Cortex Magnoliae Officinalis*

Source	The dried stem bark, root bark or branch bark of *Magnolia officinalis* Rehd. et Wils. or *Magnolia officinalis* Rehd. et Wils. var. *biloba* Rehd. et Wils. in the family Magnoliaceae
Property and Flavour	Warm; bitter and pungent
Meridian Affinity	Spleen, stomach, lung and large intestine meridians
Actions	To dry dampness and transform phlegm, direct qi downward, and disperse fullness
Production Area	*Magnolia officinalis* mainly produced in Sichuan, Hubei, Shaanxi, Gansu, Guizhou, *etc.*; *Magnolia officinalis* var. *biloba* mainly produced in Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, *etc.*

Note:

* Its name in Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2025 Edition) is "Magnoliae Officinalis Cortex".

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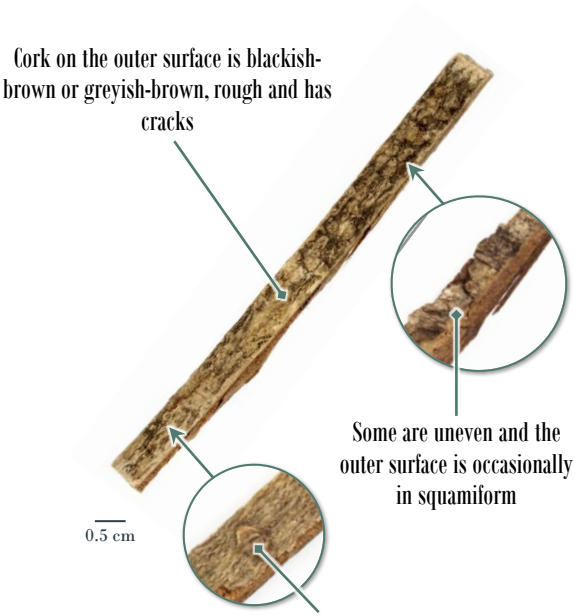
Macroscopic Identification Features

Cortex Magnoliae Officinalis (Slivers)

Shape Appears strip-shaped, straight




Inner surface is purplish-brown or blackish-brown, and has fine and straight striations
An oily scratch is visible after the inner surface is scratched with sharp object, and is customarily called "*Youhen*" (oily trace)
Cut surface is brown or yellowish-brown and usually has the exposure of yellowish-white fibres
0.5 cm
Some have reflective and small crystals which are customarily called "*Xiaoliangxing*" (little bright star)

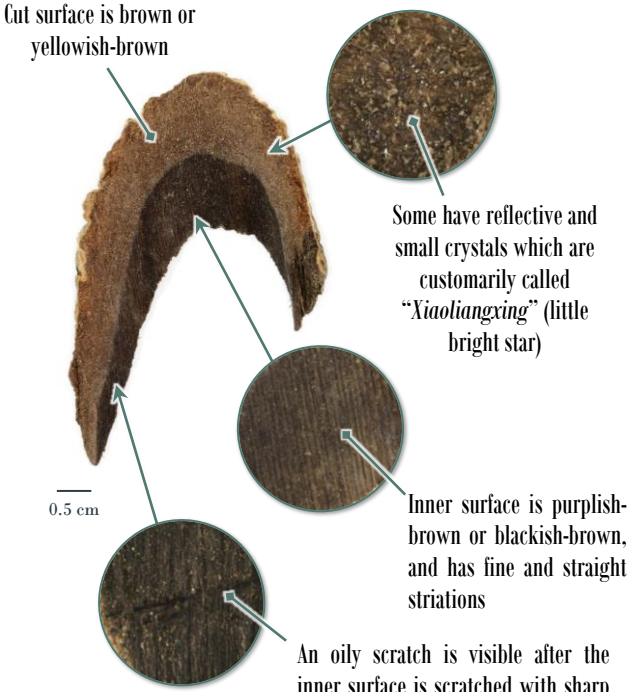
Texture Hard, not easily broken

Fracture Outer layer is granular, inner layer is fibrous

Odour Aromatic

Cortex Magnoliae Officinalis (Slices)

Shape In slices, usually curved in "U" shape


Cut surface is brown or yellowish-brown
Some have reflective and small crystals which are customarily called "*Xiaoliangxing*" (little bright star)
0.5 cm
Inner surface is purplish-brown or blackish-brown, and has fine and straight striations
An oily scratch is visible after the inner surface is scratched with sharp object, and is customarily called "*Youhen*" (oily trace)

