

Thottea siliquosa (Lamk.) Ding Hou.

Synonyms : *Apama siliquosa*, *A. dubia*

Family : Aristolochaceae

Parts Used : Root

Vernacular Names

English : Thottea

Malayalam : Alpam, Kottashari



Distribution and habitat: Throughout Kerala, India, Sri Lanka

Botany: Erect or rarely scandent slender shrub or under shrub, 0.5-1.5 m high, branchlets swollen at nodes, finely pubescent, bark smooth, yellowish.

• **Leaves:** Simple, distichous, 10-18 x 3.5-6 cm, oblong-lanceolate, entire, glabrous above, stellately pubescent and paler beneath, strongly 3- nerved from the base with reticulate veins between the nerves, subacute at the base, acutely acuminate at the apex. Petioles 0.2-0.5 cm long, stout.

• **Flowers:** Dark purple in axillary, irregular, few-flowered cymes. Bracts small, linear, acute, pubescent. Pedicels 1-2.5 cm long, densely pubescent. Perianth 3 - partite with each segment 0.2-0.3 cm long, broadly ovate or sub orbicular, pubescent, concave, fleshy. Stamens 5 in three groups, adnate to the style with hairy anthers; pistil with elongate, 4-loculed ovary, thick style column, and 3 or more linear stigmas.

• **Fruit** : Capsules 6-9.5 cm long, straight, obtuse, 4-gonous.

• **Seeds:** 3-gonous, up to 0.2 cm long, acute at both ends, deeply pitted.

Uses: It is used in diarrhoea, dysentery, often administered with lemon juice. Plant paste in oil used in chronic sores and ulcers.

Propagation: By seeds

