Technical Data Report

for

Condurango

(Marsdenia cundurango)



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Condurango

Family: Apocynaceae & Asclepiadaceae **Taxon:** *Marsdenia cundurango* Rchb. F

Synonyms: Marsdenia reichenbachii, Gonolobus condurango, Echites acuminata

Common names: bejuco de condor, bejuco de sapo, condor plant, common condorvine,

condurango, condurango blanco, eagle vine, tucacsillu

Part Used: Vine bark

Herbal Properties & Actions								
Main Actions:	Other Actions:	Standard Dosage: Vine bark						
calms nervous stomach	supports gallbladder	Infusion: 1 cup 3 times daily						
reduces nausea	stops bleeding	Fluid Extract: 3 ml twice daily						
stimulates appetite	kills cancer cells	Capsules: 2 grams twice daily						
aids digestion								
increases gastric juices								
relieves stomach pain								
expels intestinal gas								

Condurango is a tropical woody vine that can be found in the high mountain jungles and cloud forests between 2,000 and 3,000 m in elevation. It is indigenous to the lower slopes of the Andes in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. It grows about 30 feet long and produces velvety heart-shaped leaves and small funnel-shaped greenish brown flowers. The vine grows to about 2 feet in diameter and is quite woody and sturdy. Condurango gets its local name, *condor vine* or *eagle vine*, from the large and weighty condor eagles that often use this sturdy vine as roosts and perches.

TRIBAL AND HERBAL MEDICINE USES

Condurango has long been used for a variety of digestive and stomach problems by the local people where this tropical vine grows. It aids digestion by being a bitter stimulant to increase digestive juices. It is also used to relieve nausea and vomiting, to calm nervous stomachs, to relieve stomach pain and cramps, for gastric ulcers, and to increase bile in the gallbladder, liver and pancreas.

Condurango was first introduced into the United States in 1871 in an official manner; it was given to the State Department in Washington by the Minister of Ecuador with official certificates from Ecuadorian doctors attesting to its ability to treat stomach cancer and syphilis. While it was never really proven effective for cancer during those early years, it became a trusted remedy for digestive disorders in the late 1800s and early 1900s and was included in the U.S. Pharmacopeia as well as several other European pharmacopeias.

In herbal medicine systems today in Peru condurango is considered an analgesic, appetite stimulant, carminative (expels intestinal gas), chologogue (increases gallbladder bile), hemostat (stops bleeding), stomachic (aids digestion), and tonic. It is often used for a variety of digestive disorders and is especially recommended for bleeding gastric ulcers. In Brazil, condurango is used for appetite loss, dyspepsia, gastralgia, gastritis, neuralgia, stomachaches, stomach cancer, stomach ulcers, and rheumatism.

PLANT CHEMICALS

Condurango contains a group of novel glycosides and steroids. After more than 100 years since it was introduced to the West as a plant active against cancer, a group of Japanese scientists published several studies and filed several Japanese and U.S., patents on these novel compounds as anti-tumor substances in the 1980s. ¹⁻⁷ The vine bark is reported to contain an average of 1 to 3% of these various glycosides. However, since filing these patents, research has not progressed past animal studies and into human studies and the true anti-tumor effect in humans still remains unknown today.

Other constituents in condurango include hydroxylated pregnane derivatives, chlorogenic and caffeic acids, as well as various cyclitols, flavonoids, and coumarin derivatives.

BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

Condurango has been reported with anti-inflammatory and antioxidant actions in animal studies.^{8,9} In test tube studies, it was shown to be highly active against the mycobacterium that causes tuberculosis¹⁰ but inactive against any of the viral strains they tested it against.¹¹ Its use as a digestive aid was studied and validated in the mid-1980s when scientists reported that it increased various digestive enzymes and juices in the stomach.¹²

CURRENT PRACTICAL USES

For more than 100 years condurango has been used as a remedy for many types of stomach and digestive problems here in the United States. It continues to be an excellent remedy to calm nervous and upset stomachs, relieve stomach pain, nausea, and intestinal gas, and to be an overall bitter digestive tonic for sluggish or poor digestion and to stimulate the appetite.

