

Pradyumn Kumar

Agro's Dictionary of
Medicinal Plants

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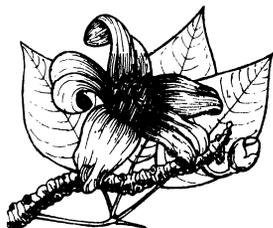
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Preface

World is endowed with a rich wealth of medicinal plants. The variety and sheer number of plants with therapeutic properties is quite astonishing. It is estimated that around 70,000 plant species, from lichens to towering trees, have been used at one time or another for medicinal purposes. The herbs provide the starting material for the isolation or synthesis of conventional drugs. In India, medicinal plants have made a good contribution to the development of ancient Indian Material Medica. During the past one century there has been a rapid extension of the allopathic system of medical treatment in India. It generated commercial demand for pharmacopoeial drugs and their products in India. Efforts have been made to introduce many of these drug plants to farmers. Several research institutes have undertaken studies on the cultivation practices of medicinal plants, which were found suitable and remunerative for commercial cultivation.

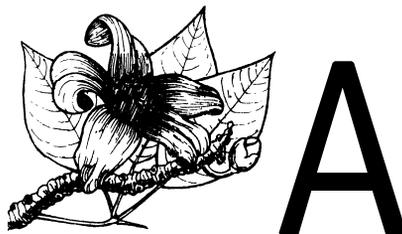
The publication of Agro's Dictionary of Medicinal Plants marks the birth of treatise covering about 4000 plants at one place. The major objective of launching this publication is not to replace other authoritative dictionaries/glossaries but to highlight the economic uses of medicinal plants along with their vernacular names.

Medicinal plants have curative properties due to the presence of various complex chemical substances of different composition, which are found as secondary plant metabolites in one or more parts of these plants. These plant metabolites, according to their composition, are grouped as alkaloids, glycosides, corticosteroids, essential oils, etc. During the past decade, a dramatic increase in exports of medicinal plants attests to worldwide interest in these products as well as in traditional health systems. In the last 10 years, for example, India's exports of medicinal plants have trebled. The pharmaceutical industries have made massive investment on pharmacological, clinical and chemical researches all over the world in past five decades. Efforts have been made to discover still more potent plant drugs. In fact, a few new drug plants have successfully been passed the tests of commercial screening. The benefits of these efforts would reach to the masses in future if farmers initiates commercial cultivation of medicinal plants. In fact, agricultural studies on medicinal plants, by its very nature, demand an equally large investment and higher priority. India, in particular, has a big scope for the development of pharmaceutical and phytochemical industry.

We hope that such wide-ranging coverage of medicinal plants will certainly benefit growers, pharmaceutical and ayurvedic herbal companies, extractors, exporters, importers, large and small-scale organic cultivators, seed production companies, farmers, nursery men, scientists of various research institutes, consultants, planters associations, herbal hospitals, etc.

We acknowledge our thanks to various sources from where the text material and resources have been used. We also thank to Dr. S. S. Purohit, Ex Head of the Botany Department and now associated with of Agrobios (India) for help in various ways.

Authors

***Abelmoschus esculentus* L. Moench****Family:** Malvaceae**Synonyms:** *Hibiscus esculentus* Linn.**Vernacular Name:** *San:* Bendakaya; *Eng:* Lady's finger, Okra; *Hin:* Bhindi-tori; *Kan:* Bendekayi and *Mal:* Venta.**Uses:** Fruits: nutritious, demulcent, emollient, diuretic; a mucilaginous preparation used as a plasma replacement; decoction of immature capsules as aodyne, demulcent, diuretic, anticatarrhal and useful in dysentery, ardor urinae, dysuria and gonorrhoea; **Seeds:** stimulant, antispasmodic; infusion of roasted seeds sudorific.***Abelmoschus ficuleus* Wight & Arn.****Family:** Malvaceae**Synonyms:** *Hibiscus ficulneus* Linn.**Vernacular name:** *Eng:* White wild musk mallow; *Hin:* Ran bhendi; *Beng:* Ban-dheras, jangli bhindi; *Tel:* Parupu-benda, nella-benda; *Tam:* Kathivendai; *Pun:* Dula, deola, kapasaya**Uses:** Fruits richer in vitamin C than those of *A. esculentus*. Aromatic seeds used for perfuming coffee; farnesol and ambrettolide present in the volatile oil.***Abelmoschus manihot* (L.) Medic.****Family:** Malvaceae**Synonyms:** *Hibiscus manihot* Linn; *Hibiscus pungens* Roxb.**Vernacular name:** *Guj:* Kantalo bhendo; *Mar:* Jangali bhendi; *Mah:* Ran bhendi; *Assam:* Usipak**Uses:** Seeds yield fatty oil. Leaves cooked and eaten. Bark emmenagogue.***Abelmoschus moschatus* L.****Family:** Malvaceae**Synonyms:** *Hibiscus abelmoschus* Linn.**Vernacular Name:** *San:* Latakasturika; *Eng:* Musk mallow; *Hin:* Latakasturi, Maskdana; *Kan:* Kadukasturi; *Mal:* Latakasturi, Kattukasturi, Kasturiventa; *Tam:* Vettrilaikkasturi, Kattukkasturi; *Tel:* Kasturibendavittu.**Uses:** **Seeds:** aphrodisiac, antispasmodic, carminative, demulcent, diuretic, stomachic and tonic; used as an inhalation in hoarseness and dryness of the throat; rubbed to a paste with milk known to cure scabies; infusion or decoction useful in nervous disorders and in hysteria; **leaves** and **root:** efficacious in gonorrhoea and venereal diseases.***Abies alba* Mill****Family:** Pinaceae**Synonyms:** *Abies pectinata* DC., *Pinus picea* L., *Pinus pectinata* Lem.**Vernacular Name:** Silver fir**Uses:** The timber from this tree is especially sought after for its lightness and for its bark, which provides very good extracts for tanning. The resin, obtained by tapping the bark, is used to make the turpentine known as Strasbourg turpentine. Essential oils from the buds are used to give many bath products their familiar pine scent.***Abies balsamea*****Family:** Pinaceae**Vernacular Name:** *Eng:* Balsam fir.**Uses:** Balsam fir is antiseptic and stimulant, and has been used in North America and Europe for catarrh, chest infections such as bronchitis, and urinary tract conditions such as cystitis and frequent urination. Externally, balsam fir was rubbed on the chest or applied as a plaster for respiratory infections. It is little used in herbal medicine today.***Abies spectabilis* (D. Don) Spach syn.****Family:** Pinaceae

Synonyms: *Abies webbiana* Lindl.

