

# *Codariocalyx motorius* (Houtt.) H. Ohashi

**Synonyms** : *Desmodium motorium* Merrill , *Hedysarum gyrans* L., *Desmodium gyrans*

**Family** : Fabaceae

**Parts Used** : Root , Fruit , Leaf

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Telegraph plant, Semaphore plant

Malayalam : Thozhukanni, Ramanama chedi

Hindi : Bancha

Sanskrit : Gorachanda.

Bengali : Boncharal, Gorachand



**Distribution and habitat:** Erect under shrub, All along the Himalaya, Assam, Sri Lanka, and Western Peninsula.

**Botany:** Erect under shrub, approximately 1 m high, branches substrate, glabrous, scarcely woody

• **Leaves:** Alternate, stipulate, short petiolate, leaflets 1-3, subcoriaceous, 7.5-10 cm long, side ones very small and move alternately by jerks

• **Inflorescence:** Racemes axillary and terminal, panicked; flowers bracteate, 0.6 cm long, yellow

• **Fruit:** Pods 2.5-3.7 cm long and 0.4-0.5 cm wide, falcate, often horizontal.

**Properties:** Aphrodisiac, antioxidant

Chemical constituents: N,N-dimethyltryptamine and 5-methoxy-N,Ndimethyltryptamine. Leaves contain an unsaturated fatty acid eicosenoic acid.

**Uses:** It is used in diuretic, febrifuge, wounds, asthma, cough, dysentery, fever, and laxative. Root extract has antioxidant properties. Leaf and flowers used to treat wounds.

**Propagation:** By seed

