

***Alhagi graecorum* Boiss**
Fabaceae



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■ Morphological Description

It is a deep rooted, rhizomatous, perennial shrub, with roots that can extend six to seven feet into the ground. The spiny, intricately-branched shrub reaches 1.5 to 4 feet in height. The plant, which is greyish green and hairless, has simple, entire leaves that are alternately arranged. The leaf shape is oval to lance-shaped. The small pea-like flowers are pinkish purple to maroon and are borne on short, spine-tipped branches that arise from the leaf axils. The reddish-brown to tan fruits are considered between the seeds, with a short narrow beak at the end.

■ Geographical Distribution

Local: Common in all the phytogeographical regions of the country.

Regional: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Niger and Suddan.

Global: Native to North Africa, Middle East and South East Europe. It is also found in Russia, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

■ Ecology

It occurs mainly in deep moist soil, but also in dry, rocky or saline soils. The plant is abundant along river banks, canals and irrigation ditches, and it sometimes spreads into cultivated fields.

■ Status

It is unpalatable and injurious to some animals.

***Alhagi graecorum* Boiss,**

Alhagi mannifera Jaub. & Spach, *Alhagi maurorum* sensu auct. , *Alhagi tourmefortii* Helder. (Medic)

Names

Arabic: Aqool عاقول- شوك الجمال

English: Cernel thorn, Manna tree, Persian manna plant.

■ Part(s) Used

All plant parts including the roots

■ Preparations:

Decoction

■ Use

Oral, ointment

■ Constituents

The plant contains carbohydrates, flavonoides, sterols, resin, anthraquinones and saponines. All plant parts contain volatile oil except for the roots.

■ Pharmacological Action and Toxicity

The plant grown in wet soil lacks the cardio tonic activity characteristic of the same plant grown in very dry sandy soil. Plant tincture increases the amplitude of beat and the cardiac output is augmented in spite of any slowing that may occur. Injection into a dog lowered the blood pressure.

■ Pharmacopoeia

Not available

■ Phytopharmaceutical Products

Not available

■ Traditional Medicinal Uses

- Analgesic
- Anti-tussive
- Anti haemorrhoides
- Anti-rheumatic
- Aphrodisiac
- Diuretic
- Laxative

Other uses of the plant: Not available

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