MORPHOLOGY AND MEDICINAL USES OF SELECTED PLANTS

1. *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt.

*Coccinia grandis* is a perennial, glabrous, climbing herb, stem is angular, tendril slender and leaves broadly ovate, 5-10cm, 5-angled or 3-5 lobed, cordate at the base, minutely denticulate along margin, petiole slender, 2-5 cm long, flowers are axillary solitary. Male flowers with peduncle 2-6cm long striate. Calyx tube is campanulate which 4-5 mm long, teeth ovate. Corolla white 3-5cm long, lobes shorter than the tube, staminal column 2-3mm long; anthers 6-7 mm thick. Female flowers the peduncles is 1-3 cm long, Fruit ellipsoid, rounded at both ends, become red when ripe. Seeds are oblong and yellowish (Photo Plate No 1).

**Medicinal uses**

Every part of the plant is valuable in medicine and used in various preparations of indigenous system of medicine to expel ring worms and against scabies. Plant is also used to cure diabetes, as an antidote to snake bite, against liver diseases, Ulcer, bronchitis, leprosy, hepatitis, jaundice and sore throat.


Large climbing annual herb, stem thick, softly pubescent, tendrils bifid, the leaves are broadly ovate, orbicular, 10-40cm across, cordate at base, angular or shortly trilobed, acute or shortly acuminate, softly white pubescent on both the surfaces, petiole 5-30cm long, thick, biglandular at apex. Male flowers are on long axillary peduncles. Calyx tube is 2-3cm long, sepals narrow. Petals are white, obovate and emarginate at apex. Filaments are 3-4 mm long anthers 8-10 mm long. Female peduncles are shorter than the male. Calyx tube 2-3mm long, ovary is villous. Fruit is greenish yellow turning brown. Seeds are oblong 7-20mm long, white, truncate or bidentate at apex (Photo Plate No 2).

**Medicinal uses**

It is used in treatment of cough, jaundice, cold and measles and to expel kidney stone. Fruit have laxative, cardio protective, cardio tonic, general tonic and diuretic properties. It used in rheumatism, inflammatory disorders.

It is climbing herbs, stem woody below, grooved, glabrous. Tendrils are 2-3 fid. Leaves are broadly ovate, 5-12cm long and as much broad shallowly cordate at base, deeply or shallowly 3-5 lobed, dark green above, paler and with black glands, petioles 2-8 cm long, striate. Plants are monoecious. Male flowers in 15-20cm long, in axillary racemes, pedicel short. Bracts are broadly ovate, fringed. Calyx tube is 2.5-3 cm long, pubescent. Petals are white, obovate 2-2.5 cm long. Filaments are villous. Female flowers are on short axillary peduncle. Fruit is globose, 3.5 cm in diameter, red with orange coloured stripes. Seeds ovoid, smooth, brown or black (Photo Plate No 3).

**Medicinal uses**
The plant used as laxative, antihelmantic and in treatment of migraine, antioxidant effect. It possesses antitumor, anti inflammatory and bears antimicrobial properties.

4. *Diplocyclos palmatus* (L.) Jeffrey

It is glabrous, annual, climbing herbs, stem much branched, slender and grooved. Tendrils are slender and 2 fid. Leaves are membranous, deeply cordate at base, 5-lobed, shining green above, paler beneath, lobes oblong, lanceolate, sinuate and distantly dentate along margins, petioles 2-2.8cm 2 cm long. Male flowers are in fascicles, peduncles. 5-15mm long, filiform, glabrous. Calyx is 2-2.5mm long, glabrous, teeth subulate, shorter than the tube. Corolla is pale yellow, 3-4mm long lobes, ovate oblong, acute. Female flowers solitary or few together on axillary short peduncles. Fruits are subsessile, globose, 7.2cm in diameter, bluish red when ripe. Seeds ovoid 5-6mm long and yellowish brown (Photo Plate No 4).

**Medicinal uses**
Leaves are used against inflammation and impotency, in the treatment of malarial fever. Plant is also used as an antidote to snake bite; roots are used in the treatment of asthma.


The plant is annual climbing herbs stem slender, hispid, tendrils hirsute. Leaves are broadly ovate in outline, cordate at base, 3-5 lobed, denticulate, hispid on both surfaces, lobes triangular, acute. Male flowers fasciculate or sub solitary, peduncles filiform, 5-12mm long. Calyx tube is narrowly campanulate, villous-hispid, 3mm long, teeth. Corolla is yellow, lobes oblong 4 x 2mm obtuse. Filament is short,
anthers oblong.1-1.5mm long, ciliate, appendages of connective 2-.mm long. Female flowers solitary on short peduncle ovary oblong, villous, fruit oblong, sparsely long, setosus seeds oblong, straw coloured, smooth (Photo Plate No 5).

**Medicinal uses**

Fruits are much used during summer as a cooling agent, tonic, diuretics and antihelmentic
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*Photo plate No.1*

*Coccinia grandis (L) Voigt.*
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*Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl.

![Image of Lagenaria siceraria](image)

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Photo plate No.2

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Trichosanthes tricuspidata Lour.

Photo plate No.3
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*Diplocyclos palmatus* (L.) Jeffrey

Photo plate No.4
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*Cucumis setosus* Cogn.

Photo plate No.5