Vernacular name: *Eng:* East Himalayan Silver Fir; *Nepal:* Gobra salla; *Bhutia:* Dumshing.

Uses: Leaves (Talispatra) considered carminative, used for cough and phthisis. A purple or violet dye extracted from the cones. Trees yield a white resin.

***Abroma augusta* L. F.**

Family: Sterculiaceae

Synonyms: *Ambroma augusta* Linn. F.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Pivari, Pisacakarpara, Yosini; *Eng:* Devil's Cotton; *Hin:* Ulatkambal; *Beng:* Ulatkambal; *Kan:* Divvahatti, melpundigida; *Tam:* Sivapputtutti.

Uses: The root and bark of Pivari are uterine tonic and emmenagogue. They contract the uterus and are used for treatment of congestive and nervous dysmenorrhoea, amenorrhoea, sterility and other menstrual disorders. Powdered root act as an abortifacient and anti-fertility agent. Leaves useful in treating uterine disorders, diabetes, rheumatic pain of joints, and headache with sinusitis. Leaves and stem are demulcent and an infusion of fresh leaves and stems in cold water is very efficacious in gonorrhoea.

***Abrus precatorius* L.**

Family: Fabaceae

Vernacular Name: *San:* Gunja; *Eng:* Jequirity, Indian liquorice; *Hin:* Ghugachi, Chirami, Ratti, Guncaci; *Kan:* Guruguni; *Mal:* Kunni; *Tam:* Kuntumani; *Tel:* Guruginja.

Uses: *Seeds:* purgative, emetic, tonic, antiphlogistic, aphrodisiac and used in nervous disorders; abortifacient; paste as local application in stiffness of shoulder joints, sciatica and paralysis; *leaves:* decoction used for cough, cold colic pain; fresh juice mixed with a bland oil applied to painful swelling, in leucoderma (admixed with *Plumbago zeylanica* root) and in biliousness, itching and other skin diseases; *root:* tonic diuretic emetic, alexeteric; used in preparation for gonorrhoea, jaundice, haemoglobinuric bile. Leaves and root also used as substitute for liquorice in cataral affections and cough.

***Abutilon hirtum* (Lam.) Sweet**

Family: Malvaceae

Synonyms: *Abutilon graveolens*.

Vernacular Name: *Hin:* Barakanghi; *Beng:* Kanghani, jhanpi and *Kan:* Haktuti.

Uses: *Seeds:* in piles; laxative, expectorant; in chronic cyatitis, gleet and gonorrhoea; *leaves:* demulcent, locally applied applied to boils and ulcers

and as a fomentation to painful parts of the body; decoction used in toothache and tender gums; given internally for inflammation of bladder; infusion leaves or *root:* demulcent and diuretic; prescribed in fever, chest affection, and urethritis; *bark:* astringent and diuretic.

***Abutilon indicum* L. Sweet.**

Family: Malvaceae

Synonyms: *Abutilon asiaticum* (L.) Sw.; *Sida guineensis* Schumach.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Atibala; *Eng:* Country mallow; *Hin:* Kanghi; *Beng:* Petari; *Tam:* Perum tutti; *Tel:* ; *Kan:* Tutti and *Mal:* Velluram.

Uses: *Seeds:* in piles; laxative, expectorant; in chronic cyatitis, gleet and gonorrhoea; *leaves:* demulcent, locally applied applied to boils and ulcers and as a fomentation to painful parts of the body; decoction used in toothache and tender gums; given internally for inflammation of bladder; infusion leaves or *root:* demulcent and diuretic; prescribed in fever, chest affection, and urethritis; *bark:* astringent and diuretic.

***Abutilon theophrastii* Medic**

Family: Malvaceae

Synonyms: *Abutilon avicennae* Gaertn.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Jaya; *Eng:* Indian mallow, China Jute and *Beng:* Jaya.

Uses: *Seeds:* laxative demulcent and useful in coryza; decoction given in dysentery, fistula and eye sore; *leaves:* demulcent; juice antipyretic; decoction applied in toothache; both leaves and seeds are valued in the treatment of gonorrhoea and urinary; *root:* decoction efficacious in cutaneous affections.

***Acacia catechu* L. F. Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonyms: *Acacia wallichiana*.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Khadirah; *Eng:* Cutch tree; *Hin:* Katha, Khair, Khaira; *Kan:* Kalu; *Mal:* Karinali; *Tam:* Karunkali; *Tel:* Podalimanu.

Uses: *Bark:* astringent, useful in passive diarrhoea either alone or in combination with cinnamon or opium, decoction given internally in leprosy; heartwood: the concentrated aqueous extract known as khayer gum or leprosy; cutch is astringent, cooling and digestive, beneficial in cough and diarrhoea, applied externally to ulcers, boils and eruptions of the skin.

***Acacia concinna* DC.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular name: *Hin:* Kochi, ritha; *Beng:* Ban-ritha; *Mar:* Shikakai; *Guj:* Chikakai; *Tel:* Shikaya; *Tam:* Shikai; *Kan:* Sige; *Mal:* Chikaka.

Uses: Tender acidic leaves used in chutneys. Pods, known as *Shikai* or *Shikakai* used as a detergent. Decoction of pods purgative, relieves biliousness. Seeds roasted and eaten.

***Acacia dealbata* Link**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Silver Wattle

Uses: Flowers used for the preparation of Mimosa perfume, which resembles Ylang-Ylang, though slightly coarse. Tree yields a gum, resembling gum Arabic, used in bronchial troubles.

