Bombacis Cortex

Source	The dried bark of *Bombax ceiba* L. in the family Bombacaceae
Property and Flavour	Slightly cold; pungent and slightly bitter
Meridian Affinity	Liver and kidney meridians
Actions	To clear heat and drain dampness, remove toxins and resolve swelling, transform stasis and stop bleeding
Production Area	Mainly produced in Hainan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, *etc*.

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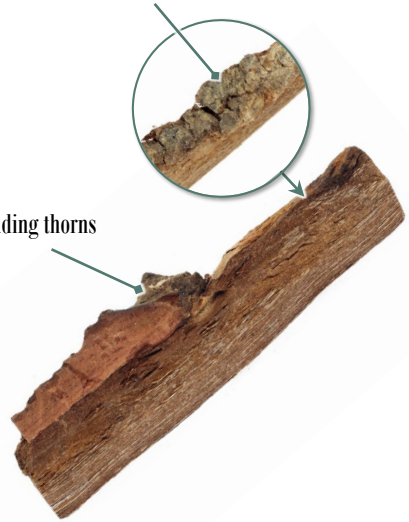
Department of Health

Macroscopic Identification Features

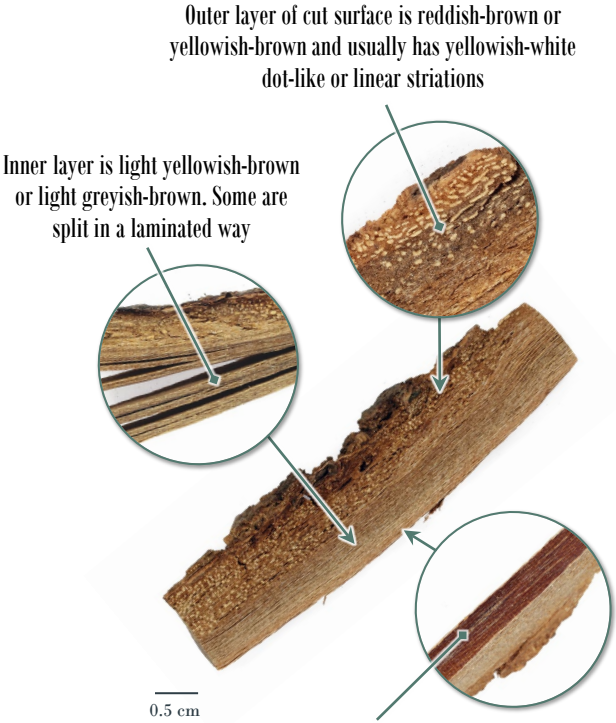
Shape Appears strip-shaped, straight

Outer surface is greyish-brown or brown, has cracks and is usually uneven. Some cork is exfoliated. No lenticels



Some have protruding thorns

0.5 cm


Outer layer of cut surface is reddish-brown or yellowish-brown and usually has yellowish-white dot-like or linear striations
Inner layer is light yellowish-brown or light greyish-brown. Some are split in a laminated way
0.5 cm
Inner surface is reddish-brown or yellowish-brown and has fine and straight striations

Texture Tough

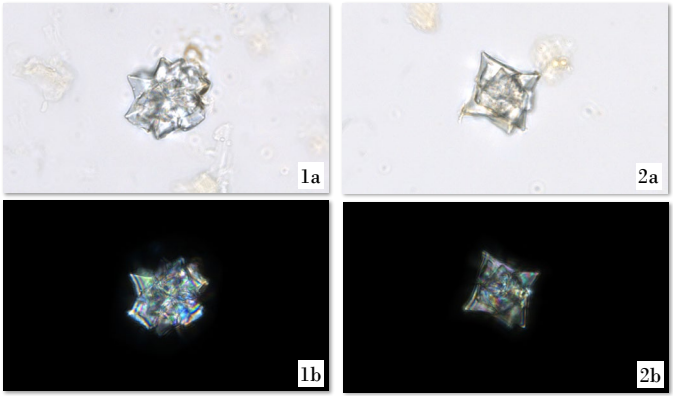
Fracture Fibrous

Odour Slight

Features of Easy Powder Microscopic Identification

- Crystal -

Cluster of calcium oxalate

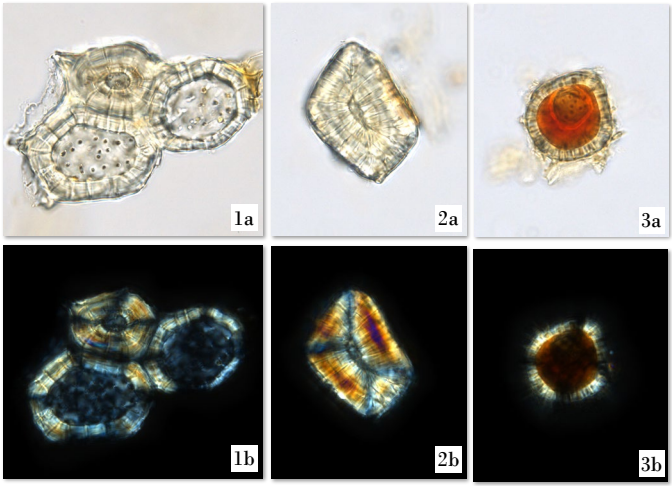


Mostly scattered, angle is usually wide (1), sometimes the angle is relatively few and the cluster of calcium oxalate slightly appears in prism form (2); polychromatic under polarized light microscope

