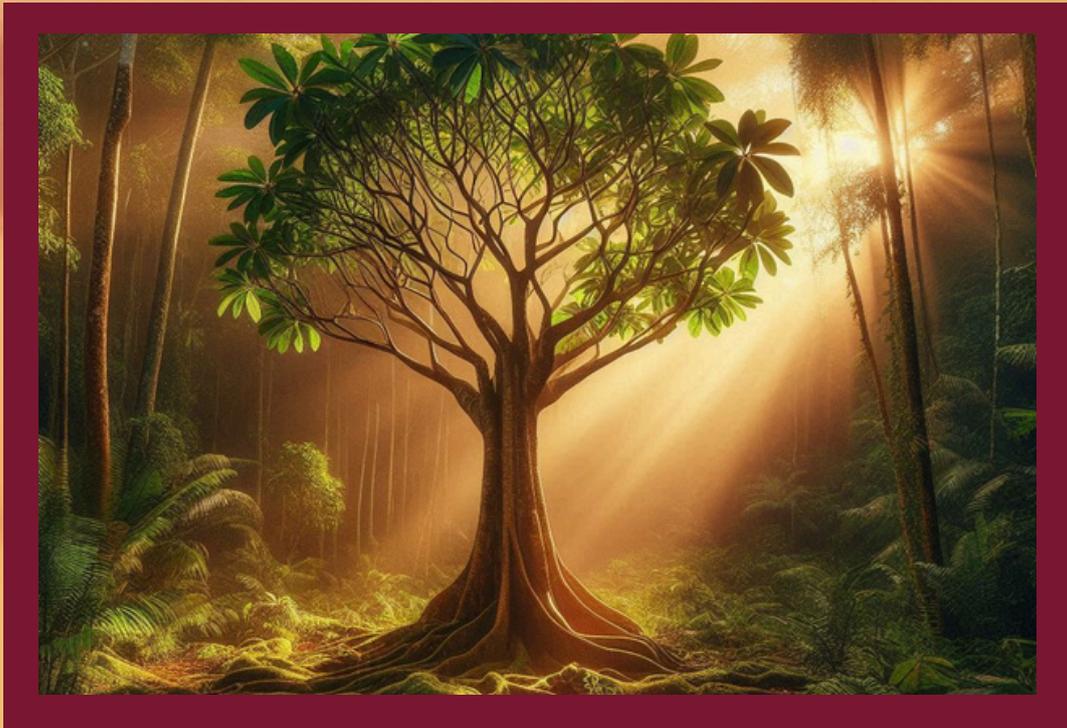




NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

A GUIDE TO DRAGON'S BLOOD



Dragon's Blood is a striking red latex derived from the *Croton lechleri* tree of the Amazon rainforest. It is used extensively in traditional medicine and ritual.

Discover the incredible properties of this valuable tropical species, and learn how to use it in your every day life.

www.pharmatropia.com



NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

INDEX

- [Dosage and Usage](#)
- [Healing properties](#)
- [Health Advantages](#)
- [Spiritual Significance](#)
- [General & Historical background](#)
- [Additional Information](#)
- [Botanical Wonder](#)
- [Resources & References](#)



NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

USAGE AND DOSAGE:

Dragon's Blood can be used externally to treat skin complaints, and internally since it is especially effective for treating stomach complaints.

Use 5 drops in water to treat issues such as gastritis, stomach ulcers, and diarrhea.

Apply directly onto the skin to treat lesions, insect bites, and skin irritation, amongst a variety of other skin complaints.





NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA
HEALING WITH NATURE

HEALING PROPERTIES OF DRAGON'S BLOOD:

The sap of *Croton lechleri* is recognized for its potent healing properties, particularly in wound healing, and for its anti-inflammatory effects. It is commonly used to treat wounds, ulcers, and skin irritations.

A powerful antibacterial, it can be applied directly to lesions and wounds, and the resin seals cuts and grazes. It contains taspine, which promotes tissue repair, and has been shown to have antiviral properties.

