidinogenasai; Kallidinogenassi; Kallidinogenass; Kallidinogenasum; Kallikrein.

Каллидиногеназа

CAS — 9001-01-8. ATC — C04AF01.

ATC Wet — QC04AF01.

Pharmacopoeias. In Jpn.

Profile

Kallidinogenase is an enzyme isolated from the pancreas and urine of mammals. It converts kininogen into the kinin, kallidin. Kallidinogenase has been used in male infertility (p.2080) since the kallikrein-kinin system has a physiological role in the male genital tract. It also has vasodilating properties and has been used in the treatment of peripheral vascular disease (p.1178).

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Kava

Kava-Kava

CAS — 500-64-1 (kawain); 495-85-2 (methysticin); 500-62-9 (yangonin).

NOTE. The following terms have been used as 'street names' (see p.vi) or slang names for various forms of kava: 'ava; 'awa; Grog; Kawa; Lewena; Sakau; Waka; Wati; Yaqona.

Profile

Kava is the rhizome of *Piper methysticum* (Piperaceae), a shrub indigenous to islands of the South Pacific. It contains pyrones including kawain, methysticin, and yangonin. Kava has been used in the South Pacific to produce an intoxicating beverage used for recreational purposes and during convalescence. It is reported to have sedative, skeletal muscle relaxant, and anaesthetic properties. It is given in some anxiety- and stress-related disorders. It was formerly used as an antiseptic and diuretic in inflammatory conditions of the genito-urinary tract in the form of a liquid extract. Kawain has also been used for nervous disorders and as a tonic.

A characteristic rash resembling that of pellagra occurs in some heavy consumers of kava. Extrapyramidal effects and cases of hepatitis have been reported. Preparations of kava for internal use have been withdrawn in the UK and some other western countries on account of its potential for serious hepatotoxic effects.