***Acacia decurrens* Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Green wattle, Common wattle; *Tam:* Seemai velam pattai.

Uses: Seeds yield fatty oil; iodine value compares favourably with that of well-known drying oils. Decoction of bark used in dysentery.

***Acacia farnesiana* L. Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular Name: *San:* Vitkhadira; *Eng:* Cassie flower; *Hin:* Gandh babul, Vilayati kikar; *Beng:* Guye babul; *Tam:* ladivel, Kadivel; *Tel:* Kasturi tuma.

Uses: Decoction of the bark together with ginger is an astringent wash for the teeth, and so it is useful in the bleeding of the gums etc. Tender leaves are bruised with a little water and swallowed in gonorrhoea. Pods of the round yellow heads constitute the cassia flowers, which when distilled yield a delicious perfume. Oil is employed as an adjunct to aphrodisiacs is spermatorrhoea.

***Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonyms: *Acacia alba* Willd.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Arimedah; *Eng:* White babool, Distiller's acacia; *Hin:* Safed babul, Sarb ki kikar; *Kan:* Bilijali; *Mal:* Velvelam, Velvelakam; *Tam:* Velvelam, Pattaicarayamaram; *Tel:* Tallatamma.

Uses: The bark is astringent, bitter, thermogenic, styptic, alexeteric, anthelmintic, vulnerary, demulcent, constipating, expectorant and antipyretic, vulnerary, demulcent, constipating, bronchitis, cough, vomiting. Wounds, ulcers, diarrhoea, dysentery, internal and external haemorrhages, dental caries, oral

ulcers, proctoptosis, stomatitis and intermittent fevers.

***Acacia nilotica* Delile**

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonyms: *Acacia arabica* Willd.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Babbula; *Eng:* Indian gum Arabic tree; *Hin:* Babul; *Beng:* Babla; *Tam:* Karuvael; *Tel:* Nallatamma and *Mal:* Kruvelum.

Flowers during summer and fruits during winter.

Uses: Pods: decoction beneficial in urinogenital diseases; **leaves:** infusion of tender leaves used as an astringent and remedy for diarrhoea and dysentery; **bark:** decoction used as a gargle in sore throat and toothache; dry powder applied externally in ulcers; **gum:** astringent and styptic.

***Acacia pennata* Willd**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular name: *Hin:* Aila; *Mar:* Shembi; *Mal:* Kareencha.

Uses: Fruit pulp pesticidal. Decoction of leaves used as a febrifuge.

***Acacia polyantha* Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonyms: *Acacia suma* (Roxb.) Buch.-Ham.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Kadarah, Somavalkah; *Eng:* White cutch tree, White catechu; *Hin:* Svetakhair; *Kan:* Kandaraha Mugali; *Mal:* Venkarinnali Somarayattoli; *Tam:* Kovil, Silaiyuncai; *Tel:* Tellatamma, Somavalkamu, Tellasundra.

Uses: Pods: decoction beneficial in urino-genital diseases; **leaves:** infusion of tender leaves used as an astringent and remedy for diarrhoea and dysentery; **bark:** decoction used as a gargle in sore throat and toothache; dry powder applied externally in ulcers.

***Acacia senegal* Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular name: *San:* Snetakhadira; *Guj:* Gora-dio-babul; *Mah & Pub:* Khor, kumata; *Raj:* Kumata.

Uses: Yields the true Gum Arabic, which is principally used in confectionery and also in the manufacture of chewing gums. In pharmaceutical industry it is used as a binding agent in the manufacture of cough pastilles. Also used in adhesives, lithographic printing and in the sizing of paper and cloth. Gum Arabic is demulcent and emollient, used for intestinal troubles and applied externally on inflammations, such as burns, sores, and nodules in leprosy. Also used as a suspending agent and a hair set.

Roots are employed for dysentery and nodular leprosy. Seeds eaten as a vegetable.

***Acacia sinuata* (Lour.) Merrill.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Synonyms: *Acacia concinna* (Willd.) DC.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Saptala, Carmasahva; *Eng:* Soapnut-acacia; *Hin:* Satala, Kochi; *Kan:* Sege, *Mal:* Chikaka; *Tam:* Cikaikkai, Cityakkai, Cikkai; *Tel:* Sikaya.

Uses: The pods are bitter, astringent, cooling, diuretic, emetic, deobstruant, detergent, depurative and anthelmintic. They are useful in vitiated condition of *pitta*, burning sensation, constipation renal and vesical cal culi strangury, haemorrhoids, erysipelas, leucoderma leprosy, prurigo, abscesses and eczema. The powdered pods are the best alternatives to soaps in all cases of skin diseases.

***Acacia suma* Buch.-Ham.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular name: *Beng:* Sai-kanta; *Mar:* Kamtiya; *Tel:* Tella sundra; *Kan:* Mugali.

Uses: Seeds showed marked hypoglycaemic effect on normal albino rats. Cutch is prepared from heartwood.

***Acacia tomentosa* Willd.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular Name: *San:* Jalbarburaka and *Beng:* Salshai babla.

Flowers in summer and fruits in rainy season.

Uses: Pods: decoction beneficial in urinogenital diseases; *leaves:* infusion of tender leaves used as an astringent and remedy for diarrhoea and dysentery; *bark:* decoction used as a gargle in sore throat and toothache; dry powder applied externally in ulcers; *gum:* astringent and styptic.

***Acalypha fruticosa* Forsk.**

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Birch-leaved Acalypha; *Tel:* Chinniaka, chinni; *Tam:* Sinni-marum, kup-pameni; *Kan:* Chinni, chinnimara.

Uses: The leaves are prescribed in digestive troubles and their infusion used as a vulnerary. Leaf juice used in ophthalmia.

***Acalypha hispida* Burm. f.**

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Chenilie plant, Red hot Cat-Tail; *Tel:* Moorukonda; *Mal:* Vattattali.

Uses: Flowers used in diarrhoea. Other uses are similar to those of *A. indica*.

