Pao Pereira Monograph

**NB:** This monograph is designed to provide historical background and an overview of past and current scientific research. This information should not be interpreted as medical advice. Consult with a qualified healthcare provider regarding therapies, diagnosis and possible treatment.

**Related Terms**
Alkaloid; Flavopereirine; Geissospermine; PB 100; Beta-Carboline; Produit Beljanski; a Beljanski Product

**Background**
On December 7, 1848, Ezequiel Correa Dos Santos presented his thesis “Monographia do Geissospermum vellosii vulgo Pao Pereira” at the Faculty of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro. This document has come to be regarded as the first official monography on the benefits of Pao pereira.

In 1879 the journal Medical Times (Vol. X p. 276 – Philadelphia) published a two-page article devoted to Pao pereira. After a description of the method for extracting the alkaloid pereirina, Dr. Torres Homem, Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Academy of Rio de Janeiro state, “There is not a doctor in Brazil who has not obtained good results from the use of this bark ....”.

**Reference**
Monographia Do Geissospermum Vellosii Vulgo Pao Pereira
Ezequiel C. Dos Santos
Typographia do Archivo Medico Brasiliero, Faculdade de Medicina do Rio de Janeiro, sustentada em 7 de dezembro de 1848.

**Scientific Name and Taxonomy**
*Geissospermum vellosii* Allemão (Apocynaceae)

**Reference**

**Botanical Description**
A leafy tree, reaching a height of 22m. The trunk is 25cm to 50cm, ranging from light brown to yellow in color. The bark peels off continuously. Lorenzi (2002) reports that this genus produces latex in the fruit and in the extremities of the branches. Numerous bright flowers appear at the apex of these branches. The fruits are elongated berries, fleshy pulp, bitter taste, containing from 5 to 15 seeds.

**References**
Geolocalization
Pao pereira is native to Bolivia, Brazil, French Guyana, Guyana, and Suriname.

References


Management and Harvesting
Pao pereira is a perene specie, which grows spontaneously (1). The seedlings can be obtained directly from seed, requiring no treatment. The shoots emerge from between 30 and 50 days and should be kept in half light, the germination rate is generally above 50 %. (2) The bark naturally sheds and constantly regenerates (3), therefore there is no need to cut the tree to collect the bark.

References
(1) Incidência De Pragas E Doenças Em Agroecossistemas De Café Orgânico De Agricultores Familiares Em Poço Fundo-Mg.
Giênc. agrotec., Lavras, v. 28, n. 6, p. 1306-1313, nov./dez., 2004 - page 1308

(2) Arnivores brasilieras: manual de identificação e cultivo de plantas arbóreas do Brasil.
H. Lorenzi
A description of G.laev bark is found in the first edition of the Brazilian Pharmacopeia.
Associaçao de Amigos do Jardim Botanico

Traditional Use
Considered one of the 10 most useful Brazilian trees in phytomedicine. This plant is part of Brazil's history of natural products because the first alkaloid in the country was isolated from its bark by Ezequiel Corrêa dos Santos, the patron of Brazilian pharmacists. In South America, the bark of Geissospermum laeve (Vell.) Miers either in powder or splinter form, is sold in markets, newsstands and herbal stores as febrifuge to relieve indigestion and stimulate appetite. It is also used as an alternative treatment for malaria.

References
(1) The ten most useful trees genuinely Brazilian medicine
Peckolt G

(2) Pereirina: The first alkaloid isolated in Brazil?
MR Almeida; Lima JA, Santos NP, Pinto AC

(3) Dictionary of useful plants from Brazil and exotic crops.
Pio Corrêa M
Brasilia: Brazilian Institute for Forestry Development - 1984

(4) Antimalarial Remedies In French Guiana: A Knowledge Attitudes And Practices Study.
M. Vigneron, X. Deparis, E. Deharo, G. Bourdy.

Modern Use
In Europe, it has been recommended as a tonic and a febrifuge since 1933. In South America, it is used preventively to reinforce the immune system. In the USA it is distributed as a dietary supplement by Maison Beljanski and statements of nutritional support have been filed with the FDA. There is also recent interest in a possible improvement of memory deficit as well as anti-cancer activity and anti-viral properties.

References
(1) Medicamenta, Guida Teorico-pratica per Sanitari
Dizionario dei Medicamenti 1933, p. 2389.

