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# Tragacanth

## DEFINITION

Tragacanth is the dried gummy exudation from *Astragalus gummifer* Labill., or other Asiatic species of *Astragalus* (Fam. Leguminosae).

## IDENTIFICATION

- **A.** Add 1 g to 50 mL of water: it swells and forms a smooth, nearly uniform, stiff, opalescent mucilage free from cellular fragments.

## IMPURITIES

**Change to read:**

- ▲ **LEAD (251), Procedures, Procedure 1** ▲ (CN 1-JUN-2023) : NMT 10 ppm

## SPECIFIC TESTS

- **MICROBIAL ENUMERATION TESTS (61)** and **TESTS FOR SPECIFIED MICROORGANISMS (62)**: It meets the requirements for absence of *Salmonella* species and *Escherichia coli*.

- **BOTANIC CHARACTERISTICS**

**Tragacanth:** It is flattened, lamellated, frequently curved fragments or straight or spirally twisted linear pieces from 0.5 to 2.5 mm in thickness. It is white to weak yellow in color, translucent, and horny in texture. Its fracture is short. It is rendered more easily pulverizable by heating to 50°. It is odorless.

**Histology:** Pieces of Tragacanth softened in water and mounted in water or glycerin show numerous lamellae and a few starch grains.

**Powdered tragacanth:** It is white to yellowish white. When examined in water mounts, it shows numerous angular fragments of mucilage with circular or irregular lamellae, and occasional starch grains up to 25 µm in diameter, mostly simple, spherical to elliptical, with occasional two- to four-compound grains, a few of the grains being swollen and more or less altered. The powder shows few or no fragments of lignified vegetable tissue (Indian gum).

- **KARAYA GUM**

**Sample solution:** 1 g in 20 mL of water

**Analysis:** Boil the *Sample solution* until a mucilage is formed, add 5 mL of hydrochloric acid, and again boil the mixture for 5 min.

**Acceptance criteria:** No pink or red color develops.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **PACKAGING AND STORAGE:** Preserve in well-closed containers.

**Auxiliary Information** - Please [check for your question in the FAQs](#) before contacting USP.

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
TRAGACANTH	<a href="#">Documentary Standards Support</a>	CE2020 Complex Excipients
REFERENCE STANDARD SUPPORT	RS Technical Services <a href="mailto:RSTECH@usp.org">RSTECH@usp.org</a>	CE2020 Complex Excipients

**Chromatographic Database Information:** [Chromatographic Database](#)

**Most Recently Appeared In:**

Pharmacopeial Forum: Volume No. Information currently unavailable

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