

# *Trichopus zeylanicus* Gaertn

**Synonyms** : *Trichopodium zeylanicum* Bedd.

**Family** : Trichopodaceae

**Group** : Rejuvenatives

**Parts Used** : Fruit , Leaf

**Vernacular Names**

English : Trichopus

Malayalam : Arogyapacha

Sanskrit : Varahi



**Distribution and habitat:** Found wild in the Agasthya hills and Tinnevely hills.

**Botany:** A medicinal herb with several stems is formed from a nodose rhizome.

• **Stems** : Slender.

• **Leaves** : Ovate, apex acute and minutely apiculate, obtuse or rounded, base more or less deeply cordate with a wild sinus.

• **Flowers** : Seen in groups of 4 or 5. Perianth is dark brown with lanceolate lobes acute and slender pedicels, lengthening and thickening below the ellipsoid long fruit.

**Properties:** Neurotonic and hypothermic.

**Chemical constituents:** 2-methyl-3-hydroxypyrene, Pyranone, Coumaran, Chinasauric acid (Quinic acid) (9.15%), alpha-santonin, digiprolactone etc are present. Leaf essential oil contains  $\alpha$ -humulene and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene and petiole contains  $\alpha$ -humulene and n-Hexadecanoic acid.

**Uses:** Used in piles, wounds and diuretic.

**Agrotechnology**

**Soil and climate:** Forest areas with good organic matter content and which get only 50% of the sunlight are suited for its cultivation.

**Propagation:** Seedlings or suckers. 3-6 months old seedlings are to be used for planting.

**Manures and fertilizers:** Rotten leaves and dried cowdung at 2-5 t/ha are to be added and ridges of length 2 m and 0.5 m breadth are to be taken. Farm yard manure or compost or bone meal is to be applied once in two months.

**Irrigation:** Irrigation is essential during summer months. Sprinkler irrigation is good.

**Pest and diseases:** The plant is not attacked by any serious pests or diseases.

**Harvesting:** Flowering commences within 6 months and fruits mature after one month. Leaves can be harvested at this time.

