



**PRAKRUTI**  
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## BLACK PEPPER (*PIPER NIGRUM*)



The black pepper (*Piper nigrum L*) vine and its extracts have been used as a folk medicine in a variety of cultures and are the source of the most commonly used spice worldwide. The chemical piperine is a major bioactive component present in black pepper (and white pepper as well) that has numerous reported physiological and drug-like actions. The scientific literature provides evidence that black pepper may have health benefits, particularly in enhancing digestive tract function <sup>[1]</sup>.



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**Phytoconstituents:** Black pepper constituents include fiber, essential oils, piperine, eugenol, the enzyme lipase, and minerals. Essential oil components include  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  pinene, limonene, and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene [2].

**Medicinal uses:** Pepper is described as a drug which increases digestive power, improves appetite, cures cold, cough, diseases of the throat, intermittent fever, colic, dysentery, worms and piles. It stimulates circulatory system. It possesses a broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity. Analgesic (alleviate pain), antipyretic (reduces fever) and anti-inflammatory actions are described, with piperine having been shown to be one of the active compounds in such cases [3].

<b>Botanical/ Scientific name</b>	<i>Piper nigrum L</i>
<b>Identification</b>	TLC
<b>Heavy metal</b>	Not more than 20 ppm
<b>Arsenic</b>	Not more than 1 ppm
<b>Lead</b>	Not more than 3 ppm
<b>Microbiological profile</b>	As per JPN Food Regulation

**Grades Available:** 95% piperine

**Specification:**

#### References:

1. Majeed D, Prakash L. The medicinal uses of pepper. Int Pepper News. 2000;1:23Y31.
2. Musenga A, Mandrioli R, Ferranti A, D'Orazio G, Fanali S, Raggi M. Analysis of aromatic and terpenic constituents of pepper extracts by capillary electrochromatography. J Sep Sci. 2007;30:612Y619.



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3. Damanhoury ZA, Ahmad A (2014) A Review on Therapeutic Potential of *Piper nigrum L.* (Black Pepper): The King of Spices. Med Aromat Plants 3: 161.