

HIBISCUS EXTRACT

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION:



Latin Name: *Hibiscus subdariffa*

Other Names: *Hibiscus subdariffa* var. *altissima*

Family: Malvaceae

CAS No.: 84773-96-2

EINECS No.: 283-920-7

FEMA No.: NA

Method of Isolation: Dried flowers, leaves, and seeds are steeped in cold or hot water.

Odor Description: Tangy.

PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES:

Appearance: dark purple

Specific Gravity: 1.026 @23.5°C

Refractive Index: 1.343 @ 25 °C

Flash Point: >100°C

Melting/Boiling Point: NA

SAFETY DATA:

Nonhazardous

PRICE SCALE:

Low

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN:

China, Sudan, Egypt, and Mexico

THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES

Used to maintain normal blood pressure. Supports upper-respiratory health, alleviates occasional constipation, and promotes proper circulation.

STABILITY:

Stable. Color fades over time.

STORAGE CONDITION:

Keep in a cool area away from heat and light.

HISTORICAL/FOLK TRADITION:

The shrub grows eight feet tall and has beautiful, bright flowers. The generic name is derived from Greek *hibiskos* (which was Dioscorides's name for the marshmallow, *Althea officinalis*). It is the national flower of Haiti, South Korea, and Malaysia. It is also the official flower of the state of Hawaii. If a Hawaiian girl wears the flower behind her left ear, it signals that she is married or engaged, whereas if she wears it behind her right ear, then she is available. The tea is served hot or cold. It is called *karkadeh* in Egypt and is served year-round. It is reputed to be a diuretic that also reduces blood pressure. Several medical studies support the use of hibiscus extracts in reducing blood pressure and maintaining cholesterol levels in patients. See chapter 10.