

Trichosanthes cucumerina Linn.

Synonyms : T.anguina Linn.

Family : Cucurbitaceae

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Wild snakegourd

Malayalam : Kattupatavalam, Patolam

Hindi : Palval, Parvar

Sanskrit : Pargavi, Meki, Parvara, Patola

Bengali : Poto

Tamil : Kombupudalai

Telugu : Kommupotta



Distribution and habitat: Found throughout India, in plains and in lower hills.

Botany: A slender annual monoecious climber with furrowed stem.

• **Stems** : 3.6-4.5 cm long, slightly hairy possess tendrils.

• **Leaves** : Simple, broader than long, leaf 5-12.5 cm long, orbicular reniform, distantly denticulate, base deeply cordate.

• **Flowers** : Monoecious, males in axillary racemes, bearing 8-15 flowers near the apex, white coloured. Females solitary axillary.

• **Fruits** : 4-6 cm long, ovoid, fusiform, indehiscent berries, tapering at both ends, green colour with white stripes when raw, scarlet red when ripe.

• **Seeds** : Semiellipsoid when ripe, compressed, surrounded with red pulp.

Chemical constituent: Fruit contains tetra cyclic triterpenes-cucurbitacins, cucurbitacin B, β -trichosanthin

Properties: The plant is bitter, acrid, thermogenic, emollient, laxative, depurative, alexeteric, anthelmintic, appetiser, carminative, digestive, cholagogue, stomachic, anodyne, expectorant, ardiotonic, suppurative, vulnerary, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and tonic.

Uses: It is useful in leprosy, leucoderma, anorexia, dyspepsia, flatulence, colic, dipsia, hyper acidity, hepatopathy, jaundice, helminthiasis, haemorrhoids, cephalgia, cough, asthma, intermittent fevers etc.

Propagation: Seeds. Spacing adopted for field planting is 90 cm X 60 cm.

