

## ALOE SOCOTRINA

(Alo. soc.)

**Botanical name** : *Aloe succotrina* Linn.    **Family**: Liliaceae

**Common name** : *Hindi*: Ghi kanvar, Ghikumari; *English*: Mocha, Hepatic; *French*: Aloes; *German*: Aloe.

**Description** : A coarse looking perennial plant with short, thick, somewhat divided stem, 30 to 60 cm high. Leaves glaucous green, sessile, crowded, lanceolate, erect, spreading, rather concave, spiny toothed at the margin, about 30 to 60 cm long, 10 cm broad and 1.8 cm thick, full of juice. Scape longer than the leaves, scaly, branched; racemes long, dense, bracts short lanceolate, membranous and longer than short pedicel. Flowers pendulous, imbricated, yellow; anthers somewhat exerted.

**Macroscopical** : Aloe occurs in dark chocolate-brown to black, irregular mass; surface dull, opaque with slightly vitreous appearance. Odour characteristic; taste nauseous and bitter.

**Microscopical** : Powder mounted in glycerin shows innumerable crystallized particles embedded in a brownish matrix or dark brown or greenish-brown glossy masses, transparent in thin fragments (Cape aloes); or hard, dark brown, opaque masses with an uneven porous fracture (Socotrina aloes); or dark reddish-brown, opaque masses with a nearly smooth and slightly porous fracture (Zanzibar aloes).

**Habitat** : India, East Indies, Southern and Eastern Africa, shores of Red Sea and Arabia.

**History and authority** : Allen's Encyclop. Mat. Med. Vol. I, 163. Hering Guid. Symp. Vol I, 126.

**Part used** : The inspissated juice of the leaves of Socotrina Aloes.

**Preparation** : (a) Mother Tincture  $\phi$     Drug strength 1/10  
Aloe Socotrina in *coarse powder*    100 g  
Strong Alcohol in sufficient quantity  
to make one thousand millilitres of the Mother Tincture.

(b) Potencies: 2x and higher with *Dispensing Alcohol*.

**Old method** : Class IV.