Plant Summary

Main Actions (in order): stomachic, anti-emetic, chologogue, anti-ulcerous, pain reliever (stomach)

Main Uses:

- 1. for indigestion, nausea, vomiting and stomach pain
- 2. as a bitter stomach tonic to increase appetite
- 3. for gastric ulcers
- 4. as a digestive aid to increase and stimulate digestive juices and bile
- 5. for nervous eating disorders (anorexia, etc.)

Properties/Actions Documented by Research: antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti-leukemic, antioxidant, antitumorous, stomach stimulant

Other Properties/Actions Documented by Traditional Use: adaptogenic, alterative, analgesic, anti-emetic, appetite stimulant, bitter, chologogue, circulatory stimulant, emmenagogue, hemostat, nervine, stomach relaxant, tonic

Cautions: Avoid use if allergic to latex.

Traditional Preparation: Condurango vine bark is traditionally prepared in fluid extracts and infusions.

Contraindications: One case report was published that a patient with a known latex allergy had an allergic reaction to a condurango tea.¹³ If you are allergic to latex, it is best to avoid using this plant.

Drug Interactions: None reported.

	WORLDWIDE ETHNOMEDICAL USES
Brazil	as a bitter tonic, depurative, and stomachic; for appetite loss, dyspepsia, digestive disorders, gastralgia, gastritis, neuralgia, stomachaches, stomach cancer, stomach ulcers, and rheumatism
Colombia	as a stomachic; for cancer
Ecuador	for cancer, inflammation, snakebite, stomach cancer, and syphilis
Germany	for dyspeptic complaints and loss of appetite
Latin America	for syphilis and venereal diseases
Peru	as an analgesic, appetite stimulant, carminative, chologogue, hemostat, and tonic; for anemia, anorexia, bleeding ulcers, cancer, dyspepsia, digestive disorders, gastralgia, gastritis, snakebite
United Kingdom	as a adaptogenic, alterative, anti-emetic, appetite stimulant, bitter, circulatory stimulant, and stomach relaxant; for anorexia nervosa, gastric ulcers, nausea, nervous indigestion, and stomach cancer
United States	as an alterative, analgesic, antiseptic, appetite stimulant, bitter tonic, circulatory stimulant, cystostatic, digestive stimulant, diuretic, emmenagogue, hemostat, nervine, restorative, stomachic, stomach sedative, and tonic; for anorexia nervosa, beri-beri, cancer, catarrhal gastritis, digestive disorders, duodenal ulcers, gastric debility, gastric ulcers, gastritis, loss of appetite, nausea, rheumastism, snakebite, stomachaches, stomach cancer, stomach ulcers, syphilis, and ventricular ulcers

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Ethnomedical Information on Condurango (Marsdenia cundurango)

Part / Location	Documented Ethnomedical Uses	Type Extract / Route	Used For	Ref#
Bark - Brazil	Used for stomach pain, gastritis, dyspepsia, neuralgia and rheumatism. Used as a depurative.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1013
Bark - Brazil	Used as a bitter tonic and stomachic; for dyspepsia, lack of appetite, digestive stimulant, stomach pain, gastralgia, stomach ulcers, and stomach cancer.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1007
Bark - Colombia	Used as a stomachic.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1022
Bark - Colombia	Used for cancer.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	A00709
Bark - Ecuador	Used for snakebite, syphilis, and stomach cancer.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1022
Bark - Ecuador	Used for syphilis and cancer.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	T03050
Bark - Ecuador	Used to treat inflammation.	Infusion / Not stated	Human Adult	K28882
Bark - Germany	Used for dyspeptic complaints and loss of appetite.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1058
Bark - Latin America	Used for syphilis and venereal diseases.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1049
Bark - Peru	Used as an appetite stimulant, tonic, and hemostat; for bleeding ulcers.	Decoction / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2013
Bark - Peru	Used as a tonic, hemostat and carminative; for gastritis, dyspepsia, anemia, and cancer.	Infusion / Oral Tincture / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1105
Bark - Peru	Used as a tonic; for bleeding gastric ulcers, anemia, and snakebite.	Decoction / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1101
Bark + Root - Peru	Used as an analgesic and chologogue; for gastritis, dyspepsia, and cancer.	Decoction / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1101
Bark + Root - Peru	Used for cancer.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2013
Root - Peru	Used for gastralgia and dyspepsia.	Decoction / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2013
Root - Peru	Used as a carminative.	Tincture / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1101
Bark - Turkey	Used as an alterative and nervine.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1022
Bark - United Kingdom	Used as a alterative, circulatory stimulant, stomach relaxant, bitter, anti-emetic, adaptogenic, orexigenic; for nervous indigestion, anorexia nervosa, stomach cancer, gastric ulcers.	Infusion / Oral Fluid Extract / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2024

