



Abrus precatorius L.

Family: Fabaceae

Common Names: **S:** *Gunja* **E:** Crab's eye, Indian liquorice, Jequirity, Wild liquorice **H:** *Guncaci, Gunci, Ratti* **M:** *Dhorgunj* (Latur) *Gunj* **T:** *Erragurivinda, Gurivinda, Guruginja* (East Godavari)

Description: A perennial climber, it has pinnately compound leaves and bright red seeds with a black patch on one side of each seed.

Phenology: Flowers in winter; fruits ripen in summer.

Source: Wild; in secondary forests, scrub jungles and, occasionally, on field bunds.

Distribution: Common in forest tracts of India and Burma, ascending in the outer Himalayas. A seashore species in the Indian archipelago, it is cosmopolitan in the tropics and is found throughout India, on hedges and bushes in exposed areas.

Propagation: By seeds.

Biological Properties: (6).

Dried Leaf: Anti-spasmodic.

Dried Seed: Anthelmintic, anti-diarrhoeal, inhibits intestinal motility.

Fresh Root: Anti-convulsant.

Seed: Anti-bacterial, anti-spasmodic, insecticide.

Ayurvedic Reportage: (7).

Leaf: Alexiteric, astringent, diuretic, emetic, sweet.

Root: Abortifacient, alexiteric, anthelmintic, anti-septic, astringent, diuretic, emetic, sweet.

Seed: Abortifacient, acrid, aphrodisiac, astringent, bitter, febrifuge, purgative, toxic, trichogenous.

Veterinary Uses

East Godavari: For acute colic (root); colic (leaves); ephemeral fever (root); fowl pox (leaves); skin allergy (leaves, root) (12, 19).

Latur: For diarrhoea (leaves, root) (15); haematuria (leaves); wounds (leaves) (4, 15).

Ratnagiri: For snake bite (leaves).

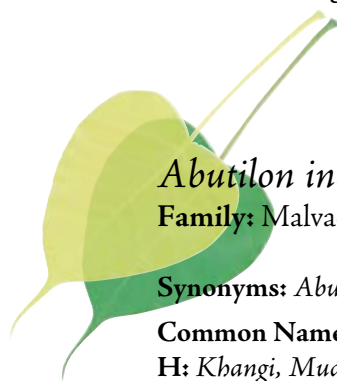
References for Human Use

For acute colic (root); colic (leaves) (3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 21); diarrhoea (leaves, root) (21); haematuria (leaves) (4); skin allergy (leaves, root) (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 17); snake bite (leaves) (17); wounds (leaves) (3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 17, 22).



Remarks

The seeds are poisonous. Roots are occasionally used as a substitute for or to adulterate genuine liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*). Leaves have a taste-distorting factor which makes them taste sweet when chewed. These leaves are used in *paan*. Seeds stuck on honey and wax-rolled into a ball are used as a toy for infants. Traditionally, the seed (*ratti*) was used to weigh gold, pearls and precious stones.



Abutilon indicum (L.) Sweet

Family: Malvaceae

Synonyms: *Abutilon asiaticum* (L.); *Sida indica* L.

Common Names: **S:** *Atibala* **E:** Country mallow, Indian abutilon
H: *Khangi, Mudra* **M:** *Petari* **T:** *Botla benda* (Medak), *Duvvenaku* (Visakhapatnam), *Perum tutti, Ponnai thutti, Sunnam botlu kada* (East Godavari), *Thuttli*

Description: A medium-sized herb or under-shrub with cordate leaves and bright yellow flowers.

Phenology: Flowers and fruits almost throughout the year.

Source: Wild; in village environment and on field bunds.

Distribution: Throughout peninsular India, especially in the warmer parts.

Propagation: A vigorous plant which could be propagated through seeds.



Biological Properties: (6).

Dried Entire Plant: Analgesic, anti-bacterial, anti-spasmodic.

Dried Root: Anti-bacterial.

Leaf: Anti-fungal, ecboic.

Ayurvedic Reportage: (8).

Bark: Astringent, diuretic.

Infusion of Leaf or Root: Demulcent, diuretic.

Leaf: Demulcent.

Seed: Expectorant, laxative.

Veterinary Uses

East Godavari: For ephemeral fever (root).

Latur: For bloat (leaves); diarrhoea (leaves) (15); dysentery (leaves).

