BLACKTHORN
FOR HOMOEOPATHIC PREPARATIONS

PRUNUS SPINOSA
FOR HOMOEOPATHIC PREPARATIONS

Prunus spinosa ad praeparationes homoeopathicas

DEFINITION

Fresh, young twig of Prunus spinosa L., harvested at the beginning of the blooming season.

CHARACTERS

Macroscopic characters described under identification.

IDENTIFICATION

Blackish-brown, young, pubescent twig, highly thorny and divaricate, bearing flowers before the leaves appear. Small, white, generally solitary flowers with 5 petals, 15 to 30 stamens and free ovary. Usually glabrous peduncles. Bell-shaped calyx with 5 lobes and glabrous inside.

TESTS

Foreign matter (2.8.2): maximum 5 per cent among which less than 2 per cent of twigs covered with suber.

Loss on drying (2.2.32): minimum 35.0 per cent, determined on 5.0 g of finely-cut drug, by drying in an oven at 105 °C for 2 h.

STOCK

DEFINITION

Blackthorn mother tincture complies with the requirements of the general technique for the preparation of mother tinctures (see Homoeopathic Preparations (1038) and French Pharmacopoeia Authority Supplement). The mother tincture is prepared with ethanol (65 per cent V/V), using fresh, young twig of Prunus spinosa L., harvested at the beginning of the blooming season.

Content: minimum 0.15 per cent m/m of tannins, expressed as pyrogallol (C₆H₆O₃; M₉ 126.1).

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

French Pharmacopoeia 2007
CHARACTERS

Appearance: orange-brown liquid.

IDENTIFICATION

A. Thin layer chromatography (2.2.27).

Test solution. Mother tincture.

Reference solution. Dissolve 10 mg of rutin R and 10 mg of isoquercitrin R in methanol R and dilute to 10 ml with the same solvent.

Plate: TLC silica gel plate R.


Application: 20 µl, as bands.

Development: over a path of 10 cm.

Drying: in air.

Detection: first spray with a 10 g/l solution of diphenylboric acid aminoethyl ester R in methanol R then with a 50 g/l solution of macrogol 400 R in methanol R. Allow the plate to dry in air for about 30 min. Examine in ultraviolet light at 365 nm.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top of the plate</th>
<th>Reference solution</th>
<th>Test solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>A green zone</td>
<td>An orange zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isoquercitrin: an orange zone</td>
<td>A green zone</td>
<td>A blue zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutin: an orange zone</td>
<td>An orange zone (rutin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TESTS

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

Dry residue (2.8.16): minimum 1.0 per cent m/m.

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

French Pharmacopoeia 2007
ASSAY

Carry out the determination of tannins in vegetal drugs (2.8.14). Use 5.000 g of mother tincture.