



***Paeonia suffruticosa* Andrews**

Paeoniaceae

Korean Name: Mo-ran

English Name: Tree peony

Parts used. Root bark.

Traditional uses. Headache, stomachic, cough, cold, lumbago, antispasmodic.

Description. Coarsely branched, small shrub, 1-1.5 m tall. Leaves alternate, 2-pinnate; leaflets deeply and incisively divided, 3-5 clefted, acute, whitish beneath, with a few hairs along midrib. Flowers large and showy, 10-15 cm across, rose-pink to white; stamens many; carpels 2-6, densely brown-pubescent, at first enveloped by a thin, white lobe of the disc that splits as the follicles develop. Fruit a cluster of horizontally spreading follicles. May.

Habitat. Mostly cultivated in Korea.

Distribution. Bhutan to Tibet, China, long cultivated in Korea and Japan.

Bio-Activities. Diuretic (1), antiviral (2), anticoagulant (3), antiulcer, anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic (4), aldose reductase inhibition (5).

Chemical components. Phenolic compounds (6): paeonol, paeonolide, paeonoside. Monoterpene glycosides (7,8): paeoniflorin, oxypaeoniflorin derivatives. Flavonoids (9).

References.

- (1) Kawashima, K. *et al.* (1985) *Planta Med.* **5**, 1187.
- (2) Takechi, M. *et al.* (1982) *Planta Med.* **45**, 252.
- (3) Ishida, H. *et al.* (1987) *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **35**, 846.
- (4) Harada, M. *et al.* (1972) *Yakugaku Zasshi* **89**, 1205.
- (5) Shimizu, M. *et al.* (1993) *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **41**, 1469.
- (6) Miyazawa, M. *et al.* (1983) *Agr. Biol. Chem.* **47**, 2925.
- (7) Kaneda, M. *et al.* (1972) *Tetrahedron* **28**, 4309.
- (8) Yoshikawa, M. *et al.* (1993) *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **41**, 630.
- (9) Egger, K. and Keil, M. (1969) *Planta* **88**, 154.

Paeonia suffruticosa Andrews