



## Strix® - For Improved (Night) Vision and Tired Eyes

Fact Sheet for Health Professionals (rev. 2019-10)

**COMPOSITION** ACTIVE INGREDIENTS: Bilberry extract (*vaccinium myrtillus fructus*) 80 mg, standardized to contain 25% anthocyanosides (20 mg) calculated as anthocyanidins, in an all-natural base of Bilberry concentrate, Betacaroten.

**INDICATIONS** For poor night vision, visual fatigue, capillary fragility.

**DOSAGE FORM** Tablets

**CONTRAINDICATIONS** None known

**TOXICITY/SIDE EFFECTS** None known

**SUGGESTED USAGE** 2 tablets daily, or as recommended by a physician or healthcare practitioner.

**AVAILABILITY** 60 tablets, packed in blisters for convenience and product protection.

**BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS** Bilberry has shown to help improve night vision, relieve visual fatigue and protect the eye against glaucoma, cataracts and macular degeneration, as well as other circulatory-related conditions.

The active constituents of the bilberry fruit have been identified as anthocyanidin glycosides, commonly called anthocyanosides. (For analytical purposes, the anthocyanosides content usually is expressed in terms of anthocyanidin. An anthocyanidin content of 25% is equal to 37% anthocyanosides). These anthocyanosides are bioflavonoids responsible for the red to blue colors in many berries and flowers. By using GLC-MS and HPLC technique, it has become possible to produce highly standardized extracts.

Anthocyanosides have the ability to crosslink collagen fibers, thus strengthening the collagen matrix and decreasing the permeability of capillary walls, thereby reducing and preventing capillary leakage. For this reason bilberry can be effective in protecting the eyes against glaucoma, cataracts and macular degeneration, which are caused by the breakdown of collagen in the capillary walls and other tissues in the eyes, and by "leaky" blood vessels in the macular region of the eye.

**PRODUCT HISTORY** Bilberry is the European version of the blueberry, known scientifically as *Vaccinium myrtillus*. It has a long tradition as a herbal remedy and a nutritious food.

The most notable discovery leading to the contemporary use of bilberry for the eyes occurred during World War II, when the British RAF pilots found that using bilberry jam before their night missions improved their dark adaptation and their visual acuity

In the last 30 years, researchers have found bilberry extract to be an impressive microcirculation enhancer. It helps strengthen the capillaries, and it decreases the permeability of blood vessels. It also acts as a powerful anti-oxidant, improving the flexibility of cell membranes and inhibiting damage to the eyes caused by free radicals. Bilberry furthermore aids the eye's adaptation to darkness by accelerating the regeneration of visual purple.



The very first clinical study for the use of bilberry in ophthalmology was conducted in 1964 (Jayle and Aubert). It showed a marked improvement in the retinal adaptation curve in healthy subjects. Several studies in France involving air traffic controllers, helicopter pilots and night drivers also demonstrated a clear improvement in night vision. Other double-blind clinical studies show that anthocyanosides significantly improve visual disorders by reducing myodesopsia, photopsia and visual fatigue.

Bilberry has become one of the most common herbal pharmaceuticals in Europe, due to its efficacy and complete safety.

In the United States STRIX® (the Latin name for OWL) is available as a dietary supplement, providing the highest quality of standardized bilberry extract from selected Swedish bilberries.

**STORAGE** Store at or below 20° C in sealed containers in a dry place.

**DISCLAIMER:** *The information presented is intended for educational purposes for health professionals and practitioners. It is obtained from published research and books. It is not intended to be prescriptive, nor replace the care of a licensed health professional in the diagnosis and treatment of illness.*

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