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

- Sclerenchyma -

Stone cell



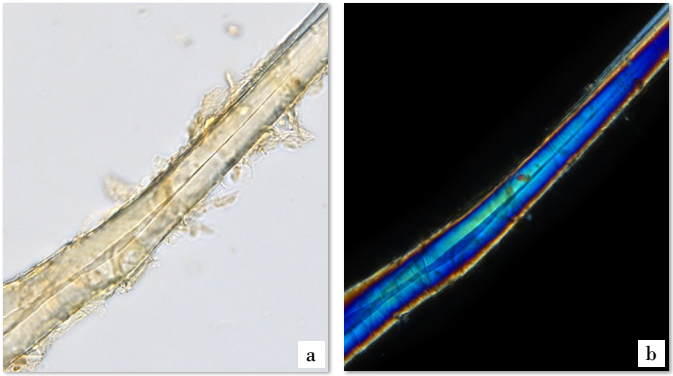
Colourless or light yellow, in groups or singly scattered, appears sub-square, sub-rectangular or sub-polygonal, wall is thick (1) or extremely thick (2), with pit canals and pits which usually dense, usually with striations, some contain yellowish-brown substances (3); bright white, orange-yellow or polychromatic under polarized light microscope

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

Additional Features of Powder Microscopic Identification

- Sclerenchyma -

Fibre

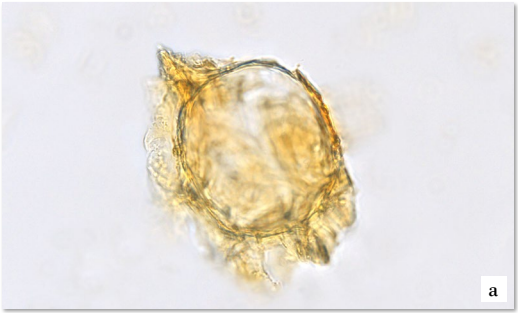


In bundles or singly scattered, wall is thick or extremely thick, narrow lumen; orange yellow or polychromatic under polarized light microscope

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

- Secretory tissue -

Mucilage cell



Scattered or present in parenchyma, appears sub-rounded, wall is thin or slightly thick

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

- Protective tissue -

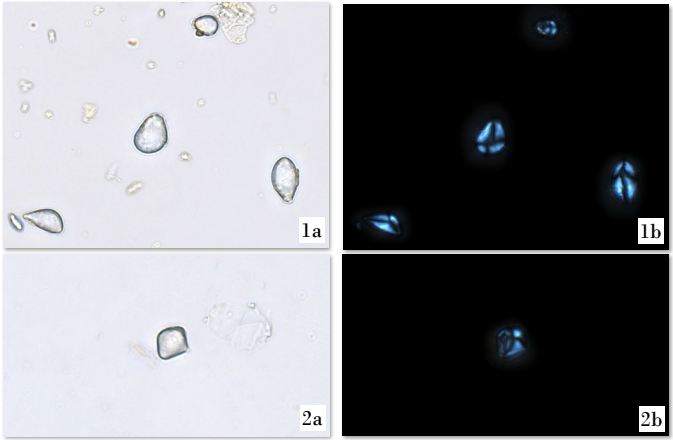
Cork cell

Yellowish-brown, appears sub-polygonal in surface view

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

- Starch -

Starch granule



Appears sub-rounded, sub-ovate, sub-triangular or irregular, mainly is simple granule (1), semi-compound granule barely found; black and cruciate-shaped under polarized light microscope, semi-compound granule has 2 or above black cruciform

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

Key Identification Features

- Macroscopic features -

- Outer surface has cracks and is usually uneven. Some have protruding thorns
- Fracture is fibrous
- Outer layer of the cut surface usually has yellowish-white dot-like or linear striations

- Powder Microscopic features -

- Angle of cluster of calcium oxalate is usually wide. The angle is sometimes relatively few and the cluster of calcium oxalate slightly appears in prism form
- Stone cell has thick or extremely thick wall, and pit canals and pits which are usually dense. It usually has striations. Some contain yellowish-brown substances

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