

# *Alocasia macrorrhizos* (L.) G.Don

**Synonyms** : *Arum indicum* Roxb. , *Colocasia indica* Kunth.

**Family** : Araceae

**Parts Used** : Rootstock

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Giant taro

Malayalam : Maranchembu

Hindi : Mamkanda

Sanskrit : Mahapatra

Assamese : Mamkachu

Bengali : Mamkachu



**Distribution and Habitat:** tropical plant

**Botany:** A robust herb with caudex attaining 0.9-1.8 m and 10-20 cm diameter.

• **Leaves:** 60-90 cm long, bright green, triangular-sagittate, slightly repand with strongly marked whitish midrib and 6-8 secondary nerves; basal lobes ovate with rather a narrow sinus between and sometimes shortly confluent, their primary nerves forming an acute or nearly a right angle with each other. Petiole as long as or longer than the leaves, round and tapering upwards, sometimes transversely clouded. Spathes with slight, rather offensive smell, 20-30 cm long, of a pale greenish yellow inside and out, tube oblong ovoid 3.8-5.0 cm long.

• **Inflorescence:** Female inflorescence is yellow, ovoid, 2.5 cm long. Fertile male inflorescence is white and 3.8-5.0 cm long.

• **Fruit:** Red berry , 7.5-10 mm diameter.

**Chemical constituents:** Campesterol, stigmasterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol in rhizomes

**Uses:** Inflammations, leprosy, anasarca, disease of abdomen and spleen. Root stock yields a pure white starch. It is used for rheumatoid arthritis. Leaves an roots are reported to be effective in treating snake bites.

**Propagation:** tuber