

Coleus amboinicus Lour.

Synonyms : *Coleus aromaticus*, *Plectranthus amboinicus* (Lour.) Spreng.

Family : Lamiaceae

Group : Anti tussive (expectorant), Antipyretic

Parts Used : Leaf

Vernacular Names

English : Country borage, Indian borage

Malayalam : Panikkoorkka

Hindi : Pathurchur

Sanskrit : Karpuravalli

Bengali : Paterchur

Kannada : Karpurahalli

Tamil : Karpuravalli

Telugu : Sugandhavarkam.



Distribution and habitat: It is found throughout the tropics and cultivated in homestead gardens. It is a large succulent aromatic perennial herb with its tomentose fleshy stem.

Botany: A perennial herb, shrubby below, hispidly villous or tomentose. Stem 30-90 cm long.

• **Leaves:** Simple, opposite, broadly ovate, crenate and fleshy.

• **Flowers:** Pale purplish in dense whorls at distant intervals in a long slender raceme.

• **Fruits:** Orbicular or ovoid nutlets. Upper calyx lip ovate, acute, membranous, lower acuminate. Corolla pale purplish, tube short, throat inflated lips short. Stamens shortly exserted.

Properties: Plant is hot, digestive, carminative, diuretic, anthelmintic, and constipating. It is antispasmodic, antilithic, cathartic, stimulant and stomachic.

Chemical constituents: Essential oil from plant contains carvacrol. Cirsimaritin and β -sitosterol- β -D-glucoside, oleanolic, pomolic, euscaphic, tormentic and ursolic acids; salvigenin, quercetin, chrysoeriol, luteolin, apigenin, eriodictyol, and taxifolin in leaves.

Uses: The leaves are useful in cephalagia, nostalgia, anorexia, dyspepsia, flatulence, colic, diarrhoea, cholera, halitosis, convulsions, epilepsy, cough, asthma, hiccough, bronchitis, strangury, hepatopathy and malarial fever

Propagation: Stem cuttings.

