

38520 Frangulae Cortex, Alder Buckthorn

engl.: alder buckthorn, black alder tree, owler, Frangula bark
frz.: écorces de bourdaine

Alder buckthorn is a tall deciduous shrub in the family Rhamnaceae and is native in Europa. The bark is dark blackish-brown, with bright lemon-yellow inner dark exposed if cut.

Alder buckthorn contains different anthrachinones, among other emodin and several glycosides of emodin (Frangulin A and B and Glucofrangulin A and B). Alder buckthorn also contain tannins.

Several recipes for dyes state that the bark should be stored for at least one year. Alder buckthorn is suitable for dyeing wool, cotton and silk in hues ranging from yellowish-brown and red-brown. When using alum as mordant, wool can be dyed light brown. Further treatment with potassium carbonate or chrome salts change the color to red brown. Due to the tannin content, alder buckthorn is used to dye silk black.