

Egyptian Herbal Monograph

Volume 2

Medicinal Plants used in Egypt

Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)

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Cinnamomum verum J. Presl

قرفة

1. Names & Synonyms (1)

Cinnamomum verum J. Presl.

Family: Lauraceae.

Syns.: *Camphorina cinnamomum* (L.) Farw., *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* var. *commune* Meisn., *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* var. *vulgare* Hayne, *Laurus cinnamomum* L.

Arabic: Qirfah قرفة

English name: Cinnamon, Ceylon cinnamon, true cinnamon (2,3).

2. Parts used for medicinal purpose

Dried inner bark (decorticated) (2-10).

3. Major chemical constituents

-Essential oil: Cinnamaldehyde, methoxy-cinnamaldehyde, linalool, β -caryophyllene, eucalyptol, eugenol, copaene, cadina-3,9-diene, cadina-4,9-diene and 17-pentatriacontene (11-15).

-Polyphenols (12):

Procyanidins: Procyanidin (A-type) trimers and tetramers (11).

Phenolic acids: Protocatechuic and cinnamic acids.

Flavanols: Catechin.

-Fatty acids/esters: Stearic and palmitic acids, glycerol monostearate and 1-monopalmitin (12).

-Organic acids: Quinic and oxalic acids (12).

-Others: sugars (glucose, fructose), diterpenes (cinnassiol A and B, cinnzeylanol and its acetyl derivative cinnzeylanine) (12, 16).

4. Medicinal Uses (Indications)

- A. Symptomatic treatment of mild spasmodic gastrointestinal complaints (dyspeptic conditions) including bloating and flatulence (2, 4, 7) and for anorexia (loss of appetite) (2, 7, 8, 10).
- B. Symptomatic treatment of mild diarrhoea (2-4, 7, 17) and to treat abdominal pain with diarrhoea (2).
- C. Treatment of pain associated with amenorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea (2, 4, 7, 18).

5. Herbal preparations correlated to medicinal use

- 1. Comminuted herbal substance as an herbal tea in the form of infusion or decoction (3, 5, 17).
- 2. Powdered drug (2, 4) (or its equivalent as a dry extract).
- 3. Liquid extract (5, 17) (Ethanol 70%) (4, 6).
- 4. Tincture (Ethanol 70%, 1:5) (5, 6, 17, 19).
- 5. Essential oil (2, 4, 6, 20).

Herbal preparations (2-5) are in a pharmaceutical dosage form. The pharmaceutical form should be described by the pharmacopoeia full standard term.

6. Posology and method of administration correlated to medicinal use.

Adults and elderly

Preparation 1

- 0.5 - 1 g, up to 4 times daily (2, 4, 6, 8, 17).
- One teaspoonful/ cup water, 2-3 times daily with meals (4, 21).

Preparation 2

Daily dose, 2-4 g, in divided doses (2, 4, 5).

Preparation 3

Single dose: 0.5 - 1 ml, 3 times daily, up to 4 ml daily (2, 4, 5, 8, 17, 21).

Preparation 4

Daily dose: 2 - 4 ml (2, 4, 8, 10, 17).

Preparation 5

Indication A

50 to 200 mg (0.05-0.2 ml), daily in 2 - 3 divided doses, diluted in carrier oil (vegetable oil) (2, 4, 5, 22, 20).

Duration of use (17):

Indication A: If the symptoms persist longer than 2 weeks during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a pharmacist should be consulted.

Indication B: If the symptoms persist longer than two days, a doctor or a pharmacist should be consulted.

Indications C and D: As directed by a physician.

Method of administration: Oral use.

7. Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to Peru balsam (5, 17, 20).
- The use in children and adolescents under 18 years of age has not been established (5, 17, 20).
- In cases of fever of unknown origin, stomach or duodenal ulcers, major surgery, haemophilia and other bleeding disorders (2, 22).

8. Special warnings and precautions for use

- If the symptoms worsen during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a pharmacist should be consulted.
- Rehydration should be the first measure in case of diarrhoea (17).
- If recurrent diarrhoea or bloody stools occur, a doctor should be consulted (17).
- Contact with the skin by undiluted cinnamon oil is frequently irritating, associated with a burning sensation and occasional blistering (22).

9. Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

- Diabetes and anticoagulant medications (22).
- May reduce activity of tetracycline (2).

10. Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

- It should not be used during pregnancy and breastfeeding (5, 17, 20).
- No fertility data available.

11. Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effect on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

12. Undesirable effects

- If adverse reactions occur, a doctor or a pharmacist should be consulted.

- Allergic reactions of the skin and local irritation of the oral mucosa (2, 17, 20, 22).

13. Overdose

High doses cause vomiting (4).

14. Relevant biological activities

Not required as per Egyptian guidelines for registration of herbal medicines.

15. Additional Information

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16. Date of last compilation/last revision

16/07/2023.

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