

## Bitter wood

**Botanical Name:** *Quassia amara*

**Family:** Simaroubaceae

**Common Name:** Amargo and bitter ash

**Hindi Name:** मधुमेह लकड़ी, कोशीया लकड़ी

**Part Used:** Bark, leaves, and wood,

*Quassia amara* Shrub or small, evergreen tree, able to grow up to about 2 - 3 m tall. Pinnately compound leaves typically consist of 3 - 5 elliptic leaflets with entire leaf margin and distinct drip tip. The rachis or leaf stalk connecting the leaflets is winged. The flowers are produced in a panicle 15–25 cm long, each flower 2.5-3.5 cm long, bright red on the outside, and white inside. The *Quassia amara* grows in sandy soils of lowland & highland forests, wet forests along riverbanks and, is native to Central Mexico to Southern tropical America and Guadalupe. Quassia has a variety of suggested uses, including treatment for measles, diarrhea, fever, and lice. Quassia has antibacterial, antifungal, antifertility, antitumor, antileukemic, and insecticidal actions as well. Quassia Wood's anti-inflammatory properties help reduce swelling and discomfort, relieving joint pain and rheumatism. Its *anthelmintic* effects eliminate harmful intestinal parasites, improve digestion, and reduce bloating and other digestive disorders. Quassia Wood is an effective natural treatment for dandruff, lice, and other scalp conditions, promoting healthier hair and a cleaner scalp. It is also used in Anorexia, indigestion, constipation, and fever, tonic or purgative, mouthwash, worm infestations, used to flavor foods, beverages, lozenges, and laxatives, anti bacteria, fungi, and mosquito larvae.