Part / Location	Documented Ethnomedical Uses	Type Extract / Route	Used For	Ref#
Bark - United States	Used as a stomachic, diuretic, circulatory stimulant, and alterative.	Fluid Extract / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1052
Bark - United States	Used as a digestive bitter to stimulate gastric secretion and to stimulate the appetite.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1065
Bark - United States	Used as a bitter, emmenagogue, and stomach sedative; for digestive and stomach disorders and anorexia nervosa.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1056
Bark - United States	Used as a alterative, antiseptic, analgesic, diuretic, hemostat, nervine, stomachic and tonic; for beri-beri, cancer, gastritis, loss of appetite, rheumatism, snakebite and ventricular ulcers.	Various / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1049
Bark - United States	Used for gastric debility and stomach pain.	Decoction / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2019
Bark - United States	Used as a bitter tonic, stomachic, cystostatic, and digestive aid.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1066
Bark - United States	Used for gastric ulcers, stomach cancer, catarrhal gastritis, and as a tonic and restorative.	Decoction / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2025
Bark - United States	Used as an aromatic tonic and for cancer.	Fluid Extract / Oral	Human Adult	A05638
Bark- United States	Improves digestion by stimulating the production of saliva and digestive juices.	Infusion / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ2018
Bark - Various	Used as an alterative, nervine, and stomachic; for stomach cancer, duodenal ulcers, snakebite, and syphilis.	Not stated / Oral	Human Adult	ZZ1106

Presence of Compounds in Condurango (Marsdenia cundurango)

Compound	Chemical Type	Plant Part	Plant Origin	Quantity	Ref#
Aesculetin	Coumarin	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04060
Amyrin, beta:	Triterpene	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A04027
Amyrin, beta: cinnamate	Triterpene	Trunk bark Trunk bark Bark Bark	Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated	A03954 A04027 M08531 ZZ1047
Bornesitol, D:	Carbohydrate	Leaf	Not stated	Not stated	A02619
Boron	Inorganic	Trunk bark	Not stated	350 ppm	A03969
Caffeic acid	Phenylpropanoid	Bark Bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	T04060 T06297
Caoutchouc		Latex	Not stated	60,000 ppm	ZZ1047
Chlorogenic acid	Phenylpropanoid	Bark Bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	T04060 T06297
Chlorogenic acid, neo:	Phenylpropanoid	Bark Bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	T04060 T06297
Cichoriin	Coumarin	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04060
Cinnamic acid	Phenylpropanoid	Trunk bark Trunk bark Bark	Not stated Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated Not stated	A03954 A04027 M08531
Condurangin	Steroid	Trunk bark Trunk bark Bark Bark Bark Bark	Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated 20,000 ppm	A04019 J10154 M08530 M08531 T09563 ZZ1047

Compound	Chemical Type	Plant Part	Plant Origin	Quantity	Ref#
Condurangogenin B	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04204 T05163
Condurangogenin C	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T05163
Condurangoglycoside 10	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.12%	H13984
Condurangoglycoside A	Steroid	Bark Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated Not stated	Not stated 00.03030% Not stated	H04222 H13984 T08122
Condurangoglycoside A hemiacetal	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T08122
Condurangoglycoside A-0	Steroid	Bark Bark Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated Ecuador Japan	Not stated 00.18333% Not stated Not stated	H04222 H13984 T03050 W04489
Condurangoglycoside A-1	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T08122
Condurangoglycoside B-0	Steroid	Bark	Japan	00.08%	M12438
Condurangoglycoside C	Steroid	Bark Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated Not stated	Not stated 00.03030% Not stated	H04222 H13984 T08122
Condurangoglycoside C-0	Steroid	Bark Bark	Ecuador Japan	Not stated Not stated	T03050 W04489
Condurangoglycoside C-1	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T08122
Condurangoglycoside D-0	Steroid	Bark Bark Bark	Ecuador Japan Japan	Not stated 00.01% Not stated	H04222 M12438 W04489
Condurangoglycoside D-0, 20-iso-o-methyl:	Steroid	Bark Bark	Japan Japan	00.001% Not stated	M12438 W04489
Condurangoglycoside D-0, 20-o-methyl:	Steroid	Bark	Japan	00.003%`	M12438