***Acalypha indica* L.**

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Synonyms: *Acalypha spicata*, *Acalypha ciliata*, *Acalypha canescana*.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Haritamanjari; *Eng:* Indian acalypha; *Hin:* Khokli, Kuppi; *Beng:* Muktajhuri; *Kan:* Chalmari, kuppiidda, tuppakire; *Mal:* Kup-pamani; *Tel:* Kuppichettu, moorkondachettu, mulakandachettu, pappantichettu.

Uses: Haritamanjari plant is bitter, acrid and possesses diuretic, cathartic, expectorant, emetic, anthelmintic, anodyne and hypnotic properties. But it causes gastro-intestinal irritation. It is used as a substitute for ipecac and senega. A decoction of the herb is used as a cure for tooth and ear ache and is safe and speedy laxative. It is useful in bronchitis, pneumonia and asthma. Root is cathartic. Leaves are laxative, used in scabies and in snake bite. Fresh leaf juice useful in rheumatoid arthritis and skin affections. Juice with salt applied on eczema. Paste of leaves applied on burns; with juice of lime, useful in early cases of ringworm. Powder of leaves for bed-sores and maggotinfested wounds.

***Acampe praemorsa* Blatter & McCann**

Family: Orchidaceae

Synonyms: *A. wightiana* Lindl.

Vernacular name: *Mar:* Kanbher; *Kan:* Marabale; *Mal:* Taliyamaravazha.

Uses: The herb is accredited with anti-typhoid properties. A paste of the pounded leaves is applied to fractures. Plant bitter, tonic, used in rheumatism.

***Acanthopanax trifoliatum* L.**

Family: Araliaceae

Synonyms: *Acanthopanax aculeatum* Seem.

Uses: The root bark and stem bark are prescribed in the treatment of rheumatism, lumbago, ostealgia and impotence. The drug is also considered as a central nervous system stimulant and tonic. It improves the memory.

***Acanthospermum hispidum* DC.**

Family: Compositae; Asteraceae

Uses: Essential oil of the herb (2%) shows antibacterial and antifungal activity and the herb has long been in use in dermatological medicaments. Aerial parts contain acanthospermal-B.

***Acanthus ilicifolius* Linn.**

Family: Acanthaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Sea holly; *Sans:* Harkusa; *Hin & Beng:* Hargoza; *Mar:* Marandi, mendli,

moranna; *Tel*: Alasyakampa, alchi, alisi, etichilla; *Tam*: Attumulli, koshimullu; *Kan*: Holechudi, tudechudi; *Mal*: Chakkaramulli, mendli, moranna; *Oriya*: Harkanchi, kilichiri.

Uses: Leaves employed for fomentation in neuralgia and rheumatism; also used as an expectorant. Roots used in asthma, paralysis, leucorrhoea, and debility.

***Acanthus Mollis* L.**

Family: Acanthaceae

Synonyms: *Acanthus sativus* Dod.

Vernacular Name: Acanthus

Uses: Mallow leaves can be replaced by acanthus leaves for their mucilaginous content. It is said that the Greek architect, Callimachus, was inspired to create the Corinthian capital by looking at the perfect symmetry of an acanthus plant.

Acanthus mollis

Family: Acanthaceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng*: Acanthus, Bear's breeches.

Uses: Acanthus was well known in the ancient world. Callimachus, a Greek architect of the 5th century BC, reputedly created the decorative pattern of foliage at the top of Corinthian columns after being inspired by the perfect symmetry of acanthus leaves. The Greek physician Dioscorides recommended the roots in the form of a plaster to treat burns and to wrap around dislocated joints. As an infusion, acanthus was thought to be diuretic. It was also used to relieve wind and spasms and to soothe damaged nerves.

***Acer Campestris* L.**

Family: Aceraceae

Vernacular Name: Field maple

Uses: The bark is dried in the sun and stored in a dry place. The wood is much sought after by cabinet-makers and carpenters because of its fine grain and very light colour. It is seldom attacked by insects. Knots and excrescences, due to defoliation, are often reproduced artificially by a water-marking process on thin veneers used in cabinet-making. It is a honey-yielding plant and, therefore, to be encouraged in agriculture. Even the European varieties of maple, like the American *Acer saccharinum* L., the sugar or bird's eye maple, produce a sugary sap but, if tapped, the life of the tree is endangered. The astringent properties of the bark have been used as an application for sore eyes.

***Acer negundo* Linn**

Family: Aceraceae

Vernacular name: *Eng*: Box elder, Ash-leaved Maple

Uses: Ethanolic extract of the leafy twigs yields two tumour-inhibiting saponins. Fresh bark used in homoeopathy; astringent and vulnerary.

***Achillea millefolium* L.**

Family: Asteraceae

Vernacular Name: *Hin*: Gandana; *Guj*: Biramjasif; *Kan*: Roojamari.

Uses: It is diuretic, stimulant and haemostatic, a decoction of the leaves and flower heads is employed as a carminative, tonic and aromatic stimulant. Due to the presence of choline, it has hypotensive effect. The leaves and flower heads are also used as a tonic and vapour bath for fever. Its hot infusion is used as an emmenagogue in France. Medicated vapour bath containing yarrow, lavender flowers, wheat bran and milk is used in nasal catarrh and fever. It has a specific action on the pelvic organs and is used in amenorrhoea, menorrhagia and leucorrhoea. As a bitter tonic, it is given during convalescence from fevers and in atonic dyspepsia to promote appetite. Its chief use is in relaxation of the sphincter and with discharge of mucus or blood during defecation. The infusion is applied to relax throat and sore nipples with benefits. Local inhabitants chew the leaves to relieve tooth-ache as it produces a pungent, but tingling and cooling sensation bringing immediate relief.

***Achillea Millefolium* L.**

Family: Compositae

Vernacular Name: Yarrow

Uses: It is used in cosmetics as a distilled water. As it contains azulene it can be used instead of camomile. It is to be found in many alcoholic preparations. It should not be taken by p

***Achras zapota* Linn.**

Family:

Synonyms: *Achras sapota* Linn.

