

Solanum americanum Mill.

Synonyms : *Solanum nigrum* sensu Gamble

Family : Solanaceae

Group : Hepatoprotective

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Black night shade

Malayalam : Manithakkali, Karimthakkali

Hindi : Makoy, Gurkkmali

Sanskrit : Kakamachi

Kannada : Kakarndi

Tamil : Manathakkali, Milagutakkali

Telugu : Kamachi, Kachi



Distribution and habitat: Seen wild throughout India.

Botany: An erect, divaricately branched, unarmed, suffrutescent annual herb. Stem glabrous or more or less pubescent, much divaricately branched.

• **Leaves** : Numerous, 2.5-9 by 2-5 cm, ovate or oblong, sub-acute or acuminate, tapering into the petiole, sinuate-toothed or lobed and glabrous; petioles 2 cm long.

• **Flowers** : Small, 3-8, in extra-axillary drooping sub umbellate cymes, peduncles 6-20 mm long, slender. Calyx glabrous or nearly so; lobes 5, oblong, obtuse, not enlarged in fruit. Corolla divided more than $\frac{1}{2}$ the way down into 5 oblong sub acute lobes. Filaments short, flattened, hairy at the base; anthers yellow, oblong, obtuse, notched at the apex. Ovary globose, glabrous; style cylindric, hairy.

• **Fruits:** Purplish black or reddish berries, 6 mm diameter, globose, some times yellow or red, smooth, shining.

• **Seeds:** Many, 1.5 mm diameter, discoid, yellow, minutely pitted.

Chemical constituents: Vitamin B&C, β -carotene, flacokinase, glycoalkaloids, solasonine and α -& β -solanigrine, steroidal genine, solasodiene, diosgenin, uttronin A, palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, chlorogenic, caffeic, traces of neochlorogenic, isochlorogenic acid and caffeoylglucose.

Uses: The whole plant is useful in vitiated conditions of *tridosha*, rheumatism, swellings, cough, asthma, bronchitis, wounds, ulcers, flatulence, dyspepsia, strangury, hepatomegaly, otalgia, hiccough, ophthalmopathy, vomiting, cardiopathy, leprosy, skin diseases, fever, splenomegaly, haemorrhoids, nephropathy, dropsy and general debility.

Formulations: *Kakamachi arka*, *Rasaraja rasa*, *Siddhaphala paniyavatika*, *Kalkuta rasa*.

Agro technology:

Soil and Climate : They come up very well in tropical and subtropical climate up to 2000 m altitude.

Propagation: Seeds