Compound	Chemical Type	Plant Part	Plant Origin	Quantity	Ref#
Condurangoglycoside E	Steroid	Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated	Not stated Not stated	H04222 T13842
Condurangoglycoside E-0	Steroid	Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated	Not stated Not stated	H04222 T13842
Condurangoglycoside E-01	Steroid	Bark	Japan	Not stated	T06252
Condurangoglycoside E-02	Steroid	Bark	Japan	Not stated	T06252
Condurangoglycoside E-2	Steroid	Bark Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated Not stated	Not stated 00.01733% Not stated	H04222 H13984 T13842
Condurangoglycoside E-3	Steroid	Bark Bark Bark	Ecuador Not stated Not stated	Not stated 00.06333% Not stated	H04222 H13984 T13842
Condurangoside A	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.0045%	H13984
Condurangoside A-0	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.06666%	H13984
Condurangoside B	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.011666%	H13984
Condurangoside B-0	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.07666%	H13984
Condurangoside C-0	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.05666%	H13984
Condurangoside D-01	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.00426%	H13984
Condurangoside FC	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.01166%	H13984
Condurangotriose, neo:	Carbohydrate	Bark Bark	Japan Japan	Not stated Not stated	T08594 T08953
Conduritol	Carbohydrate	Leaf Trunk bark Trunk bark Bark	Not stated Not stated Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated Not stated 5,000 ppm	A02619 A04018 A04026 ZZ1047

Compound	Chemical Type	Plant Part	Plant Origin	Quantity	Ref#
Coumaric acid, para:	Phenylpropanoid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04060
Coumarin	Coumarin	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04060
Cymarose, D	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	ZZ1047
Drevogenin D	Steroid	Trunk bark Bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	A03963 ZZ1047
Drevogenin D, dihydro:	Steroid	Trunk bark Bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	A03963 ZZ1047
Glycerol	Lipid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A04027
Glucose, D	Lipid	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	ZZ1047
Hyperoside	Flavonol	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T06297
Inositol, D:	Carbohydrate	Leaf	Not stated	Not stated	A02619
Kondurangamine A	Steroid	Bark	Peru	Not stated	J07602
Kondurangamine B	Steroid	Bark	Peru	Not stated	J07602
Kondurangin	Steroid	Trunk bark Stem bark	Not stated Not stated	2.26% 3.30%	A04554 A04560
Kondurangogenin A	Steroid	Trunk bark Trunk bark Stem bark	Not stated Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated Not stated	A03961 A03962 A04560
Kondurangogenin A-1	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03962
Kondurangogenin C	Steroid	Trunk bark Trunk bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	A03961 A03962
Kondurangogenin C-1	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03962
Kondurangoglycoside A	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03962
Kondurangoglycoside A-1	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03962

Compound	Chemical Type	Plant Part	Plant Origin	Quantity	Ref#
Kondurangoglycoside C	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03962
Kondurangoglycoside C-1	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03962
Leucanthemitol, L:	Carbohydrate	Leaf	Not stated	Not stated	A02619
Marsdenia Cundurango Antitumor Substance	Unknown	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04212
Marsdenia Cundurango Glycoside E-01	Steroid	Bark	Not stated	00.00197%	T05891
Marsdenin	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03963
Pinitol, D:	Carbohydrate	Leaf	Not stated	Not stated	A02619
Quercitrin	Flavonol	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T06297
Rutin	Flavonol	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T06297
Saponarin	Flavone	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T06297
Sarcostin	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03963
Sequoyitol	Carbohydrate	Leaf	Not stated	Not stated	A02619
Sitosterol, beta: cinnamate	Steroid	Trunk bark	Not stated	Not stated	A03954
Thevetose, D	Glycoside	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	ZZ1047
Trifolin	Flavonol	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T06297
Umbelliferone	Coumarin	Bark	Not stated	Not stated	T04060
Vanillin	Benzenoid	Bark Bark	Not stated Not stated	Not stated Not stated	T04060 T06297
Viburnitol, L:	Carbohydrate	Leaf	Not stated	Not stated	A02619