Vernacular name: *Eng*: Sapota, sapodilla.

Uses: Fruits edible, sweet with rich fine flavour. Bark contains latex, 20-25% of which consists of gutta-percha like substance (chicle gum), used as a base for chewing gum. Other uses of chicle are in dental surgery, as a substitute for gutta-percha, and for making transmission belts.

***Achyranthes aspera* L.**

Family: Amaranthaceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* Prickly Chaff Flower; *San:* Apamarga; *Hin:* Chirchira, chirchitta, Latjira; *Beng:* Apang, chirchiti; *Mal:* Kadaladi; *Mar:* Aghada, aghara; *Tam:* Chirukadaladi, naaurivi; *Tel:* Apamarganu, uttareeni and *Kan:* Utranigida, uttaraanne.

Uses: The whole plant and especially the roots, characterized by their anti-inflammatory and uterine stimulant activity, are prescribed in the rheumatism, lumbago, osteodynia, dysuria, post-partum haematometra and dysmenorrhea. The seeds are nutritious when cooked with milk and are a potential source of food; the roots are astringent; their paste is applied to clear opacity of cornea, and to wounds as an haemostatic; it is reported to be useful in cancer. A decoction of the roots is used for stomach troubles, and an aqueous extract for stones in the bladder.

***Achyranthes bidentata* Blume**

Family: Amaranthaceae

Vernacular Name: *Assam:* Apamarga, bankhat.

Uses: The roots possess anti-inflammatory, hypocholesterolaemic, hypotensive and uterotonic properties. The drug is indicated for rheumatism, lumbago, dysmenorrhoea, hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia, atherosclerosis, dysuria, haematuria, contusions, congestion and sore throat. It is also used as an oxytocic in dystocia, placenta retention and post-partum haematometra.

***Achyranthes japonica* (Miq.) Nakai**

Family: Amaranthaceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng.:* Japanese chaff flower.

Uses: Analgesic, antispasmodic, uterine stimulating, diuretic, hypotensive, antiallergic, antioxidant (protocatechuic acid), anti-inflammatory, platelet aggregation inhibition. Traditionally used in Oedema, rheumatism, contraceptive, & abortifacient.

***Aconitum balfourii* Stapf**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Vernacular name: *West Nepal:* Gobari

Uses: The roots contain the alkaloids pseudaconitine, which is highly toxic and biologically 1.5 times as active as aconitine. It is one of the common constituents of *A. ferox* of commerce.

***Aconitum chasmanthum* Stapf**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Indian napellus; *Kashmir:* Ban-bal-nag.

Uses: Often mistaken for *A. nepellus*, a foreign species. Its uses are similar to those of *A. ferox*. The alkaloids isolated from the roots include indaconitine,

chasmaconitine, chasmanthinine, chasmanine, and homochasmanine.

***Aconitum deinorrhizum* Stapf.**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Vernacular Name: *Kash:* Dudhia bish; *Punj:* Sajed bikh and *Eng:* Indian aconite.

Uses: It is a poison and affects both the heart and central nervous system. In case of extreme toxicity, the heart stops and respiration is depressed. With large doses, death is almost instantaneous, resulting in paralysis of heart or the respiratory center. With moderate toxic doses, there is a tingling of the tongue, mouth, stomach, skin; followed by numbness, anaesthesia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive salivation, weak and irregular pulse, difficult respiration and muscular weakness may result. Externally, it is used with mustard oil as massage in neuralgia, paralysis and muscular rheumatism. Its application should be avoided in wounds or abraded skin as it may get absorbed and caused poisoning. Locally much used for removing body pains, but carefully. Root is smoked in toothache and body pains. Leaves are employed to improved the flavour of country liquor. Also used in leprosy, cholera, rheumatism, as tonic in diarrhoea and cough.

***Aconitum falconeri* Stapf**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Vernacular name: *Garhwal:* Bis, bikh, meetha-tellia.

Uses: Roots used for nervous and digestive diseases; also for rheumatism and fevers.

***Aconitum ferox* Wall. ex Ser.**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Vernacular Name: *San:* Vatsanava; *Hin:* Bish, Bacchanag; *Beng:* Katbish; *Tam:* Vashanabi; *Eng:* Indian aconite; *Tel:* Ativasanabhi; *Kan:* Vasanabhi and *Mal:* Vastsarabhi.

Uses: The root and underground stems are highly toxic; but the toxicity may be reduced by suitable processing. In small doses they are beneficial in nasal catarrh, uvula hypertrophy, sore throat, gibbous, paralysis and chronic fever; in large doses it acts as narcotic poison and powerful sedative. Internally, the tincture of root is used in combination with other drugs for the treatment of fever and rheumatism. The root is considered to be cardiac stimulant, hypoglycemic, diaphoretic and antiphlogistic. Powdered roots in the form of liniment or paste is spread over the skin in case of arthritis and in scabies.

