

## *Tribulus terrestris* Linn.

**Family** : Zygophyllaceae

**Group** : 1. Dasamoolam, Diuretic/renal protectant

**Parts Used** : Whole plant

### **Vernacular Names**

English : Puncture-vine, Land-caltrops

Malayalam : Njerinjil

Hindi : Gokharu

Sanskrit : Goksurah

Tamil : Nerinci

Telugu : Palleru, Cinnapalleru

**Distribution and habitat:** Throughout India, upto 5,400 m, as a weed along roadsides and waste places.

**Botany:** An annual or perennial, prostrate herb with many slender, spreading branches and silky villous young parts.

• **Leaves** : Abruptly simple, paripinnate and opposite, leaflets 5-8 pairs, subequal, oblong to linear-oblong, mucronate, pubescent on both surfaces.

• **Flowers**: Bright yellow in colour, solitary and pseudo-axillary or leaf opposed.

• **Fruits** : Globose, consisting of 5 woody mericarps with 2 long and 2 short spines.

• **Seeds** : many in each coccus.

### **Properties:**

• The roots and fruits are sweet, cooling, diuretic, aphrodisiac, emollient, digestive, anthelmintic, cardiogenic and expectorant.

• The leaves are diuretic, anthelmintic, aphrodisiac and depurative.

• The seeds are cooling, diuretic, anti-inflammatory, strengthening and aphrodisiac.

**Chemical constituents:** Kaempferol, campesterol, stigmasterol, amino acids, alkaloids harmine, cinnamic amides derivatives etc.

### **Uses:**

• The roots and fruits are useful in anorexia, consumption, cardiopathy, scabies, ophthalmia etc.

• The leaves are used in skin diseases, strangury, inflammations etc.

• The seeds are useful in epistaxis, urinary troubles and ulcerative stomatitis.

**Propagation:** The plant can be propagated by seeds.