(2) A Search For Natural Bioactive Compounds In Bolivia Through A Multidisciplinary Approach.
Toxicity
The bark of Geissospermum contains numerous alkaloids\(^{(1)}\), and the extraction process is key to the safety of the extract.\(^{(2)}\) The most important alkaloid isolated from G. laeve is geissospermine. Isolated for the first time by O. Hesse in 1877,\(^{(3)}\) Geissospermine was subjected to acid hydrolysis and yielded cleavage products geissoschizine, apogeissoschizine and geissoschizoline. Geissospermine is considered poisonous by subcutaneous, intravenous, and intraperitoneal routes. Moderately toxic by ingestion.\(^{(4)}\) Geissospermine rich extracts have been used as one of the ingredients of Indian arrow-poisons by native Indian tribes in Brazil.\(^{(5)}\) M. Beljanski was first to extract Flavopereirine from G. Laeve bark.\(^{(6)}\) Beljanski's Flavopereirine-rich extract has a good safety record. Toxicity studies were submitted to the FDA by Natural Source International (Viva) as part of a New Dietary Ingredient notification\(^{(7)}\) and the good tolerance of the product was also demonstrated in preclinical studies\(^{(8)}\), as well as in humans, including immunodeficients.\(^{(9)}\) No public data available from other suppliers.

References
\(^{(1)}\) Isolation And Structural Elucidation Of Indole Alkaloids From Geissospermum Vellosii By Mass Spectrometry
Flaubert Mbeunkui and al.  

\(^{(2)}\) Alkaloids Of Geissospermum Vellosii. Further Studies On Geissospermine And The Structures Of The Indolic Cleavage Products, Geissoschizine And Apogeissoschizine.


(9) Tolerance and Feasibility of a 12-Month Therapy Using the Antiretroviral Agent PB 100 in AIDS-Related, D. Complex Patients
D. Donadio, et al.

Mechanism of Action
Pao pereira exerts three different mechanisms of action:

- It selectively induces apoptosis in destabilized cells.¹
- It also seems able to reduce inflammation.²
- It has anti-viral activity.³

References
(1) B-Carboline Alkaloid-Enriched Extract from the Amazonian Rain Forest Tree Pao Pereira Suppresses Prostate Cancer Cells
Debra L. Bemis, PhD; Jillian L. Capodice, LAc, MS; Manisha Desai, PhD; Aaron E. Katz, MD; Ralph Buttyan, PhD

(2) Pao Pereira Extract Suppresses Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer Cell Growth, Survival And Invasion Through Inhibition Of NfkB Signaling
Cunjie Chang, BS; Wei Zhao, MS, Bingxian Xie, BS; Yongming Deng, BS, Tao Han, BM; Yangyan Cui, BS, Yundong Dai, BS; Zhen Zhang, BS; Jimin Gao, MD, PhD; Hongqian Guo, MD, PhD; and Jun Yan, PhD.

Integrative Cancer Therapies 2013, Vol XX(X) 1–10.

(3) **Tolerance and Feasibility of a 12 Month Therapy Using the Antiretroviral Agent PB100 in AIDS-Related Complex Patients**
D. Donadio, G. Pontello, T Nawrocki, J. E. Causse.

**Possible Interactions**
There are no reports of adverse effects in humans in current literature. High doses (200 mg/kg) of *Pao pereira* extracts have anticholinergic activity and caused convulsions and death in animals. (1)

**References**
(1) **Geissospermum Vellosii Stembark: Anticholinesterase Activity And Improvement Of Scopolamine-Induced Memory Deficits**

**Side Effects/Contraindication**
- Side Effects: none known
- Contraindications: none known
- Interactions:
  - Interactions with Herbs & Supplements: none known
  - Interactions with Drugs: *Pao pereira* offers a synergistic effect that may enhance the effect of chemotherapy and allow for reduced toxicity. (1,2)
  - Interactions with Lab Tests: none known

**References**
(1) **The Plant Extract of Pao Pereira Potentiates Carboplatin Effects Against Ovarian Cancer**
Jun Yu, PhD, Qi Chen, PhD.
ISSN 1388-0209 print/ISSN 1744-5116 – Pharmaceutical Biology.

(2) **Inhibition of Pancreatic Cancer and Potentiation of Gemcitabine Effects by the Extract of Pao Pereira**
Jun Yu, PhD, Jeanne Drisko, PhD. and Qi Chen, PhD.
*Oncology Reports*” (vol.30 n°1, pp 149-156, July 2013 – Doi: 10.3892/or.2013.2461)

**Allergies and Warnings**
Avoid with known allergy or hypersensitivity to *Pao pereira*, its constituents, or other members of the Apocynaceae family
Interaction with food, other drugs or other dietetic products
No known interactions

Statement of the manufacturer that there are no GMO or BSE/TSE issues:
No GMO/BSE/TSE with PAO V® or PAO V “FM”®

Dosage/Administration
Protocols have been published. (1)

Reference

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