

Medicinal and Nutritional Potential of *Acacia senegal* (Gum Arabic Tree) in Dhofar, Oman: A Neglected Natural Resource

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the significance of the gum-arabic tree (*Acacia senegal*), locally known as “Tur” (/θur/) in Dhofar, the only region in the Arabian Peninsula where it naturally grows. Its gum, called “Malukh” (/mələx/), holds exceptional medicinal and nutritional value. Traditionally, both the bark and gum have been used to treat wounds, infections, respiratory and digestive disorders, joint pain, kidney failure, and eye diseases. It is also valued for enhancing immunity, fertility, and overall vitality. Secondary products such as camel milk and honey derived from trees’ nectar further contribute to its health benefits. The dark red gum considered the highest quality, is rich in carbohydrates, dietary fiber, and essential minerals like calcium and magnesium. Its solubility, lack of taste or color, and low caloric content make it suitable for therapeutic use, weight management, and cholesterol reduction. Furthermore, it plays a role in skincare, cosmetic products, and pharmaceutical formulations. Despite its proven properties, its use remains largely confined to older generations. This study highlights the urgent need to scientifically document, preserve, and promote this underutilized national resource, recognizing its potential in both medical applications and sustainable economic development.

Keywords: Gum-Arabic, *Acacia Senegal*, Dhofar, Nutritional value, Medical Uses