Aconitum fortunei* Hemsl*Family:** Ranunculaceae**Uses:** The tuberous roots are used in treating rheumatism, paresis, arthralgia, luxation, sprains and contusions. Their tincture is used as liniment. It must not be taken by mouth, because of its high toxicity.***Aconitum heterophyllum* Wall.ex Royle****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular Name:** *Eng:* Atis roots, Indian Atis; *Hin:* Atis; *Kan:* Ativisa; *Mal:* Ativitayam; *San:* Ativisa *Tam:* Ativadayam; *Tel:* Ativasa.**Uses:** The roots are acrid, bitter, themogenic, expectorant, alexeteric, stomachic, digestive, antiperiodic and tonic. They are useful in dysentery, diarrhoea, stomach disorders, fever, malarial fever, vomiting, helminthiasis, haemorrhoids, haemorrhages, internal inflammatory conditions and general debility. They are highly recommended for diseases in children.***Aconitum koreanum* R. Rkaymond****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular Name:** *Eng.:* Korean monk's hood.**Uses:** Analgesic (aconitine alkaloids), cardiotoxic (hygenamine, coryneine), uterine stimulant. Used in articular pain.***Aconitum kusnezoffii* Reichb.****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular Name:** *Eng:* Kusnetzoff's monkshood.**Uses:** Rheumatic arthralgia, sciatica, hemiplegia, muscular spasm, contusions, local anesthetic.***Aconitum Napellus* L.****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular Name:** Aconite (Common monkshood)**Uses:** A highly poisonous plant! It acts on the nerve centers and paralyzes them. The symptoms of aconite poisoning are a burning sensation on the tongue, vomiting, abdominal pains and diarrhoea, leading to bradycardia, tachycardia, mydriasis, paralysis and death. Emergency antidotes are atropine and strophanthin. The leaves are less poisonous than the tubercles.***Aconitum napellus* L.****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular Name:** *Eng:* Indian aconite, Monk's hood; *Hin:* Bachnag, Mithavis; *Kan:* Vatsanabhi; *Mal:* Vatsanabhi; *San:* Vatsanabhah; *Tam:* Vasanavi and *Tel:* Vatsanabhi.**Uses:** The roots are sweet, thermogenic, narcotic, anodyne, anti-inflammatory, diaphoretic, diuretic, expectorant, nervine tonic, stomachic, emmena-gogue, anaphrodisiac, depurative, sedative and febrifuge. They are useful in vitiated conditions of *vata*, *pitta* and *kapha*, cephalgia, neuralgia, painful inflammations, strangury, cough, asthma, bronchitis, hypotension, dyspepsia, flatulence, colic, cardiac debility, dysmenorrhoea, amenorrhoea, spermatorrhoea, leprosy, skin diseases, sciatica, gout, paralysis, heptopathy, splenopathy, pharyngodynia, diabetes, nasal discharges, fever, inflammatory fevers and debility. Milk is prescribed as antidote for aconite poisoning.***Aconitum palmatum* D. Don****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular name:** *Hin:* Bikhima; *Mah:* Wakhma; *Sikkim:* Setobikhuma.**Uses:** The root, like quinine, is intensely bitter, used as a tonic and for vomiting and bowel complaints. It contains five diterpene alkaloids, viz. palmatisine, vakognavine, vakatisine, vakatisinine, and vakatidine.***Aconitum spicatum* Stapf****Family:** Ranunculaceae**Vernacular name:** *Eng:* Nepal aconite; *Nepal & Sikkim:* Bikh or Bish.**Uses:** It is the principal source of *Bikh* or *Bish* of Calcutta market. Roots yield alkaloids, which contain mainly pseudoaconitine and bikha-conitine. Significant antipyretic and analgesic properties have been reported.***Acorus Calamus* L.****Family:** Araceae**Synonyms:** *Acorus odoratus* Lam., *Acorus aromaticus* Gilib.**Vernacular Name:** Sweet sedge**Uses:** Sweet sedge is used a great deal in the making of alcoholic drinks and in perfumery to give a bitter tang to the former and those special nuances to the perfumes; it is also used in toothpaste. The essence, which contains asarone, has a tranquilizing action. When very fresh, it can be poisonous. It is often adulterated with the rhizome of the yellow water iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).***Acorus calamus* L.****Family:** Araceae**Vernacular Name:** *Eng:* Sweet flag, Calamus, Sweet root; *Hin:* Bach, Gorbacc; *Kan:* Baji; *Mal:* Vayampu; *San:* Vacha, Uragandha; *Tam:* Vasampu; *Tel:* Vasa.

Uses: The rhizome is acrid, bitter, thermogenic, aromatic, intellect promoting, emetic, laxative, carminative, stomachic, anthelmintic, emmenagogue, diuretic, alexeteric, expectorant, anodyne, antispasmodic, aphrodisiac, anticonvulsant, resuscitative, anti-inflammatory, sudorific, antipyretic, sialagogue, insecticidal, tranquillising, nervine tonic, sedative and tonic. It is useful in vitiated conditions of *vata* and *kapha*, stomatopathy, hoarseness, colic flatulence, dyspepsia, helminthiasis, amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, nephropathy, calculi, strangury, cough, bronchitis, odontalgia, pectoralgia, hepatodynia, otalgia, inflammations, gout, epilepsy, delirium, amentia, convulsions, depression and other mental disorders, tumours, dysentery, hyperdipsia, haemorrhoids, intermittent fevers, skin diseases, numbness and general debility.

***Acorus gramineus* Solander**

Family: Araceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* Grass-leaved sweet rush.

Uses: The rhizome possesses pectoral, stomachic and sedative properties. It is utilized in the therapy of diarrhoea, gastralgia, cough, bronchial asthma, neurasthenia, fever, convulsions, rheumatism, osteodynia, and arrhythmia. External application is effective for dermatosis and haemorrhoids. It is also used as an insecticide for killing lice, bugs and fleas.

***Acronychia laurifolia* Blume**

Family: Rutaceae

Synonyms: *Acronychia pedunculata* Linn., *Acronychia barberi* Gamble.

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* Claw flowered laurel; *Mal:* Mutta-nari; *Tam:* Mutta-nari and *Kan:* Bhutali, Soneman.

Uses: The roots are utilized in the therapy of rheumatism, lumbago, pain in the limbs, post-partum blood stasis, furunculosis, impetigo and snake-bite. The torrefied roots or leaves are effective as a stomachic for dyspepsia in parturients. A poultice made of heated leaves and a wash with a decoction of the trunk bark are useful for furunculosis and impetigo.

***Actaea spicata* L.**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Synonyms: *Actaea acuminata* Wall., *Actaea racemosa* Gilib.

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* Baneberry, Grapewort, *Kan:* Vishphala.

Uses: Complaints specially rheumatism involving small joints with characteristic tearing, tingling pains. Wrist-rheumatism. Pulsation with tearing pain

over the whole body, especially head, stomach, epigastrium, liver and renal region. Cardiovascular spasm/Angina pectoris. Early stages of Phthisis. Pains worse by touch or motion. Violent pain in upper jaw, running from teeth through molar bones to temple. Great oppression of breath. Shortness of breath on exposure to cold air. Dropsy. Hysteria.

