

Ficus exasperata Vahl

Synonyms : *F. asperrima* Roxb.

Family : Moraceae

Parts Used : Leaf, Bark

Vernacular Names

English : Ficus

Malayalam : Therakam

Hindi : Kalmnor

Sanskrit : Kharapatra



Distribution and Habitat: Small tree; through out Kerala, E. Africa, Arabia, India and SriLanka

Botany: Small tree; bark greyish- brown, smooth. Aerial roots absent.

• **Leaves:** Elliptic or obovate, acute or acuminate base rounded, scabrous, to 10 x 5 cm; lateral nerves 4-6 pairs, basal pair opposite and ribbed; petiole, to 4cm long; leaves of saplings and coppice shoots often lobed.

• **Fruit:** Figs axillary, solitary, globose, scabrid; yellow when ripe, 1cm long; basal bracts 6 or 7; peduncle about 1cm long.

Properties: anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-ulcer, anti-diabetic, lipid-lowering and antifungal activities

Chemical constituents: Bark contains alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, saponines, sterols etc. Bergapten, oxypeucedanin hydrate and sitosterol-3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside are present in stem bark. In leaves, β -sitosterol and sitosterol-3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside were present. Essential oil from the leaves contain 1, 8 cineole, p-Cymene, (E)-Phytol, β -Ionone etc.

Uses : Bark juice is used against enlargement of liver and spleen.

Propagation: By seeds

