

**COUCH GRASS
FOR HOMOEOPATHIC PREPARATIONS**

**TRITICUM REPENS
FOR HOMOEOPATHIC PREPARATIONS**

***Elymus repens* ad praeparationes homoeopathicas**

Other latin name used in homoeopathy: **Agropyrum repens**

DEFINITION

Fresh, underground part of *Elytrigia repens* (L.) Desv. ex Nevski (*Agropyrum repens* (L.) Beauv.; *Elymus repens* (L.) Gould).

IDENTIFICATION

Very long rhizome which may reach about 1 m long and 2-4 mm in diameter, longitudinally furrowed, showing nodes bearing traces of scale-like leaves and spindly, adventitious roots. Hollow inside except at the nodes.

TESTS

Foreign matter (2.8.2): maximum 5 per cent.

Loss on drying (2.2.32): minimum 40.0 per cent, determined on 5.0 g of finely-cut drug, by drying in an oven at 105 °C for 2 h.

Cynodon dactylon. Dip a section of rhizome in *iodine solution R1*. No blue coloration of the section occurs. When it does, it shows adulteration with *Cynodon dactylon* Pers.

STOCK

DEFINITION

Couch grass mother tincture is prepared with ethanol (65 per cent V/V), using fresh, underground part of *Elytrigia repens* (L.) Desv. ex Nevski (*Agropyrum repens* (L.) Beauv.; *Elymus repens* (L.) Gould).

PRODUCTION

Method 1.1.10 (2371). Drug fragmented into segments smaller than 5 cm. Maceration time: about 3 weeks.

The General Chapters and General Monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia and Preamble of the French Pharmacopoeia apply.

CHARACTERS

Appearance: light yellow liquid.

IDENTIFICATION

Thin layer chromatography (2.2.27).

Test solution. Mother tincture.

Reference solution. Dissolve 10 mg of *fructose R* and 10 mg of *rhamnose R* in 1 mL of *methanol (90 per cent V/V) R*.

Plate: TLC silica gel plate *R*.

Mobile phase: glacial acetic acid *R*, water *R*, butanol *R* (20:20:80 V/V/V).

Application: 10 µL, as bands.

Development: over a path of 10 cm.

Drying: in air.

Detection: spray with a 0.5 g/L solution of *thymol R* in a mixture of 5 mL of *sulfuric acid R* and 95 mL of *ethanol (96 per cent) R*. Heat at 130 °C for 10 min. Examine in day light.

Results: see below the sequence of zones present in the chromatograms obtained with the reference solution and the test solution. Furthermore other faint zones may be present in the chromatogram obtained with the test solution.

Top of the plate	
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Rhamnose: an orange-pink zone	A pink zone
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Fructose: a pink zone	A pink zone (fructose)
Reference solution	Test solution

TESTS

Ethanol (2.9.10): 60 per cent V/V to 70 per cent V/V.

Dry residue (2.8.16): minimum 0.3 per cent *m/m*.

The General Chapters and General Monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia and Preamble of the French Pharmacopoeia apply.