

# Cat's Claw Complex

M1185

Quality is our Passion  
 Passion Flower (*Passiflora incarnata*)

## Cat's Claw Complex: Immune Support & More

Cat's Claw Complex is a unique combination of Cat's Claw bark, Pau d'Arco stem bark and Echinacea root that supports normal immune system function.\*

Cat's Claw is a high-climbing vine, native to the Amazon of South America. It has this common name because of the curved and hooked thorns on the vine that look like the claws of a cat. Cat's Claw is one of the plants exclusively used by the native Asháninka shamans of Peru to eliminate disturbances in the communication between body and spirit.<sup>1</sup> The stem bark of Cat's Claw (*Uncaria tomentosa*) contains a group of important constituents: the pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids.<sup>2</sup> Pau d'Arco has been used traditionally by the Brazilian Indians and its use gradually spread to other parts of South America.<sup>3</sup> Echinacea is a well-known plant, native to the United States.<sup>4</sup> The root of *Echinacea purpurea* was chewed by the Native Americans for therapeutic use.<sup>5\*</sup>

## How Cat's Claw Complex Keeps You Healthy

### Enhances immune system function & promotes healthy response to environmental stresses

Cat's Claw and Pau d'Arco have been used traditionally to support immune system function.<sup>6,7\*</sup>

The root of *Echinacea purpurea* was used by the Native Americans to enhance immune system function.<sup>5</sup> A placebo-controlled trial found that *Echinacea purpurea* root assists the body's immune response by helping with normal phagocytosis.<sup>8</sup> This is a process involving certain white blood cells that engulf and digest foreign particles or cells that might challenge the body. A practical effect is that top quality Echinacea root helps the immune response following stress or sudden changes in weather.\*

### Supports respiratory system health

Cat's Claw, Pau d'Arco and *Echinacea purpurea* root have been used traditionally by indigenous peoples to support respiratory system health.<sup>5-7\*</sup>

### Supports and maintains healthy blood

Pau d'Arco has been used traditionally to support and maintain healthy blood.<sup>7\*</sup>

### Why use top quality Echinacea root?

In the late 19th Century, natural clinicians in the United States noted that "when chewed the root, if of good quality, imparts a persistent tingling sensation".<sup>9</sup> We now know that this tingling sensation is caused by the presence of the plant constituents called alkylamides (pronounced al-kyl-a-mydes). Compared to the aerial parts (flower, leaves, stem), the roots contain the highest amounts of alkylamides.<sup>10,11\*</sup>

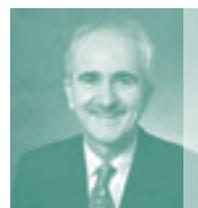
Supplement Facts		
Serving size:	1 tablet	
Servings per container:	90	
Amount per Serving		%DV
Calories	2	
Calcium	40 mg	4%
Cat's Claw inner stem bark 5:1 extract from <i>Uncaria tomentosa</i> inner stem bark 1.5 g	300 mg	†
Pau d'Arco inner stem bark 5:1 extract from <i>Tabebuia avellanedae</i> inner stem bark 500 mg	100 mg	†
Echinacea root 6:1 extract from <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> root 500 mg	83.3 mg	†
† Daily Value (DV) not established.		

Other ingredients: Calcium acid phosphate, cellulose, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, silica and sodium starch glycollate.

**Caution:** Contraindicated in pregnancy and lactation. Contraindicated in patients taking anticoagulant drugs. Contraindicated in known allergy to plants of the daisy family.

Product No	Content
M1185	90 Tablets

Cat's Claw Complex M1185



Associate Professor Kerry Bone  
 MediHerb Co-Founder and  
 Director of Research and Development

### A Phytotherapist's Passion

"Philosopher and teacher Rudolf Steiner once said that, for every human illness, somewhere in the world there exists a plant which is the cure. I believe that there is a healing potential locked inside plants which is integral with their evolution, just as it is part of human evolution to learn to tap this wonderful gift of Nature."

