

38010 Aloe, Mosselbay

engl.: aloes
french: aloé

Aloe is the thickened juice from the leaves of various Aloe species. Aloe belongs to the Liliaceae family. It is native to southern Africa, Egypt, India, Mediterranean countries and other countries of this climate. Aloe in commerce is mostly named after its place of origin.

Aloe is extracted by running the juice from the cut leaves and allowing it to dry in the air. An aloe extract can also be made, which is obtained by boiling the dried leaves and allowing the decoction to dry. The extract is considered an inferior product and is used mainly in medicine because of its high content of bitter substances. According to the appearance of the aloe, a rough distinction is made between two varieties, of which, however, there are also mixed forms: the aloe, which mostly comes from Capeland, is shiny due to the fact that it has been dried over the fire. It may melt during prolonged storage if it contains a lot of salt, which is, however, an impurity. The other variety is called "Leberaloe" and has a dull, resinous leathery brown exterior. The one sold under the name "Aloe Mosselbay" is a Kapitaloe, Port Elisabeth is also in South Africa, but further east.

Aloe contains the anthraquinone pigment aloin. Depending on the variety, the percentage of aloin is between 5 and 40 %. There are different aloins, which are given a prefix according to the origin of the aloe variety, e.g. Kapitaloin. Glycosides of aloin, called aloinosides, and aloemodin are also present. If aloe is treated with nitric acid, it is possible to extract chrysamic acid, which when dried presents yellow leaflets and dissolves in boiling water with a red color.

Chrysamic acid is mainly used for dyeing wool and silk. If soda ash is added, unpickled wool can be dyed blue or blue-gray, depending on the concentration of the dye bath. The tone of this blue corresponds approximately to an indigo blue that appears slightly reddish due to Orseille. In leather dyeing, the dye was used for yellowing. Silk can be dyed with chrysamic acid purple to rose red and, with a more dilute dye bath, in the corresponding shades of pink. Although other shades can be achieved with chrysamic acid, the acid is also known as aloe purple. Untreated aloe is readily soluble in warm water and is used to dye yellows and browns, but the colors are not very lightfast. Without mordant salts, wool is dyed dark brown with aloe, and a reddish light brown with alum. Ferrous sulfate gives maroon colors. Post-treatment with potassium bichromate darkens the browns. Since textiles dyed with aloe are not very lightfast, aloe is usually used in combination with other dyes. Solutions of aloe in nitric acid are also used for dyeing wood, which can be dyed yellow or mahogany-like.

Product Data Sheet

Product:	Aloe capensis, powder
Origin:	South Africa
Year of harvest:	2018
Protected species (CITES):	yes
Harvest:	wild gathering
Fertilization:	no
Time of harvest:	April – June
Identity:	complies
Cleaning:	manually
Drying:	drier
Degree of crushing:	ground
Pharmacopoeia:	complies to Ph.Eur. 2.8.13
Pesticides:	complies
Chlorpyrifos and -methyl:	< 0.01 mg/kg
Heavy metals: lead, cadmium, mercury:	tested
Microbiology:	complies to Ph.Eur, herbal medicines, Cat. A
Aflatoxins:	tested
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH):	not tested
Desinfestation with CO ₂ :	yes
Germ reduced:	no
Genetic modification:	no
Treated with ionizing radiation:	no
Temperature:	max. 25°C
Storage:	dry and protected from sunlight