

Piper betle Linn.

Synonyms : *Chavica betle* Miq

Family : Piperaceae

Parts Used : Root , Leaf, Oil

Vernacular Names

English : Betel pepper

Malayalam : Vettila

Hindi : Pan

Sanskrit : Tambulavalli

Bengali : Pan

Gujarathi : Pan

Tamil : Ilaikkodi

Telugu : Alagavalli



Distribution and habitat: India and east part of Africa.

Botany: A perennial dioecious root climber, stems semi-woody, climbing by many short adventitious rootlets, very stout, much thickened at nodes, young parts glabrous.

• **Leaves:** Large, 15-20 cm, broadly ovate, slightly cordate and often a little unequal at base, shortly acuminate, acute, entire but margin often rather undulate, usually 7 nerved, glabrous, thick, bright green and shining on both sides, petiole 2-2.5 cm, stout.

• **Flowers** : Spikes dense, cylindrical, female 2.5-5 cm, pendulous, bracts triangular-rotundate, peltate, yellow, rachis pilose; stigmas 5 or 6, spreading stellately.

• **Fruit:** Sparingly produced, quite immersed in the fleshy spike which is about 5 cm long and pendulous.

Chemical constituent:

• Leaves- Vitamin A & C, thiamine, riboflavin, nicotinic acid, glucose, fructose, maltose, sucrose, malic acid, oxalic acid, amino acids, β - & γ -sitosterols, hentriacontane pentatriacontane, n-triacontanol, stearic acid, chavibetol acetate and allylpyrocatechol diacetate

• Essential oil- eugenol, carvacrol, chavicol, allylcatechol, cineole and p- cymene

• Roots- β -sitosterol, diosgenin, Vines- tocopherol, eugenol

Uses:

• Used in the treatment of night blindness, catarrh, diphtheria etc.

• Its leaf can be used against fever, eye infection, mouth ulcer, cough, skin irritation, wounds and swellings.

Propagation: By stem cuttings (approximately 40-50 cm long).

