

Piper retrofractum Vahl

Synonyms : *Piper chaba* Hunter

Family : Piperaceae

Parts Used : Root , Fruit , Stem

Vernacular Names

English : Bengal pepper

Malayalam : Bengla thippali/ Anathippali

Hindi : Chab

Sanskrit : Chavika



Distribution and habitat: Cultivated in Bangladesh, India and Malay Islands.

Botany: Quite glabrous, stem stout climbing and rooting,

• **Leaves:** short petioled rather coriaceous oblong-ovate or lanceolate acuminate, 3-5 nerved at the very obliquely cordate auricled base penninerved above it.

• **Fruits** : Fruiting spike stoutly peduncled, suberect conico-cylindric.

Chemical constituents: Root contain β -sitosterol, alkamides-piperine, sylvatine and piperlonguminine; fruits give methyl piperate and filifline, caryophyllene

Uses: Antifungal, hypotensive, muscle relaxant.

- Fruit tonic is used for languidness and after child birth, haemorrhoidal affections.
- Fruit and root is used in dyspepsia.
- The fruit is used for the treatment of cough and common cold and the stem bark for asthma, cough, cold, indigestion, loss of appetite and piles.
- The antitubercular properties of this plant has also been reported. Preliminary pharmaco-logical examination revealed a hypotensive and smooth muscle relaxant actions

Propagation: Cuttings

