



PRODUCT SHEET

Cat's Claw (*Uncaria tomentosa*)

FAMILY : Rubiaceae (Madder family)

Common names: "cat's claw", "vilcacora". **Spanish:** "uña de gato", "deixa", "garabato", "garabato amarillo", "garabato colorado", "garra gavián"; **Peru** "uña de gato"; **Panama** "rangaya". **Portuguese:** "cipo de gato". **Italian:** "artiglio di gatti". **Czech:** "vilcacora". **Polish:** "vilcacora". **Others:** "tua juncara", "bejuco de agua", "jipotatsa", "kug kukjaqui", "michomentis", "samento", "toroñ", "tsachik", "uncucha", "unganangi".

DESCRIPTION: Large climbing or creeping vine, over 40 m long and 20 m tall, near 20 cm diameter. Bark brown, with longitudinal fissures and persistent rhytidome; the inner part fibrous-laminar in texture. Terminal branches quadrangular in cross section, with yellowish-green internal medulla, and glabrous (without hairs), lanceolate small leaves; older branches with a pair of curved-straight thorns, these woody, 8 to 20 mm long, sharp-pointed. Leaves simple, opposite and distichous (one sided), oblong or ovate-elliptic, 7.5 to 17 cm long and 4.3 to 12 cm wide; margin entire, slightly sinuate; apex acute, rarely acuminate; base rounded or cordate; membranous, penninerved, with tiny, delicate hairs, giving the leaf an indument called tomentum. Flowers arranged in racemes or in globose head-like (capitula) cymes. Flowers small, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic (radial symmetry) and sessile. Fruit dry, dehiscent, polysperm, with 2 valves; ellipsoid, ovate-oblong, 5 to 9 mm long and 2 to 6 mm diameter. Seeds fusiform, winged, 2.5 to 4 mm long; wings membranous.

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION: In Peru, *Uncaria tomentosa* grows wild in the Amazon rainforest, at elevations of 300 to 1,000 m, in the valleys of Perené and Paucartambo rivers, highlands of "Cerro de la Sal" y the "Gran Pajonal". Loreto, San Martín, Pasco, Junín, and Madre de Dios.

USED PARTS: Roots, leaves, and bark.

PROPERTIES: contraconceptive, antiarthritic, general anti-inflammatory, antiviral, cytostatic, immunomodulator; against amygdalitis, asthma, many types of cancer (prostate, breast), diabetes, dysentery, stomatitis, gonorrhea, AIDS, tumors, gastric ulcers, prostatitis.

PHYTOCHEMICALS: *Leaves:* quinovic acid glycosides, pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids, isopteropodine, isomitraphylline, dihydrocorynantheine, pteropodine, ryncophylline, uncarine, speciophylline, mitraphylline, isoryncophylline, hirsutine, polyhydroxylated compounds, epicatechin, procyanidins, stigmasterol, and campesterol. *Bark:* oleanolic acid, 5alfa-carboxystrictosidine, sterols, pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids, stigmasterol, campesterol, sitosterol, polyhydroxylated triterpenes, polyphenols, epicatechin, and procyanidins A, B1, B2, B4.