Squill

General Notices

Details for the public consultation of this monograph are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EAG/Panel/Working Party</th>
<th>Herbal and Complimentary Medicines</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Deadline for Comment</td>
<td>31st March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target Publication Date</td>
<td>BP 2021</td>
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<td>(subject to change)</td>
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<td>Notes:</td>
<td>Revised monograph</td>
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<td>Amended the definition, added loss on drying test</td>
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Preparations

Squill Liquid Extract

Squill Oxymel

When Powdered Squill is prescribed or demanded, material complying with the appropriate requirements below shall be dispensed or supplied.

DEFINITION

Squill consists of the bulb of Drimia maritima (L.) Stearn, collected when the foliage and leaves are absent, divested of its dry, outer, membranous coats, cut into transverse slices and dried. It is known in commerce as white squill.

IDENTIFICATION

A. Transverse slices, about 5 to 8 mm thick, occurring as straight or curved triangular pieces about 5 to 50 mm long and 3 to 8 mm wide at mid-point, tapering towards each end, yellowish white, texture horny, somewhat translucent, breaking with an almost glassy fracture when quite dry, but readily absorbing moisture when exposed to the air and becoming tough and flexible; transversely cut surface showing a single row of prominent, vascular bundles near the concave edge and numerous smaller bundles scattered throughout the mesophyll.
B. Epidermis: cells polygonal and axially elongated, 1 to 2 times longer than wide, cuticle thick, stratified; stomata very rare, anomocytic, Appendix XI H, and nearly circular in outline, about 50 to 60 µm in diameter; mesophyll of colourless, thin-walled parenchyma containing very occasional starch granules, many cells containing bundles of acicular crystals of calcium oxalate embedded in mucilage, crystals up to about 1 mm long and about 1 to 15 µm wide; other cells containing sinistrin; vascular bundles collateral, scattered throughout the mesophyll; xylem vessels with spiral and annular wall thickening; trichomes absent.

C. The mucilage contained in the cells of the mesophyll is stained red with alkaline corallin solution but produces no red colour with ruthenium red solution and no purple colour with 0.01M iodine.

TESTS

Acid-insoluble ash

Not more than 1.5%, Appendix XI K, Method I.

Extractive soluble in ethanol (60%)

Not less than 68.0%, Appendix XI B1. Use material that has been dried for 1 hour at 105° and powdered.

Loss on drying

When dried at 100° to 105° for 2 hours, loses not more than 14.0% of its weight. Use 1 g.

STORAGE

Squill should be stored in a dry place.