Species (Family)
*Sanguisorba officinalis* L. (Rosaceae)

Synonym(s)
Garden Burnet, Greater Burnet, Sanguisorba

Part(s) Used
Herb

Pharmacopoeial and Other Monographs
BHP 1983 (G7)
PDR for Herbal Medicines 2nd edition (G36)

Legal Category (Licensed Products)
GSL (Sanguisorba) (G37)

Constituents (G40, G64)
All phytochemical data located refer to the underground plant parts and not to the herb.

Flavonoids
- Flavones, unstable flavonol derivatives.

Saponins
- Ziyu glycosides I and II (major glycosides), pomolic acid as aglycone (not tomentosolic acid as documented in earlier work), sanguisorbin 2.5–4.0%.

Tannins
Numerous compounds (condensed and hydrolysable) have been isolated, including 3,3,4-tri-O-methylellagic acid. (2–6)

Other constituents
- Volatile oil, ascorbic acid (vitamin C) in the fresh plant.

Food Use
Burnet is not used in foods.

Herbal Use
Burnet is stated to possess astringent, antihaemorrhagic, styptic and antihaemorrhoidal properties. It has been used for ulcerative colitis, metrorrhagia, and specifically for acute diarrhoea. (G7, G64)

Dosage
*Dried herb*
- 2–6 g or by infusion three times daily. (G7)

*Liquid extract*
- 2–6 mL (1:1 in 25% alcohol) three times daily. (G7)

*Tincture*
- 2–8 mL (1:5 in 45% alcohol) three times daily. (G7)

Pharmacological Actions

In vitro and animal studies
None documented for burnet. The roots have been reported to contain an antihaemorrhagic principle, 3,3,4-tri-O-methylellagic acid. (2)

Side-effects, Toxicity
None documented.

Contra-indications, Warnings
None documented.

Pregnancy and lactation
In view of the lack of phytochemical, pharmacological and toxicity data, the use of burnet during pregnancy and lactation should be avoided.

Pharmaceutical Comment
The chemistry of burnet herb does not appear to have been studied, although data are available for the underground plant parts. If present in the herb as well as the root, the tannin constituents would support the reputed astringent and antihaemorrhagic actions of burnet. In view of the lack of toxicity data and the possible high tannin content of the herb, excessive use of burnet should be avoided.

References
See also General References G7, G36, G37, G40 and G64.


