

Latakaranja

Caesalpinia bonduc (Linn.) Roxb.

Family- Caesalpiniaceae (Leguminosae nom. alt.)

Synonyms

1. Kuberakha
2. Kantaki karanja
3. Putika
4. Putikaranja

Vernacular Names-

Sanskrit- Latakaranja, Kuberakshi

Hindi- Kantakaranja

Part Used- Bija (Seed), Mula (Root), and Patra (Leaf).

Rasa Panchaka-

Rasa - Tikta, Kashaya

Guna - Laghu, Ruksha

Virya - Ushna

Vipaka - Katu Bija (Seed), Mula (Root), and Patra (Leaf).

Karma (Actions)

Pramehaghna and Shulahara. Vishamajwaraghna, Krimighna, Shothahara, Rakta Shodhaka, Kushthaghna,

Pharmacological Actions

Anthelmintic, Styptic, Antipyretic, Antiviral, Antifungal, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-malarial and Antimicrobial.

Dosha karma (Action on Dosha)

Vata kapha Shamaka. Vatahara due to Ushna virya and Kapha Shamaka due to Ushna virya, Katu vipaka and Tikta kashaya rasa.



Indications- Shoola, Grahani, Kushtha, Prameha, Vishama jwara.

Amayika Prayoga(Therapeutic uses) -

1. Jwara (Fever) - Seed kernel of Latakaranja, Ativisha and Maricha each 1 part and Tulasi leaves 3 parts are pounded together and made into pills of the size of a Bengal gram. It is useful in fever, diarrhoea and loss of di-gestive power. (Siddhabheshajamanimala)
2. Grahani (Dysentery) The seed kernel of Kuberaksha, with sour gruel in the morning alleviates pain, dysentery with mucous, blood and gripping. (Vaidyamanorama)
3. Chardi (Vomiting) - Latakaranja is an effec-tive remedy for Chardi, Aruchi, Praseka. Young leaves of Kuberaksha and Hingu mixed with rock salt relieve these conditions. (Vaidyamanorama)
4. Gulma Decoction of Kuberaksha, Shunthi and Rasna (in 4, 2 and 6 parts respectively) alleviates Gulma, Udara, Malabandha,
5. Shoola and Udavarta. (Vaidyamanorama)
6. Shoola (Colic) - Kuberaksha alone cures 300 varieties of shoola; when it is combined with Lasuna, Saindhava and Hingu its action be-comes more potent. (Vaidyachintamani)

Matra (Dose)

Churna (Powder) - 1 to 3 gm

Swarasa (Juice) - 10 to 20 ml

Chemical constituents -

Seeds - L-r-ethylideneglutamic acid and ami-no acids; a-b-r caesalpins; caesalpin-F bondu-celline etc.

Specific formulations

Kuberakshadi vati, Vishamajwaraghnani vati, Krimikuthara (Yoga-ratnakara).

Distribution- Caesalpinia bonduc is seen growing into impenetrable thickets in the for-est out skirts of Indian tropics; more so near water courses. It is also grown as hedge plant around fruit-gardens particularly about villag-es. The plant is distributed both in the New & Old World tropics.

oblong, glabrous above, more or less puberulous beneath, short petiolutes.

External Morphology-

Profusely prickly, perennial, straggling shrub, 4-6 m long or more if undisturbed; prickles straight and hooked. Leaves alternate, bipin-nately compound, paripinnate, very large, (20-) 30-60 cm long including prickly petiole and 10-35 cm broad; pinnae (4-) 6-8 pairs; leaflets 5-9 pairs, 2-4 x 1-2 cm, ovate-elliptic oblong with mucronate apex and round base. Inflorescence of prickly, long-peduncled ter-minal and supra-axillary, 15-25 cm long racemes. Flowers bright yellow, 1.5-2 cm across; calyx 0.6-0.8 cm long, fulvous hairy with 5 - obovate - oblong lobes; corolla of 5 oblanceolate, clawed petals; stamens 10, free, all fertile; ovary with filiform style.

Fruit a shortly stalked, 5-7 x 4-4.5 cm, ovate ob-long pod, densely beset with wiry prickles on the inflated 2-valved faces; seeds one or two per pod, subglobose - ovoid, hard, 1.5-2cm in diam, greyish with a tinge of green, shining when fresh and with numerous horizontal cracks when dry.

Flowering - July-February

Fruiting - November-February (April)