Golden Leaf Ginkgo biloba Monograph

Related Terms
Ginkgo biloba, Ginkgoaceae (family), Cancer, Irradiation, Skin fibrosis, ribonucleases, and Flavone glycosides. (1)

Reference

Background
The ginkgo tree is one of the oldest types of trees in the world. Ginkgo seeds have been used in traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years, and cooked seeds are occasionally eaten. Extracts are usually taken from the ginkgo leaf and are used to make tablets, capsules, or teas. Occasionally, ginkgo extracts are used in skin products. Ginkgo leaves are light green in the summer and turn to golden yellow in the fall. This monograph will address the unique aspects of golden leaf Ginkgo biloba and make some references to the green leaf extract for comparison.

Scientific Name and Taxonomy
Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgoaceae)
Common names: Maidenhair tree, Japanese Silver Apricot, Yinhsing (yin-hsing)
Synonyms: Salisburia adiantifolia. (1)

Reference

Botanical Description
Ginkgos are large trees, normally reaching a height of 20–35 m (66–115 ft), with some specimens in China being over 50 m (160 ft). The tree has an angular crown and long, somewhat erratic branches, and is usually deep rooted and resistant to wind and snow damage. Young trees are often tall and slender, and sparsely branched; the crown becomes broader as the tree ages. During autumn, the leaves turn a bright yellow, then fall, sometimes within a short space of time (one to 15 days). A combination of resistance to disease, insect-resistant wood and the ability to form aerial roots and sprouts makes Ginkgos long-lived, with some specimens claimed to be more than 2,500 years old. (1)

Reference
(1) Agroforestry Database 4.0, Orwa et al. (2009), World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Retrieved (9, 23, 2015) from the URL: http://www.worldagroforestry.org/treedb/AFTPDFS/Ginkgo_biloba.PDF
Geo-localization

*Ginkgo biloba* is native to China, Japan, Taiwan, and Turkey. (1)

References

(1) *Ginkgo Biloba, L.*
Linnaeus, Carl von
Tropicos® Botanical Garden Database, Missouri Botanical Garden. Published In: Mantissa Plantarum 2: 313–314. 1771

(2) Agroforestry Database 4.0, Orwa et al. (2009), World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF). Retrieved (9, 23, 2015) from the URL: http://www.worldagroforestry.org/treedb/AFTPDFS/Ginkgo_biloba.PDF

Management and Harvesting

Golden leaf Ginkgo leaves are harvested during the peak of the autumn season. Some herbal traditions recommend the use of leaves that are harvested at this later point in the season, when the medicinal properties of the plant are believed to be at their strongest. (1) The golden yellow leaf extract of Ginkgo biloba prepared by Mirko Beljanski, PhD is significantly different from all other green leaf extracts of this plant that one may find on the market.

Reference

(1) *Phenolic compounds and antioxidant activity of extracts of Ginkgo leaves.*

Traditional Use

Historically, the extract of green ginkgo leaves has been used to treat a variety of ailments and conditions, including asthma, bronchitis, fatigue, and tinnitus (ringing or roaring sounds in the ears).

Reference

(1) *Ginkgo*
Subhuti Dharmananda, Ph.D. and Heiner Fruehauf, Ph.D.,
Institute for Traditional Medicine, Portland, Oregon http://www.itmonline.org/arts/ginkgo.htm

No information is available regarding traditional use for the golden yellow Ginkgo biloba leaf extract.

Modern Use

The green leaf extract is best known and used today for its potential to keep memory sharp. Laboratory studies have shown that ginkgo improves blood circulation by opening up blood vessels and making blood less sticky. It is also an antioxidant. (1)

Since the 1980’s, the extract of golden leaf Gingko has been used for as a treatment for post-radiotherapy fibrosis. In human skin, fibrosis caused by radiotherapy contains very active ribonucleases (RNase).
Research shows that golden leaf Gingko normalized to a large extent the excessive RNase activity in an extract of irradiated human skin cells, but did not affect activity of normal human plasma RNase.(2)

References
(1) Health Library
2015
University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), Retrieved 23 Sep 2015.
Published in the Internet: https://umm.edu/health/medical/altmed/herb/ginkgo-biloba

(2) Human Skin Fibrosis RNase Search for a Biological Inhibitor-Regulator
E. Causse, T. Nawrocki, M. Beljanski

Toxicity
A major culprit in allergic reactions to Ginkgo biloba is the component ginkgolic acid, which is a toxin. This component can cause severe allergic reactions, and in the case of the green leaf extract may also increase the risk of cancer when consumed in large amounts, according to eMedTV. Ginkgo supplements should contain less than 5-ppm ginkgolic acid(2). Typical result for Beljanski’s yellow leaf extract is 1.7ppm. (1,2)

References
(1) Ginkgo (Ginkgo Biloba)
2015

(2) Ginkgo
2011
United States Pharmacopoeia Convention (USA 33) Revision Bulletin, Official November 1, 2011

Mechanism of Action
Dr. Beljanski’s demonstrated in several experiments that his original yellow leaf Ginkgo extract acts as a regulator of cell enzymes called ribonucleases. In a healthy cell, the normal function of these enzymes is to trim and finalize the messages copied from the DNA, a process that is essential for the overall health of the human body. In some conditions of extreme physical stress, these enzymes can become deregulated (or disrupted). Ultimately, this can have a damaging effect on the health of cells and bodily tissues. Ginkgo biloba golden leaf extract, through its regulatory or normalizing effect on cellular enzymes, enhances the natural cell repair process and helps the tissues to remain healthy, even when they are exposed to extreme physiological stresses. (1)

Reference
(1) Human Skin Fibrosis RNase Search for a Biological Inhibitor-Regulator
E. Causse, T. Nawrocki, M. Beljanski
Side Effects/Contraindication
Ginkgo appears to be safe when taken by healthy adults by mouth in suggested doses.
With green leaf Ginkgo the most concerning potential complication is bleeding, which has been life-threatening in a small number of reports.\(^{(1)}\)

Reference
\(^{(1)}\) Ginkgo (Ginkgo Biloba)
2015

Allergies and Warnings
As noted above, ginkgolic acids are allergenic, but the level of these acids in commercial Ginkgo extracts is tightly regulated.

Statement of the manufacturer (Natural Source International, Ltd.)
that there are no GMO or BSE/TSE issues.
No GMO/BSE/TSE issues with Beljanski’s Ginkgo \(\text{V}^\circ\) (Natural Source International, Ltd.)

Dosage/Administration
Protocols have been published.\(^{(1)}\)

Reference
\(^{(1)}\) Morton Walker, D.P.M. (2012) *Cancer’s Cause, Cancer’s Cure.* Austin, TX: Hugo House Publishing;

Author Information
This information is based on a systematic review of scientific literature edited and peer-reviewed by contributors to The Beljanski Foundation.