

Sindoor / Sinduri / Kumkum plant (*Bixa orellana L.*)

Family: Bixaceae

Vernacular Names: Hindi – Sinduriya, Latkan; Sanskrit – Sinduri, Raktabeeja; Malayalam – Kurangumanjal; Tamil – Jabara; English – Annatto, Lipstick plant

Synonyms: Sinduri, Sinduriyaa, Raktapushpa, Sukomala; *Bixa tinctoria*, *Orellana orellana*

Ras Panchak:

Rasa: Tikta, Kashaya

Guna: Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna

Virya: Sheeta

Vipaka: Katu

Prabhava: Grahi, KaphaVatahara

Amayik Prayog: Raktashodhak – blood purifier, Kushtaghna – skin diseases, Pittashamak, Vranaropana – wound healing, Netrahitakara, Jwaraghna, Shwasahara, Mutravirechana, Pramehaghna. Used to make natural kumkum. Antidysenteric, diuretic, febrifuge, digestive.

Matra: Not specified in classics; folk use as external application. Seed extract dose varies. LD50 >700 mg/kg in studies.

Specific Formulation: Seed pigment + turmeric + lime for herbal kumkum. Fruit pulp for organic sindoor.

Chemical Composition: Seeds contain bixin, norbixin – carotenoids,. Also salicylic acid, lutein, polyphenols, tannins. Essential and fixed oils.

