

<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>:-</b>	<b>ASTRAGALUS</b> <b>Astragalus gummifer</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>:-</b>	<b>Leguminasae</b>
<b>LOCAL NAME</b>	<b>:-</b>	
<b>HINDI NAME</b>	<b>:-</b>	



#### **HABITS AND HABITATS :-**

This is a perennial shrub, native to Greece, Corsica, Asiatic Turkey, Iran, Lebanon and Syria in dry regions between 1200 to 4000 m altitude.

#### **PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-**

The plant is about 70 cm tall, bushy and has smooth branches. Leaves are pinnately compound, glabrous with 4 to 6 pairs of leaflets. Leaves shed in dry season leaving the sharp rachis. Flowers are yellow or white, calyx is tubular and hairy. The plant bears a large tap root, the woody parts and tap root excrete a gummy substance on injury.

#### **PARTS USED:-**

Gum

#### **MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES:-**

A gum is having demulcent and spermicidal properties. It is used for treating cough and diarrhea. It is used as a suspending agent and employed as a binding agent in pills, tablets and lozenges. The gum is also found to have a strong inhibitory action on cancer cells.

#### **CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-**

The gum contains bassorin, tragacanthin and a small amount of starch.

#### **PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-**

It is cultivated in well-drained soil in sun. *Astragalus membranaceus* prefers sandy, slightly alkaline soil. It is propagated by seed in spring or autumn. Harvest gum is collected from second-year plants of a *Gummifer* by incising the stem base. It is dried for use as a powder. Roots of a *Membranaceus* are lifted in autumn and dried for decoctions, powders, and tinctures.