

Bixa orellana Linn.

Family : Bixaceae

Group : Dyes

Parts Used : Root , Seed, Bark

Vernacular Names

English : Annatto plant, Arnotta plant

Malayalam : Kurangumanjal, Kuppamanjal

Hindi : Sinduriya, Latkan

Sanskrit : Sinduri

Tamil : Sappira virai, Uragumanjal.



Distribution and habitat: It is a small tree and is widely distributed through out India.

Botany: Ever green small bushy tree

• **Leaves:** Simple, stipules minute, Petioles long slender, Lamina cordate, glabrous, acuminate

• **Inflorescence:** Terminal panicles. Flowers purple or pink or white, bisexual.

• **Fruit:** Capsules, scarlet, ovoid or subglobose softly prickly, bivalved, pulp orange-red, many seeded.

• **Seeds:** Albuminous.

Properties: Antipyretic, astringent, mosquito-repellent

Chemical constituents: Bixin, Norbixin, Methylbixin, Tomentosic acid, Bixa ghanene, Bisulphates of Apigenin, Luteolin, Hypolaetin, Ishwarane (in seed oil).

• **Seeds:** Methyl 9' Z-apo- 6'- lycopenoate, Apocarotenoid-bixin, Norbixin, Methyl bixin.

• **Leaves:** Bixaghanene (Ishwarane)

Uses: Used against intermittent fevers, gonorrhea and dysentery. Annatto dye used for colouring edible material

Propagation: Seeds