Medak: For haematuria (stem bark, root) (15).

References for Human Use

For diarrhoea (leaves) (2, 4, 14, 15, 17, 24); dysentery (leaves) (14, 26, 27); ephemeral fever (root) (2, 3, 6); haematuria (stem bark, root) (3, 5, 8).

Fodder

This plant is important as fodder during early monsoon when it is tender. Goats and sheep graze upon the leaves, fruits and pods at the young stage. It is highly palatable and gives strength. Goats, sheep, cows, bullocks, buffaloes, etc., relish this fodder; it is especially good for increasing milk yield and blood count, is nutritious and good for health. It is not readily eaten when mature. Since this is also a medicinal plant, animals that feed on it generally do not suffer from digestive disorders.

Remarks

Fruits are dipped in lime water (CaCO₃) for drawing designs on mud walls of adivasi houses in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. Leaves are used for treating dysmenorrhoea in women.



Acacia catechu (L. f.) Willd.

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonyms: *Acacia polyacantha* Willd.; *Mimosa catechu* L. f.

Common Names: **S:** *Khadirah* **E:** Cutch tree **H:** *Khair* **M:** *Khair*

T: *Podalimanu*

Description: A medium-sized deciduous tree with distinct hooked stipular spines having a broad base. The young shoots are purplish brown. Flowers are in axillary spikes; pods are thin, flat and brown.

Phenology: Flowers appear at the beginning of monsoon; fruits in winter.

Source: Wild. It is found in forests, scrub jungles and field bunds. It can be grown in watershed areas.

Distribution: Sub-Himalayan tract from the Indus eastwards, ascending in the valleys, it is generally gregarious on islands and on

the banks of rivers when they enter the plains. It is common on the Aravali Hills and in the peninsula.

Propagation: By seeds.



Biological Properties: (10).

Bark: Astringent.

Stem: Anti-septic, anti-viral, spasmolytic.

Wood: Anti-inflammatory.

Ayurvedic Reportage: (7).

Catechu / Gum: Acrid, anthelmintic, aphrodisiac, appetiser, bitter, depurative, digestive, thermogenic, tonic, vulnerary.

Heartwood: Acrid, anthelmintic, anti-dysenteric, anti-inflammatory, anti-pyretic, anti-septic, appetiser, astringent, bitter, cooling, depurative, haematinic, haemostatic, tonic.

Veterinary Uses

Latur: For diarrhoea (resin) (15, 19).

Ratnagiri: For dysentery (resin) (1, 10, 15, 19, 31).

References for Human Use

For diarrhoea (resin) (2, 9, 11, 14, 17, 30, 35); dysentery (resin) (9, 11, 14, 17, 30, 35).

Fodder

Goats, sheep and cattle browse on its tender leaves which are available from May to November. Leaves have moderate palatability and are considered excellent fodder for goats. Leaves are also occasionally cut and fed.

Remarks

The wood is hard, heavy, durable and excellent for building and specific carpentry work, like hubs of bullock cart wheels. It is almost red with a brown tinge and takes a fine polish. It is also useful as fuel. The chips of the heartwood yield 'kat' or catechu, when boiled in water, strained and evaporated. Wounds in the stem also yield gum.



Acacia farnesiana (L.) Willd.

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonym: *Mimosa farnesiana* L.

Common Names: **S:** *Arimedah* **E:** Cassie flower, Fragrant acacia, Sweet acacia **H:** *Gandh babul, Vilayati babul* **M:** *Dev babhul*

T: *Kasturi tumma*

Description: A large spiny shrub with slender grey branches. The flowers are in yellow, sweetly-scented globose heads similar to *babhul* flowers.

Phenology: Flowers in winter; fruits ripen at the beginning of monsoon.

Source: Wild in village environs, wastelands and field bunds.

Distribution: In India south of the Himalayas; indigenous to America but naturalised throughout India and Burma.

Propagation: By seeds.

Biological Properties: NA.

Ayurvedic Reportage: (8, 9).

Bark: Astringent.

Flower: Stimulating.

Pod: Alterative, astringent.

Veterinary Uses

Latur: For colic (kernel pods); diarrhoea (leaves).

Fodder

Goats browse on these leaves, though it is not a very important fodder species.

Remarks

Flowers were used earlier for scent and perfumery. Gum exuding from the bark is a good substitute for Gum Arabic.