



About Iscador AG

We are a pharmaceutical company who manufactures and scientifically researches preparations for integrative cancer treatment. Thereby the focus is always on the human being – either patient, customer, partner or employee.

Our roots go back to the fundamental work on mistletoe pharmacy initiated at the beginning of the 20th century by the physician Ita Wegman and Rudolf Steiner with regard to anthroposophical cancer therapy. In 2015, we transferred the production unit of Hiscia Institute including the high standards of manufacture and research that had grown since 1949. Our experienced staff guarantees continuity and high quality in manufacturing our products.

Our mistletoe preparations are amongst the most frequently used complementary pharmaceuticals in cancer therapy. Our worldwide distribution, training of medical specialists as well as continuous research and development of new products enable us to support physicians and patients all over the world in the integrative treatment of cancer.

PF_Fly_BioPharmko_CH_DE_en_2.0_01.2020

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Mistletoe – a medicinal plant

Biology and pharmacology



Mistletoe was already used by doctors in Ancient Greece as a medicinal plant. To the Celtic Druids, the oak mistletoe was even known as having the «cure-all».

Mistletoe belonged to every healer's treasury of remedies for hundreds of years. Specifically in the case of cancer, however, mistletoe was first applied in 1917 when Rudolf Steiner recommended to the physician Ita Wegman to treat cancer patients with a mistletoe compound. He had been able to derive the relative potential among other from the botanic and pharmacological features of the mistletoe.



Dependent and emancipated

The most important feature is that mistletoe does not develop any roots and depends on its host tree for nutrition. In addition, the leaves of the mistletoe do not have the usual structures for optimal photosynthesis. Each mistletoe is thus characterised by its host tree without it could not even exist.

The generative development displayed in the formation of flowers and fruits is characteristic in the development of the mistletoe bush. Due to the special way of development, mistletoe accumulates special substances and strengths. In winter, mistletoe serves as an attractive source of nutrition for insects as well as certain bird species who in turn pollinate and disseminate the mistletoe.

In June, the young mistletoe twigs emancipate themselves through autonomous movements from the usual vertical orientation common in higher plants and give the bush its typical round shape. Once the tree becomes dormant in December, the green mistletoe bush becomes free of its influences to a large extent.



Poisonous substances instead of growth

The formation of the shoot is heavily inhibited in the mistletoe and the development of its typical twigs is enormously slowed down. Each twig merely consists of a stalk with a pair of leaves as well as a short shoot where the blossoms will open in the following winter and its mock berries will ripen in the late autumn. The mistletoe's tendency to form most of its organs differently than is common for higher plants is the basis for its special pharmacological characteristics. The forming power that flowering plants usually use for root growth or to become woody (lignify) are used by the mistletoe to form so-called mistletoe lectins. And, instead of unfolding a wealth of leaves, it forms the so-called viscotoxins. These two poisonous substances display regular polarities. The mistletoe lectins thus attain their highest concentration in the winter and in the centre of the bush as opposed to the viscotoxins that have their highest concentration on the periphery of the mistletoe bush and in the summer.

Leading the way for pharmaceutical

The special botanical characteristics of the mistletoe were not only the starting point for Rudolf Steiner in recognising its cancer-specific potential but also led the way to shaping anthroposophic mistletoe pharmaceuticals.