



Edition: BP 2025 (Ph. Eur. 11.6 update)

## Tar

### [General Notices](#)

#### Action and use

Used in treatment of psoriasis.

### DEFINITION

Tar is bituminous liquid obtained from the wood of various trees of the family Pinaceae by destructive distillation and is known in commerce as Stockholm Tar.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Dark brown or nearly black, semi-liquid; denser than water.

Soluble in [ethanol](#) (90%), in [ether](#) and in fixed and volatile oils.

### IDENTIFICATION

- A. The aqueous liquid obtained by shaking 1 g with 20 mL of [water](#) for 5 minutes is acidic to [litmus paper](#).
- B. Carefully add 0.5 g to 10 mL of [petroleum spirit](#) (*boiling range, 40° to 60°*) and allow to stand for 30 minutes. When examined in daylight no fluorescence is produced.