

5 | *Calotropis gigantea* (Linn.) R.Br.
(Alarka)

Drug consists of root and flower of *Calotropis gigantea* (Linn.) R.Br. (Plate 5.1 A, B & C); Fam. Asclepiadaceae. The plant is an erect, spreading perennial shrub with milky juice, growing almost throughout India, in plains.



A. Plant



B. Root pieces



C. Flowering twig

Plate 5.1 *Calotropis gigantea* (Linn.) R.Br.

Chemical Constituents

Root

Major

Mudarol, akundarol^{2,3}; uscharidin⁴, calotropin^{4,5}, frugoside^{5,6}, 4'-*O*- β -D-glucopyranosylfrugoside^{5,6}; calotroposides A to G^{6,7}.

Others

α -Amyrin, β -amyrin, taraxasterol and its ψ -isomer, β -sitosterol, α -amyrin methylbutanoate, β -amyrin methylbutanoate, α -amyrin acetate, β -amyrin acetate, taraxasteryl isovalerate, taraxasteryl acetate⁸; calotropylupenyl acetate A, lupeol acetate B, gigantursenyl acetate A, gigantursenyl acetate B^{6,9}.

Flower

Major

α -Calotropeol, β -calotropeol³, rutin¹⁰.