Biological Activities of Condurango (Marsdenia cundurango)

Plant Part - Origin	Activity Tested For	Type Extract	Test Model	Dosage	Result	Notes/Organism tested	Ref#
Bark - Japan	Mutagenic Activity	MEOH ext H2O ext	Agar plate	50 mg / disc	Inactive	Salmonella typhimurium	T06535
Bark - Not stated	Allergenic Activity	H2O ext	Human Adult	3 mg / mI	Active	Case report of allergic reaction in patient with known latex allergy.	J15455
Bark - Not stated	Anti-tumor Activity	Fraction	IP Mouse	8-32 mg / kg	Active	CA-Ehrlich-Ascites	T04248
Bark - Ecuador	Anti-tumor Activity	Fraction	IP Mouse	Not stated	Active	CA-Ehrlich-Solid	T03050
Bark - Not stated	Cytotoxic Activity	H2O ext	Cell culture	10%	Inactive	HELA cells	T09507
Bark - Not stated	Cytotoxic Activity	H2O ext	Cylinder plate	5%	Equivocal	CA-Ehrlich-Ascites	T09507
Bark - Not stated	Cytotoxic Activity	Acetone ext	Cylinder plate	5%	Equivocal	CA-Ehrlich-Ascites	W03044
Bark - Not stated	Antileukemic Activity	MEOH ext	Cell culture	Not stated	Active	mouse myeloid leukemia cells	MC1001
Bark - Not stated	Bitter Tasting Effect	H2O ext	Human adult	Various	Active		W04494
Bark - Ecuador	Anti-inflammatory Activity	CH2CL2 ext	IG Mouse	1.25 g / kg	Active	vs carrageenan- induced pedal edema	K28882
Vine - Ecuador	Anti-inflammatory Activity	ETOH ext	IG Mouse	1.25 g / kg	Active	31.2% reduction of carrageenan- induced edema	L03441
Vine - Ecuador	Lipid Peroxide Inhibition	ETOH ext	Rat liver	100 mcg / ml	Active	23.5% inhibition	L03441
Not stated	Antimycobacterial Activity	ETOH ext	Broth culture	Not stated	Active	Mycobacterium tuberculosis	M27150
Bark- Not stated	Antiviral Activity	H2O ext	Cell culture	10%	Inactive	Virus-Herpes Type 2 Influenza A2 Vaccinia virus Poliovirus II	T09507

Plant Part - Origin	Activity Tested For	Type Extract	Test Model	Dosage	Result	Notes/Organism tested	Ref#
Vine - Ecuador	Antioxidant Activity	ETOH ext	In vitro	100 mcg / ml	Equivocal	Did not increase superoxide scavenging activity but inhibited hydroxyl radical formation by 15.6%	L03441
Vine - Ecuador	Xanthine Oxidase Inhibition	ETOH ext	In vitro	100 mcg / ml	Inactive		L03441
Vine - Ecuador	Diastase Inhibition	Not stated	Not stated	0.1%	Inactive		T16353
Vine - Ecuador	Biodiastase Inhibition	Not stated	Not stated	1.0%	Inactive		T16353
Vine - Ecuador	Pancreatin Inhibition	Not stated	Not stated	0.05%	Active		T16353
Bark - Not stated	Insecticidal Activity	H2O ext	In vitro	Various	Inactive	Blatella germanica	W03405
Bark - Not stated	Insecticidal Activity	H2O ext	In vitro	Various	Inactive	Oncopeltus fasciatus	W03405
Bark - Not stated	Insecticidal Activity	H2O ext	IV	40 ml / kg	Inactive	Periplaneta americana	W 03405

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