

# *Helicteres isora* Linn.

**Family** : Malvaceae

**Parts Used** : Root , Fruit , Bark

**Vernacular Names**

English : East Indian screw tree

Malayalam : Etampiri - valampiri

Hindi : Marodphali

Sanskrit : Avarttani

Bengali : Atmora

Kannada : Kempukaveri

Tamil : Valampiri

Telugu : Davi-camanti



**Distribution and habitat:** Found throughout India

**Botany:** A large shrub or small tree up to 5 m in height with grey bark and young shoots clothed with stellate hairs.

• **Leaves:** Simple, alternate, bifarious, obovate, serrate, scabrous above and pubescent beneath.

• **Flowers:** Red, fading to lead colour, distinctly bilabiate, in axillary clusters of 2-6 together, staminal column fused with the gynophore, much exserted, suddenly deflexed. Calyx tubular, 2 cm long, some what 2 lipped, curved mouths wide. Petals red at first, fading to lead colour, separate but with the claws closely hooked together.

• **Fruits:** Greenish brown beaked, cork screw like 5 follicles, seeds numerous, angular, testa wrinkled.

**Properties:** Demulcent, lactifuge, astringent, aphrodisiac, diuretic and expectorant.

**Chemical constituents:** Root-cucurbitacin, isocucurbitacin; Leaf-tetratriacontanol, tetratriacontanoic acid and its tetratriacontanyl ester;  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - amyrin, friedelin, lupeol, taraxerone; Seed-diosgenin.

**Uses:** It is used in colic, scabies, empyema, gastropathy, diabetes, dysentery, diarrhoea, verminosis, ulcers, epistaxis and flatulence

**Propagation:** By seeds

