

LIQUORICE

Synonyms:- Mulethi; Glycyrrhiza; Liquorice root; Glycyrrhizae radix.

Biological Sources:- **Liquorice** is the dried, peeled or unpeeled, roots, rhizome or stolon of ***Glycyrrhiza glabra*** Linn. **Family:-** *Leguminosae*.

Morphology

Colour: *Unpeeled Liquorice*-Externally, yellowish brown or dark brown; and internally, yellowish colour.

Odour: Faint and characteristic.

Taste: Sweet.

Size : Length = 20 to 50 cm; Diameter = 2 cm.

Shape: *Unpeeled drug*—Straight and nearly cylindrical
Peeled drug—Mostly angular.

Fracture: Fibrous in bark; and splintery in the wood.

Chemical constituents: see another page

Uses

- **Glycyrrhiza** has demulscent and expectorant properties
- It is used as a masking agent for bitter drugs in pharmaceutical formulations, such as: quinine, aloe, ammonium chloride etc.
- **Ammoniated glycyrrhiza** is employed as a flavouring agent in beverages, pharmaceuticals and confectionary.
- The presence of **glycyrrhetic acid** exert mineralocorticoid activity and hence it is used in the treatment of inflammations, rheumatoid arthritis and Addison's disease.
- Peptic ulcer, Mouth Ulcer
- Demulcent (soothing effect on mucus membrane)