



COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

QUERCUS CORTEX

SUMMARY REPORT

1. *Quercus cortex* is the dried bark of young branches of *Quercus robur* (common oak).

The main relevant pharmacologically and toxicologically active component contained in the bark is tannin. Young bark contains 12-16% tannin.

2. *Quercus cortex* is used in four veterinary medicinal products each containing several active ingredients:

A powder for oral administration containing 70% (w/w) cortex quercus pulvis is used for prophylaxis of diarrhoea in cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and chicken. The posology is 15-45 ml of the powder three times a day for cattle and horses, 5-10 ml three times a day for calves, foals, pigs, sheep and 2.5-5 ml powder for 1 kg feed per 10 animals for chicken.

A solution for oral administration containing 5 g (w/w) extractum cortex querci in a 35% alcoholic solution is used for treatment of diarrhoea at doses of 22-30 ml in cattle and horses, 7.5-15 ml in calves, foals, goats, sheep and pigs (depending on size), and 5 ml in 1 l drinking water in chicken.

Two veterinary products for topical use as wound disinfectants contain a tincture (65% (w/w) and 55% (w/w)) of cortex quercus prepared with 70% isopropanol, and are administered as spray (1-3 pump applications and a maximum administration for 1 week) on to the skin or as a solution on to the hooves.

3. Tannins are naturally occurring in many fruits and plants. Therefore it can be concluded that the normal human diet already contains tannin.
4. Tannin is a very large molecule and resorption when passing the digestive tract should therefore normally not take place.

Conclusions and recommendation

Having considered the criteria laid down by the Committee for the inclusion of substances in Annex II of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 and in particular that:

- the main constituents of *Quercus cortex* are considered as normal components of human food,
- *Quercus cortex* is used infrequently and for treatment of individual animals;

the Committee concludes that there is no need to establish maximum residue limits for *Quercus cortex* and recommends its inclusion in Annex II to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 in accordance with the following table:

Pharmacologically active substance(s)	Animal species	Other provisions
<i>Quercus cortex</i>	All food producing species	