

DRYOPTERIS (MALE FERN)

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Dryopteris filix-mas
FAMILY	:-	Polypodiaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	Tyrkhang
HINDI NAME	:-	Sarakhs, Muzakkar



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

A temperate zone terrestrial fern found in the temperate regions of America, Europe, Asia near damp or shady terrains.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

The plant is a fern with erect and stiff fronds, about 0.5 to 1.5m long. Plants are grown in well drained soil and shady locations.

PARTS USED :-

Dried fronds (leaves), dried rhizomes and oleo-resin extracted from the roots.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

The drug is prescribed as an anthelmintic. The powder is dusted over wounds and ulcers mixed with oil, applied over the scalp for killing lice. Internally the drug is irritant and is invariably described with anti-spasmodic and soothing herbs. Male fern is used as a specific treatment for tape-worm.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

Oleo-resin (6%) with phloroglucinol derivatives or 'filicin' flavaspidic acid, parospidin, desaspidin responsible deworming action of the drug.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Cultivated in humus-rich soil in shade. Foliage may be affected by rust. Propagation by spores sown when ripe at 15° C, by division in autumn or spring. Variants do not come true from spores. Rhizomes are lifted in autumn, leaving bases of fronds but removing roots, and dried for use in liquid extracts and powders. Stocks are renewed annually.