Dragon's Blood's major active compounds include taspine, proanthocyanides, and Flavan-3-ols (Catechin, Epicatechin, and Gallocatechin).

These compounds have been linked to several health benefits:

- * **Antioxidant Activity:** Reduce oxidative stress by scavenging free radicals
- * **Cardiovascular health:** May improve endothelial function and lower blood pressure.
- * **Anti-inflammatory Effects:** Modulates inflammatory pathways, potentially benefiting conditions like inflammatory bowel disease.
- * **Metabolic Benefits:** May aid in weight management and improve insulin sensitivity.



NATURE'S PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

HEALTH ADVANTAGES OF DRAGON'S BLOOD:

- **Skin Conditions:** Dragon's Blood disinfects and promotes healing of cuts and abrasions. It has been shown to alleviate the symptoms of dermatitis, psoriasis, and acne. It soothes inflammatory skin conditions, helping to relieve irritation and redness. It has demonstrated antimicrobial effects and is very effective in treating bacterial infections. Its latex can be used to address infections associated with underlying skin disorders.
- **Antiviral effects:** Demonstrated activity against viruses, including herpes.
- **Immunomodulatory Effects:** Studies suggest that Dragon's Blood may enhance the immune response.
- **Gastrointestinal health:** Croton lechleri, or Dragon's Blood is used across the Amazon to treat gastrointestinal ulcers and other digestive problems, including dysentery and constipation. It is also very effective in managing diarrhea, particularly for HIV/AIDS patients.
- **Respiratory Conditions:** Traditional uses also include treating respiratory ailments such as asthma and coughs.
- **Immunomodulatory Effects:** Studies suggest that Dragon's Blood may enhance the immune response.
- **Other uses:** To treat fevers, pyorrhea (gum disease), and scurvy.



NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DRAGON'S BLOOD

Various indigenous groups have used the sap historically in healing rituals, and as a protective charm against spiritual ailments. Resin is offered to spirits and deities, symbolizing connection to the natural world and the spiritual realm. It is often employed in ceremonies aimed at healing both physical ailments and spiritual imbalances,

It is also used outside of its traditional context as an incense to enhance meditation and rituals. Its strong fragrance is used to purify spaces and promote a deeper connection to the spiritual realms.

The energy of Dragon's Blood stimulates the sacral chakra which is linked to creativity, sexuality and emotional balance. It may thus enhance personal expression and emotional stability, making it a valuable tool for spiritual growth and development.

Dragon's Blood resin holds a strong connection to the element of fire, known for its ability to energetically transform and intensify the effects of ceremonial practices. Its unique potency allows it to stand in for the element of fire in rituals where actual flames cannot be used, while also amplifying the effects of other natural elements and herbs it is combined with. This resin has been revered for its transformative and enhancing properties in practices that focus on personal growth, healing, and spiritual alignment.



NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA
HEALING WITH NATURE

GENERAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Dragon's Blood, or Sangre de Grado as it is known in Peru, is a powerful healing and spiritual aide. It has been used for centuries by indigenous peoples in the Amazon to treat a wide variety of conditions. It is used especially for skin and stomach problems, and shows even more therapeutic potential. This deep red resin that can be used as a dye is also employed in spiritual work for protection and as a potentiiser.

The earliest written reference to *Croton lechleri* dates to the 17th century when Spanish Jesuit missionary and naturalist Bernabe Cobo documented its use among indigenous tribes in Mexico, Peru, and Ecuador.

Today, it is becoming more widely known outside of South America given it's effectiveness for treating a variety of illnesses.





NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Research has shown that taspine can help fibroblasts - the cells that play a key role in wound healing - to move and grow. Fibroblasts help repair damaged tissue. It helps to improve nerve signaling and promotes healing by encouraging the movement of important cells in the body.

