

Begonia malabarica Lam.

Synonyms : *Begonia dipetala*

Family : Begoneaceae

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Begonea

Malayalam : Rakthasoori

Tamil : Sengurungu, Senthandu



Distribution and habitat: Peninsula and Sri Lanka

Botany: Sub shrubby plant; stems sub-succulent, jointed, nodose, with persistent leaf scars.

• **Leaf:** Ovate-cordate, 6-15 x 4-8 cm, chartaceous, stiff pubescent, 7-9 nerved base deeply oblique, margin irregularly dentate- bi serrate, apex acuminate; petiole 3-9 cm; stipules lanceolate.

• **Inflorescence:** Cymes terminal or lateral, in dichasial corymbs, to 6 cm ; peduncle to 4 cm; bracts oblong to 6 mm; bracteoles subulate, to 4 mm; pedicels to 5 mm, in fruit to 2 cm. flowers rose to white. Tepals 2, orbicular lunate.

• **Fruit:** Capsule 1.5x2 cm, wings 5-7 m broad, narrow at base, apically broad, prominently nerved; seeds infinity, oblong, 0.5 mm, pitted.

Chemical constituents: Luteolin, quercetin, β -sitosterol, friedelin, epi-friedelinol, β sitosterol-3- β -ortho glucopyranoside etc

Properties: antirheumatic, anti oxidant, hypoglycemic, anti fungal etc.

Uses: Used in respiratory tract infections, diarrhea, skin diseases, cancer therapy etc.

