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Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco

QUEBRACHO is an evergreen tree. Native to tropical South America (particularly Argentina) it has fragrant yellow flowers.

It is also known as Quebracho bark, Quebracho-blanco, and White quebracho.

Warning – large doses are poisonous. They can cause nausea, vomiting and other side effects.

In Britain this is a prescription only medicine.

Quebracho-blanco is derived from Spanish *quebra* and *hacha* components meaning ‘axe breaks’ and Spanish *blanco* (white) components.

Before it was superseded by black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) the bark was one of the world’s most important sources of tannin and it is still used locally for this purpose.

Medicinally, the bark is employed in the treatment of asthma, fevers and emphysema.