***Actinodaphne obovata* Blume**

Family: Lauraceae

Uses: The leaves and stems contain three alkaloids, viz. lauroteranine, N-methyl laurotetanine, and actinodaphnine.

***Actinidia chinensis* Planch**

Family: Actinidiaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Kiwi fruit, Chinese gooseberry.

Uses: Fruit edible, good keeping quality. Used for making wine, jam and marmalade; also employed for decorating icecreams. A Chinese plant with economic potential in India; 'Allison' strain introduced from New Zealand showed promise in Himachal Pradesh.

***Actinopteris australis* Link**

Family: Actinopteridaceae

Synonyms: *Actinopteris dichotoma* Kuhn

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Peacock's tail; *Hin:* Mayurshikha; *Mah:* Bhui tad.

Uses: The fern is accredited with antibiotic properties and is used in some places as an antifertility drug. Also used as an antiseptic and styptic.

***Actinodaphne angustifolia* Nees**

Family: Lauraceae

Synonyms: *Actinodaphne hookeri* Meissn.

Vernacular name: *Mar:* Pisa, pisha, pichli, gulchal; *Tam:* Thali, tali; *Mal:* Malavirinji; *Kan:* Hoggodgimara, tudgensu; *Oriya:* Tudambo, jar-champa, jhar-jhampa; *Assam:* Petarichawa; *Mah:* Pisa, Trade-Pisa.

Uses: Seeds yield a fat, *Pisa* fat, which is a better source of lauric acid than palm kernel oil or coconut oil. The soap made from the fat, along with groundnut and castor oils, shows excellent wetting, lather formation, and detergent qualities. Infusion of the leaves used for diabetes and urinary disorders.

***Adansonia digitata* Linn.**

Family: Bombacaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Baobab, Monkey bread tree; *Hin:* Gorak amlī; *Mar & Guj:* Gorakh chinch; *Tam:* Anaipuli; *Kan:* Magimavu.

Uses: The trunk sometimes becomes hollow and forms a water reservoir; 4,500 litres of water was recorded in a tree. Tender leaves are used for seasoning. Powdered leaves when orally administered to guinea pigs prevented the crisis in asthma induced by histamine aerosols. Fruit pulp is diaphoretic, gives relief in bronchial asthma and allergic dermatitis. The kernels are eaten as nuts and yield an oil used for cooking. The bark yields as soft fibre. It is occasionally used for ropes and sacking. The wood yields paper pulp suitable for wrapping as well as writing paper. Wood also used for trays, canoes, rafts, floats, and fishing-nets.

***Adansonia gregorii* F. Muell.**

Family: Bombacaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Bottle tree.

Uses: Fruit pulp is boiled with sugar and given as an antiscorbutic. Seeds eaten. Tree yields edible gum. Introduced.

***Adenanthera pavonina* L.**

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* Coralwood tree, Redwood tree; *Hin:* Baragunci; *Kan:* Manjatti; *Mal:* Mancati; *San:* kucandanah, Tamrakah; *Tam:* Yanai Kuntumani; *Tel:* Bandigurvina, Mansenikotta.

Uses: The bark and leaves are astringent, vulnerary and aphrodisiac, and are useful in colonorrhoea, haematuria, ulcers, pharyngopathy, vitiated conditions of *vata* and gout. The seeds are bitter, astringent, sweet cooling, aphrodisiac, suppurative, antiemetic and febrifuge. They are useful in vitiated conditions of *vata* and *pitta*, gout, burning sensation, hyperdipsia, vomiting, fever and giddiness. The heart wood is astringent, aphrodisiac, haemostatic, and is useful in dysentery, haemorrhages and vitiated conditions of *vata*.

***Adenia heterophylla* Koord.**

Family: Passifloraceae

Uses: Juicy aril is sweet and edible. In the Philippines, a decoction of the roots is prescribed for stomach troubles.

***Adenia hondala* (Gaertn.) W.J. de Wilde**

Family: Passifloraceae

Synonyms: *Modecca palmate* Lam., *Adenia palmate* (Lam.) Engl.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Vidari, *Kan:* Kempuchendu hannina balli, *Mal:* Modecca, Muthukku, Palmothakku.

Uses: This species has been used as medicine since the 17th century. Tubers are reportedly poisonous. It

may be an adulterant or an unauthorised substitute. The roots are reportedly used as Ayurvedic plant drug *Vidari*. Tubers used for treating hernia.

***Adenia palmata* Engl.**

Family: Passifloraceae

Synonyms: *Modecca palmate* Lam.

Vernacular name: *Tel:* Modikha; *Mal:* Mutakku; *Konkan:* Undal.

Uses: Juice of the leaves and roots used in skin troubles. Roots used as an ingredient of tonics.

***Adenia wightiana* Engl.**

Family: Passifloraceae

Synonyms: *Modecca wightiana* Wall. ex Wight & Arn.

Uses: Roots as well as fruits poisonous.

***Adenocalymma nitidum* Mart. ex DC.**

Family: Bignoniaceae

Uses: Flowers contain kaempferol, quercetin, and hisperitin.

***Adenophora stricta* Miq.**

Family: Campanulaceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* Upright ladybell.

Uses: Chronic bronchitis, cough, thick sputum.

***Adensoma indianum* (Lour.) Merr**

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Synonyms: *Adensoma capitatum* Benth.

Uses: The whole plant, except the roots, constitutes an antibacterial, cholagogic, diuretic and stomachic remedy. It is useful for the treatment of jaundice in viral hepatitis, oliguria, biliuria, fever ophthalmalgia, vertigo and dyspepsia in parturients.

***Adhatoda vasica* Nees**

Family: Acanthaceae

Synonyms: *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic., *Justicia adhatoda*.

Vernacular Name: *San:* Vasa, *Hin:* Adusa; *Kan:* Adusoge; *Mal:* Adalodakam; *Eng:* Malabarnut, Vasaka; *Tam:* Adhatodai; *Tel:* Addasaramu.