\* These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

Research conducted by international groups strongly suggests that the alkylamides:

- are very important for the immune system effects of Echinacea,<sup>12-14</sup>
- are absorbed into the bloodstream.<sup>15,16\*</sup>

## Why use top quality herbal products from a reliable manufacturer?

Consumers need to be confident of the integrity of the herbal manufacturer to ensure that the correct chemotype is used. (A chemotype is a plant that has a particular profile of chemical constituents. Two plants may be the *same* species, but have *different* chemical profiles.)\*

There are two different chemotypes of *Uncaria tomentosa*, which are likely to have distinctly different effects on the body. The preferred chemotype contains almost exclusively pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids (POAs), while the other contains POAs and significant quantities of tetracyclic oxindole alkaloids (TOAs). Interestingly, the native Asháninka shamans of Peru are said to be able to identify the correct chemotype – they harvest only the chemotype containing mostly POAs. This is despite the fact that the two chemotypes are botanically identical (ie the plants look identical).<sup>1,2\*</sup>

## What Makes Cat's Claw Complex Unique

Cat's Claw Complex is unique in the professional herbal products industry because:

- Top quality organically grown plants are used in the manufacture of the Echinacea component of this tablet
- MediHerb has worked with Echinacea growers to help produce superior quality plants (to ensure high levels of the tingling plant constituents)
- MediHerb helped develop some of the chemical analyses used to regularly test the quantity of alkylamides in Echinacea raw materials
- MediHerb tests the quantity of pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids and for the *presence* of tetracyclic oxindole alkaloids in Cat's Claw raw material
- MediHerb tests the level of pesticides in Echinacea raw material
- MediHerb supports ongoing research and is involved in clinical trials to investigate the effect of Echinacea on the body

## Unique Manufacture & Analytical Testing

### Quality and safety ensured

- Manufactured in Australia to the high standards of international pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice
- Raw materials and finished product are subjected to tough quality standards, including use of the latest and most relevant chemical analysis methods
- Unique extraction method using cold percolation for the Echinacea component of this tablet (this protects the delicate plant constituents, ensuring a full range of constituents)

### References

<sup>1</sup> Keplinger K, Laus G, Wurm M et al. *J Ethnopharmacol* 1999; **64**: 23-34 <sup>2</sup> Laus G, Brossner D, Keplinger K. *Phytochemistry* 1997; **45**(4): 855-860 <sup>3</sup> Jones K. *Pau D'Arco, Immune Power from the Rain Forest*, Healing Arts Press, Vermont, 1995. <sup>4</sup> United States Department of Agriculture PLANTS database, <http://plants.usda.gov>. Accessed July 2007. <sup>5</sup> Moerman DE. *Native American Ethnobotany*. Timber Press, Portland, 1998. <sup>6</sup> Obregón Vilches, Lida E. *Cat's claw: Uncaria genus. Botanical, chemical, and pharmacological studies of Uncaria tomentosa and Uncaria guianensis*. Lima: Instituto de Fitoterapia Americano, 1995. <sup>7</sup> Oswald EH. *Br J Phytother* 1993/94; **3**: 112 <sup>8</sup> Jurcic K, Melchart D, Holzmann M et al. *Z Phytother* 1989; **10**: 67-70 <sup>9</sup> Felter HW, Lloyd JU. *King's American Dispensatory*. 18th Edn, 3rd revision. First published 1905, reprinted Eclectic Medical Publications, Portland, 1983. <sup>10</sup> British Herbal Medicine Association. *British Herbal Compendium*, Vol 2. BHMA, Bournemouth, 2006. <sup>11</sup> American Herbal Pharmacopoeia. *Echinacea purpurea* Root – *Echinacea purpurea* (L) Moench.: Standards of Analysis, Quality Control, and Therapeutic Monograph. American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, Scotts Valley, 2004. <sup>12</sup> Agnew LL, Guffogg SP, Matthias A et al. *J Clin Pharm Ther* 2005; **30**(4): 363-369 <sup>13</sup> Woelkart K, Xu W, Pei Y et al. *Planta Med* 2005; **71**(8): 701-705 <sup>14</sup> Gertsch J, Schoop R, Kuenzle U et al. *FEBS Lett* 2004; **577**(3): 563-569 <sup>15</sup> Matthias A, Addison RS, Penman KG et al. *Life Sci* 2005; **77**(16): 2018-2029 <sup>16</sup> Woelkart K, Koidl C, Grisold A et al. *J Clin Pharmacol* 2005; **45**(6): 683-689



## Quality is our Passion

MediHerb products are developed by experts and leaders in the field of herbal therapy, using scientific evidence and hundreds of years of traditional knowledge.

Kerry Bone and over 20 health care professionals work within MediHerb while still managing their own clinical practices, plus we consult with an advisory board of health care professionals from around the world.

Our products are made using only the highest quality ingredients which are extensively tested for purity and potency. The MediHerb manufacturing plant operates to a strictly regulated pharmaceutical standard and is regularly audited by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (similar to the FDA), the same body that audits conventional pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities. The comprehensive regulations in Australia mean that you receive a safe and effective product that has been manufactured to pharmaceutical standards.

We know from our experience as health care professionals that the quality of a product you take makes a huge difference to the health outcome you experience. We dedicate ourselves to researching and making the best possible products to deliver health solutions that work.



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