

Cassia fistula Linn.

Synonyms : *C. rhombifolia* Roxb.

Family : Fabaceae

Group : Antidotes

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Golden shower, Indian laburnum

Malayalam : Kanikkonna

Hindi : Amaltas

Sanskrit : Kaitamalah

Assamese : Sonaru

Bengali : Sonali

Gujarathi : Garmala, Alash

Kannada : Kakkeamara

Tamil : Konnai

Telugu : Kalaponna



Distribution and habitat: Throughout India.

Botany: A moderate sized handsome deciduous tree, 8-15 m in height with greenish grey smooth bark when young, and rough when old, exfoliate in hard scale.

- **Leaves:** Bipinnately compound, leaflets 4-8 pairs, ovate, acute, bright green, glabrous above, paler and silvery pubescent beneath when young, main nerves numerous.

- **Flowers:** Bright yellow in lax pendulous racemes.

- **Fruits:** Cylindric pods, 30-60 cm long, shortly stipitate, nearly straight, smooth, shiny, brownish black.

- **Seeds:** Ovate, horizontally immersed in dark coloured sweetish pulp.

Properties: Anti-viral, Anti-cancerous, hypoglycemic

Chemical constituents:

- Leaves contain anthraquinone derivatives and very little tannin. Ceryl alcohol, fistulin, leucopelargonidin tetramer, kaempferol, rhein and glucoside in flowers.

- Root bark, tannin, phlobaphenes and oxy-anthraquinone substance.

- Pulp contains rhein, glucose, sucrose, and fructose, volatile oil, three waxy substances and resinous substance. Fistulic acid from pods, fistucacidin from bark.

Uses: Skin diseases, tuberculosis, syphilis, burning sensation, inflammations, rheumatism, colic and burning sensation, boils, colic, fever, cardiopathy, leprosy, ulcers and intermittent fevers, pruritus, burning sensation, dry cough and bronchitis

Propagation: Seeds