Texture Hard, not easily broken

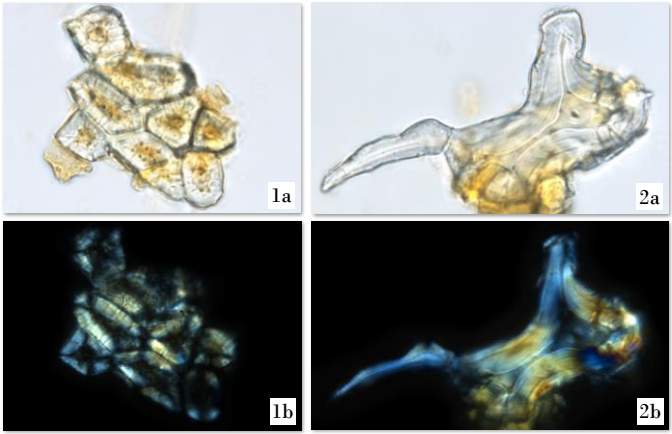
Fracture Outer layer is granular, inner layer is fibrous

Odour Aromatic

Feature of Simplified Powder Microscopic Identification

- Sclerenchyma -

Stone cell



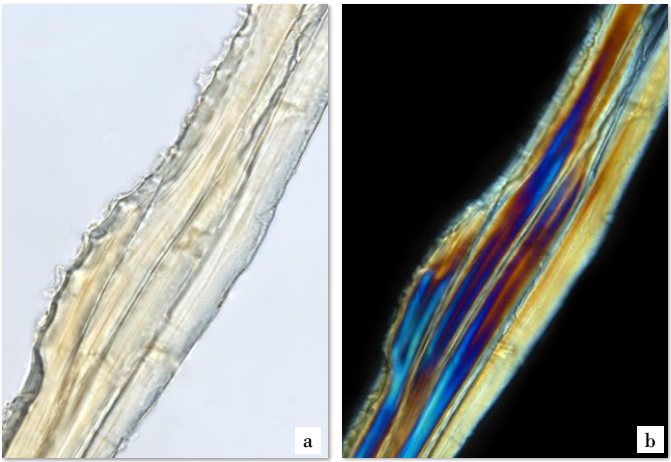
Mostly in groups, varies in size, smaller one (1) mostly appears sub-rectangular, sub-square or sub-polygonal, larger one (2) mostly appears irregular or branched; wall is thick or extremely thick, usually with pit canals, pits and striations, some contain yellowish-brown substances in lumina; orange-yellow or bright white under polarized light microscope

a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light

Additional Features of Powder Microscopic Identification

- Sclerenchyma -

Fibre

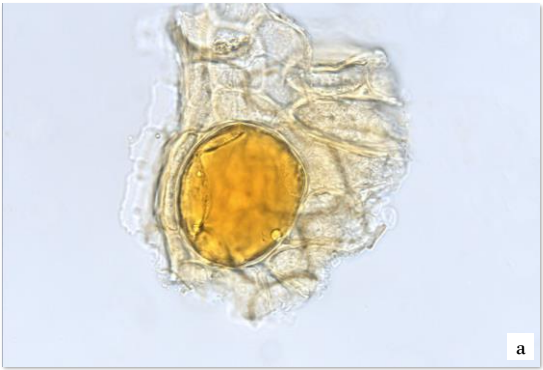


In bundles or singly scattered, wall is extremely thick, narrow lumen; bright white or polychromatic under polarized light microscope

a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light

- Secretory tissue -

Oil cell

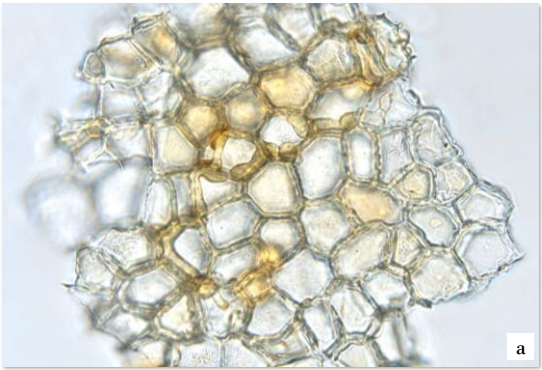


Present in parenchyma or scattered, appears sub-rounded or sub-elliptical, usually contains yellowish-brown substances

a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light

- Protective tissue -

Cork cell



Light yellowish-brown or yellowish-brown, appears sub-polygonal in surface view

a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light

- Starch -

Starch granule

Mostly gelatinized, mostly filled in parenchymatous cell in masses

a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light

Key Identification Features

- Macroscopic features -

- Cork on the outer surface is rough and lenticel is barely found
- Outer layer of fracture is granular, while inner layer is fibrous
- Some cut surface have reflective and small crystals which are customarily called "*Xiaoliangxing*" (little bright star)

- Powder microscopic feature -

- Stone cell varies in size. Smaller one mostly appears sub-rectangular, sub-square or sub-polygonal; larger one mostly appears irregular or branched

For more information, please refer to website of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards:

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