# 37080 Gum Accaroid, powder

engl.: botany bay gum, grass tree gum, black boy gum
french: gomme accroides

CAS No.: 93164-80-8
EINECS: 296-861-7

Gum Accaroides is also called earth gum because of its excellent properties. Another name is gum nutt or nutt gum. It is the resin found on the outside of the bark of Australian grass trees. These trees belong to the genus Xanthorroeaceae. Xanthorroea hastilis yields a yellowish resin, X. australis and X. arborea a reddish one. The yellow resin is traded in larger blocks than the red resin pieces, which are usually only pea-sized. An orange-brown powder is also commercially available. As a bleached resin, gum accaroides is very expensive because a large portion of the resin is lost during bleaching.

The ingredients of gum accaroides include various aromatic compounds: Coumaric acid, cinnamic acid, benzoic acid and esters of the first two acids. The resin consists of coumaric and cinnamic acid esters of xanthoresinotannol, and the yellow coloration of the resin is caused by picric acid and by tannins. The greater the tannin content, the more reddish or brownish the resin.

Both red and yellow resin is soluble in alcohol, ether and acetic acid. Alcohol solutions, or spray varnishes, dry quickly and hard and are therefore popular as shellac or copal substitutes. Mostly, however, only dark or colored lacquer coatings are made with Accaroid resin. Sealing waxes have also been founded on such a varnish base. The light fastness of the varnishes is relatively good, with that of the red varnishes being greater than the fastness of the yellow ones. Rubber Accaroides was also used in the production of metal varnishes (e.g. on brass), in the soap and leather industry and in paper glueing.

**Physical Properties:**

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| Appearance: | reddish powder |
| Matter insoluble in ethanol: | < 10 % |
| Loss on drying: | < 5 % |
| Sieving analysis: | < 200 µm |
| Ashes: | < 2 % |
| Melting point: | decomposition at 115°C |


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