- **Proanthocyanides:** A class of polyphenolic compounds with significant antioxidant properties known for their wound healing capabilities.
- **Catechin:** Known for its antioxidant properties, it can help scavenge free radicals and contribute to cardiovascular health by improving blood flow and reducing blood pressure. It is associated with potential anti-inflammatory effects and has been studied in its role for preventing chronic diseases, including certain cancers and metabolic disorders.
- **Epicatechin:** Abundant in dark foods like chocolate, berries and apples, epicatechin can enhance heart health by improving endothelial function and reducing oxidative stress. It has been linked to improved insulin sensitivity and weight management.
- **Gallocatechin:** Offers antioxidant activity and protects against certain diseases like cancer and inflammatory conditions.
- **Epigallocatechin:** Also found in green tea, epigallocatechin is associated with a wide range of health benefits, including anti-cancer, anti-obesity, and neuroprotective effects. It has been shown to modulate various cellular signaling pathways, contributing to its protective effects against oxidative stress and inflammation.



NATURE'S
PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

BOTANICAL WONDER

Croton lechleri, the tree from which Dragon's Blood is derived, is native to the Amazon rainforest. It reaches heights of up to 20 meters and features a slender trunk with a grey-white bark.

The tree produces a dark red sap when the bark is cut, and the deep red latex exudes from the incision. Heart-shaped leaves give the tree a distinctive appearance in the rainforest canopy.

Where this potent tree grows, it helps to optimize soil conditions in secondary forests, facilitating ecological succession and restoring soils that have been degraded due to clearcutting.

It returns vital nutrients to the soil, provides a shaded nursery for emergent seedlings, and aerates the soil with organic matter.





NATURE'S PHARMATROPIA

HEALING WITH NATURE

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

- Sandoval, Manuel, Nataly N. Okuhama, Melinda Clark, Fausto M. Angeles, Juan Lao, Sergio Bustamente, Mark J.S. Miller. 2002. 'Sangre de grado Croton palanostigma induces apoptosis in human gastrointestinal cancer cells.' in *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*. 80(2-3): 121-129
- Miller, Mark, Nathalie Vergnolle, Webb McKnight, Rabi A. Musah, Cathy A. Davison, Ann Marie Trentacosti, Jane H. Thompson, Manuel Sandoval, John L. Wallace. 2001. Inhibition of Neurogenic Inflammation by the Amazonian Herbal Medicine Sangre de Grado. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*. 117(3): 725-730
- Carlson, Thomas J.S. 2002. Chapter 3: Medical and ethnobotanical research as a method to identify bioactive plants to treat infectious diseases.' in *Advances in Phytomedicine*. Volume 1: 45-53
- Y. Cai, F.J. Evans, M.F. Roberts, J.D. Phillipson, M.H. Zenk, Y.Y. Gleba. 1991. 'Polyphenolic compounds from Croton lechleri.' in *Phytochemistry*. 30(6) 2033-2040
- Jones, Kenneth. 2004. 'Review of Sangre de Drago (Croton lechleri) - A South American Tree Sap in the Treatment of Diarrhea, Inflammation, Insect Bites, Viral Infections, and Wounds: Traditional Uses to Clinical Research'.in *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*. 9(6): 877-96
- Sebastião Luiz Pires Vargas¹, Erlan Kessyo Braga de Albuquerque, Sandra Albuquerque Lima Ribeiro, Atilon Vasconcelos de Araujo¹, Renildo Moura da Cunha and Clarice Maia Carvalho. 2018. Antibacterial activity of endophytic fungi isolated from Croton lechleri (Euphorbiaceae). In *Journal of Medicinal Plants Research*. 12(15): 170-178
- Salatino, Antonio, Maria L. Faria Salatino and Giuseppina Negri. 2007. 'Traditional uses, Chemistry and Pharmacology of Croton species (Euphorbiaceae).' in *J. Braz. Chem. Soc.*, Vol. 18, No. 1, 11-33