Uses: Bronchitis and bronchial asthma. Local bleeding and thrombocytopenia. Pyorrhoea. The leaf extract has been used for treatment of bronchitis and asthma for many centuries. It relieves cough and breathlessness. It is also prescribed commonly in Ayurveda for bleeding due to idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, local bleeding due to peptic ulcer, piles, menorrhagia etc. large doses of fresh juice of leaves have been used in tuberculosis. Its local use gives relief in pyorrhoea and in bleeding gums.

***Adiantum aethiopicum* Linn.**

Family: Adiantaceae

Synonyms: *Adiantum emarginatum* Bedd.

Uses: A decoction of the fern is used by the South African sas as an abortifacient. The fern also possesses emetic and astringent properties.

***Adiantum capillus-veneris* L.**

Family: Polypodiaceae

Vernacular Name: *Eng:* The Maidenhair Fern; *Guj:* Hanspadi; *Hin:* Hansraj, Mubarak, Pursha; *Kan:* Hansraj.

Uses: Maidenhair fern is still used by Western herbalists to treat coughs, bronchitis, catarrh, sore throat and chronic nasal catarrh. The plant also has a long-standing reputation as a remedy for conditions of the hair and scalp.

***Adiantum Capillus-Veneris* L.**

Family: Polypodiaceae

Vernacular Name: Maidenhair fern

The galactagogic (increasing the flow of milk) and detoxicant actions of this plant are due to compounds which have not yet been isolated but there may well be some flavaspidic acid present. The pleasant-tasting infusion known as Bavarian tea is merely a mixture of ordinary tea, maidenhair fern and milk; claims that it is diaphoretic (inducing perspiration) have not yet been tested.

***Adiantum flabellatum* Linn.**

Family: Adiantaceae

Uses: Rhizomes used for cough and as an anthelmintic; also used against gripe.

***Adiantum incisum* Forsk.**

Family: Adiantaceae

Synonyms: *Adiantum caudatum* Linn.

Vernacular name: *Sans:* Mayurshikha; *Tam:* Myle kondai; *Kan:* Gajkarna; *Pun:* Adhsarita-ki-jhari, gunkeri, kanghai.

Uses: Used in hemicrania and diabetes. It yields adiantone, isoadiantone, fernene, hentriacontane, hentriacontanone-16, and β -sitosterol.

***Adiantum pedatum* Linn.**

Family: Adiantaceae

Uses: Rhizomes used as a stimulant, expectorant, demulcent, and emmenagogue; contain a bitter principle, volatile oil, and tannin.

***Adiantum philippense* Linn.**

Family: Adiantaceae

Synonyms: *Adiantum lunulatum* Burm.

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Walking maidenhair fern; *Hin & Beng:* Kalijhant; *Mar:* Ghoda-khuri, ratkombada; *Guj:* Hansapadi, hansaraj, mubarakha; *Kan:* Nayalad; *Mah:* Mubarak, rajhans; *Santal:* Dodhali.

Uses: Used in blood disease and epileptic fits. In Bihar, the fern is used in cases of rabies. Rhizomes prescribed for strangury and in fever due to elephantiasis. Fronds are burnt in oil and applied to itch.

***Adiantum venustum* G. Don**

Family: Adiantaceae

Vernacular name: *Tam:* Mayir sikki; *Mah:* Mubarak.

Uses: The fern appears to constitute much of the drug *Hansraj* in Punjab, which is used as an anodyne in bronchitis; also used against tumours, biliousness, inflammatory diseases of the chest, and ophthalmia. Petroleum ether extract of the plant gave 21-hydroxyadiantone, adiantone, 3-filicene, a carotenoid possibly α -carotene monoepoxide, leucopelargonidin, and kaempferol, and quercetin glucosides.

***Adonis aestivalis* Linn**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Uses: Diuretic and cardiac stimulant. Stems and leaves contain a cardioactive glycoside cymarin, which on hydrolysis yields strophanthidin and cymarose. The herb also contains glucosides adonin, adonidin, and adonilene. Flowers are considered laxative, diuretic, and lithontriptic.

***Adonis autumnalis* Linn**

Family: Ranunculaceae

Vernacular name: *Eng:* Pheasant's eye, Flos Adonis

Uses: Aerial part of the flowering and fruiting herb contain 18 compounds, of which k-strophanthin- β , cymarin, adonin, adonidin, adonitoxin, acetyladiadonitoxin, vernadigin, strophadogenin, and strophanthidin have been identified. Herb bitter and astringent.

***Adonis chrysoyathus* Hook. f. & Thoms**

Family: Ranunculaceae

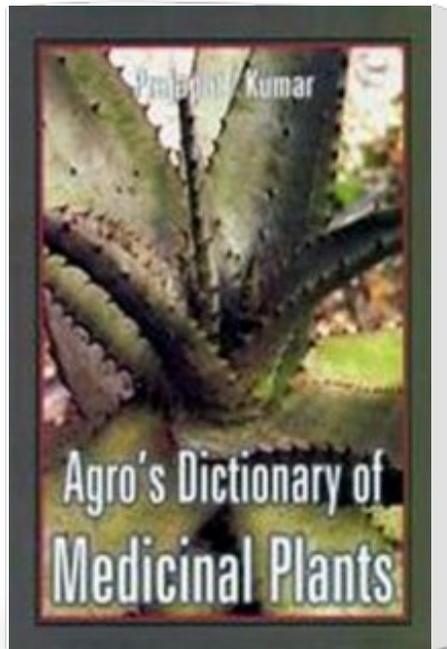
Vernacular name: *Kashmir:* Marnil, nilmar

Uses: The plant is suspected of fatally poisoning sheep and goats. The roots contain glycosides cymarin and k-strophanthin- β . The herb contains a sugorose and strophanthidine tetroside; k-strophanthin- β and cymarin are also present.

***Adonis Vernalis* L.**

Family: Ranunculaceae

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