

Tree Sap Helps Heart Disease?

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Life Science—For Real!
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The Sap from a Native Indian Plant - Possible New Drug

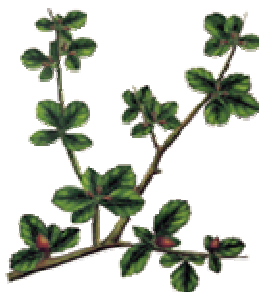
Taxonomy:

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Domain | Eukarya |
| Kingdom | Plant... |
| Species | <i>Commiphora mukul</i> |

The Guggal tree has been widely used in native Indian medicine since around 600 BC. Ayurvedic medicine in India has used the tree to treat various ailments for centuries.

Pharmacologists from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, have found a possible connect to the sap from the tree and new prospects for drugs to treat humans. Studies show the sap can have positive affects in fighting heart disease.

Heart disease is currently the leading cause of death in the United States. Heart disease most often leads to heart attack and is caused by a build of plaque in the arteries around the heart. When the heart cannot get the blood it needs to function because of blockage, it can cause a heart attack. Heart disease can be prevented by a healthy diet, exercise, and regular medical check ups.



Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/>

Scientists extracted the a substance from the sap of the tree and used the chemical structure to produce the new drug.
Image Accessed 06/02/2008
<http://www.unaniherbalist.com/images/cap5.gif>

Vocabulary to Know:

- * Sap—the fluid part of a plant, sometimes thick and sticky
- * Ayurvedic—the ancient Hindu art of medicine
- * Ailments—a body disorder or a chronic disease
- * Pharmacologist—a scientist who works to develop and study drugs to treat and prevent diseases
- * Arteries—a vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body; cardiac arteries are the arties that supply the heart with blood so it can function properly

Window to the World: India

According to the US State Department, India's population in 2007 was estimated at 1.12 billion people. That's about 230 times the size of Houston, and we are 4th in the nation!

India is ancient with a civilization dating back 4000+ years. The people are diverse with varying religions ranging from Bud-

dhist, Hindu, and Sikh to Muslim and Christian.



Accessed 06/02/2008
<http://www.state.gov/rpa/ei/bgn/3454.htm>



India is on the opposite side of the world and is one of the Earth's most populated countries; the 1st = China.
Image Accessed 06/02/2008
http://www.state.gov/cms_images/

