CHAPTER - 3
3. ENUMERATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS:


Perennial herbs, stem woolly. Leaves elliptic oblong 12-16 x 3-5 cm; petioles c 2 cm long. Spikes c 6-12 cm long; bracts elliptic lanceolate, pubescent; corolla greenish white, pubescent. Stamens attached at the throat of the corolla tube, didynamous; anthers beared. Ovary 2 celled; ovules 2 in each locules.

Fls. & Frts.: April-May.

Specimen examined: Monapi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0151.

Grows wild on the forest floor.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf

Leaves cut into small pieces, pounded to paste and applied locally around fresh cuts/wounds to reduce pain and also for antiseptic action.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far (cf. The useful Plants of India, 3rd Reprint 1994, CSIR Publ.)

*Note: Utilization of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.

Trees moderate sized, winter deciduous, thorny, thorns stout axillary. Leaves alternate, trifoliolate or pentafoliolate glandular punctate, aromatic; leaflets elliptic or ovate-lanceolate, margins crenuate. Inflorescence lateral and subterminal panicles, appearing with the leaves. Flowers white, fragrant; petals with fleshy glands. Stamens many; ovules many in each locules. Fruits 8-10 cm diameters, many seeded.

Fls. & Frts.: March – July.

Specimen examined: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0195.

Growing wild, also commonly cultivated in the house complex for edible fruits.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used. Leaves.

Leaves pounded to paste with a few drops of water, about 10 gm of it dissolved in a cup of water, decanted and taken internally twice a day to lower down temperature during fever and also to reduce pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Pulp of ripe fruits is cooling, acts as laxative and diuretic due to its active constituent Narmelosin; unripe fruit is astringent, digestive, stomachic and used for diarrhoea and dysentery.
Root bark is used in intermittent fever and also a fish poison.

*Note: Utilization of leaf of the plant in lowering temperature is recorded here as an additional use.

*Agaricus campestris* L. Sp. Pl. 305, 1753. (AGARICACEAE) "Mukoihaflao" (R), Chhatra" (S), “Chatta” (H) & (B).

Saprophytes, plant body consists of branched septate mycellia. Sporophore white, consists of stipe 4-8 x 0.5-1.5 cm long; pileus umbrella like, 4-8 cm in diam.

Sporulation: June – July.

Specimen examined: Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0170.

Common on shady and moist places during rainy season.

Usage in Ethnomedicine.

Parts used. Fructification.

Fructification is boiled with salt and eaten as vegetable for general health.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

It is used as tonic, laxative and aphrodisiac. Juice contain a thermostable substance which increases the strength of contraction of the heart of toad and act on the rate of heart bit of dog.

Herbs erect, c 20 cm high, plant parts pubescent, strongly aromatic. Leaves opposite, ovate petiolate. Heads in terminal corymbos or panicles, Florets bluish purple.

Sepals paleaceous of 5 scales. Achnes oblong, ribbed, black, scabrous.

Fls. & Frts.: Throughout the year.

Specimen examined: Damcherra; Hailakandi. 04-06-95. 0171.

Found abundantly in road sides and waste places.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

1 teaspoonful of decoction of leaves taken internally twice a day to reduce high body temperature.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The leaves are stypic, applied to cuts and sores externally. It is also useful in boils, leprosy and skin diseases. Leaf juice as eye lotion reported in Kahdi Gramoduog 19:219, 1973-73. (cf. Asolkar et al 1992 pp 30)

*Note: Use of leaf decoction of the plant in lowering temperature appears to be the new report.


(ALLIACEAE) "Chouck" (R), "Palandu" (S), "Piyaz" (H) & (B).

Herbs bulbous, subterranean, bulbs covered with pinkish white or purple brown dried persistant leaf sheaths, with stimulant sap and pungent smell. Leaves radical and
basal, several, cylindric, fistular. Flowers dense in large umbels on long hollow peduncle, white; peduncle longer than leaves, 25-50 cm; umbels subtended by 2-3 reflexed bracts, petals linearly lanceolate. Stamens exerted.

Fls. & Frts.: January – March.

Specimen examined: Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95.

Commonly cultivated in kitchen gardens.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Scale leaves.

Small pieces of fresh bulbs crushed between fingers and the pungent vapour so evolved is allowed to enter the eyes for reducing eye measles.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bulb is stimulant, diuretic, expectorant and aphrodisiac. It is also used in flatulence and dysentery.


Herbs bulbous, subterranean with several bulblets enclosed in a silky white envelope. Leaves several from base, flat, long pointed. Flowers dense in capitulate small umbels on terete peduncle, white, peduncles longer than leaves, c 30 cm. Tepals linear lanceolate, acute; anthers and style exerted.
FIs. & Frts.: January – March.

Specimen examined: Chotojamira, Hailakandi. 05-07-96. 0215.

Cultivated commonly in the kitchen gardens.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bulb.

Fresh bulb is crushed between two stones and about 1 teaspoonful is taken internally twice a day to reduce high temperature.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bulb is carminative, aphrodisiac, expectorant and stimulant. It is also used in fever, cough, febrifuge and intermittent fever. Juice is used as rubefacient in skin diseases and as ear drop in earache. It is also useful in dyspepsia and flatulence.


Herbs robust, root stock 30 – 70 cm long, erect. Leaves large, ovate-sagittate, 80-90 x 50-60 cm; petioles 40-80 cm long. Peduncles c 20 cm long, sap the nearly half the length. Spadix white; pistillate, neuter and staminate zone c 1 cm, 2 cm, and 1.5 cm long respectively. Ovaries ovoid; stigma capitate, often 3-4 lobed; seeds globose.

FIs. & Frts.: April – May.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj. 05-06-94. 0118.
Photo - 21: *Alpinia nigra* (Gaertn.) Brutt. - rhizome of the plant is used as antiseptic.
Commonly cultivated in kitchen gardens.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root stock.

The extract (1 teaspoonful) obtained by boiling the sliced root stock is taken internally during stomach trouble.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.


Herbs perennial, rhizomatous; leafy stem c 2.25 m high. Leaves ligulate 25-50 x 7-10 cm, oblong-lanceolate, sharply acuminate apex and acute to acutely rounded base.

Flowers bracteate, pinkish white with pink bracts, sepals greenish white. Lip cuneate, clawed, pink, emerginate, with 2 subulate glands at the base. Capsules globose c 2 cm in diam.
Fls. & Frts.: April – August.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0144.

Commonly found along streams and on the bank of ditches.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

Fresh rhizome is cut into pieces and boiled in water till it become 1/3 rd of its content. The extract is then applied locally on fresh cuts as antiseptic. The drug is applied till the cut heals.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Rhizomes are used in rheumatism, fever and catarrhal specially in bronchial catarrhal. It is also used as stomachic, stimulant and aphrodisiac.

*Note: Antiseptic activity of the plant is recorded here for the first time.


Trees evergreen, 15-20 m tall, with greyish bark. Leaves in whorls, elliptic 10-15 x 3-4 cm. Inflorescence compact, subumbellate cymes; corolla-tube densely pubescent outside, constricted at the middle, 7-8 mm; lobes obovate c 3 mm, pale green to pale yellow. Follicles 2, terete, pendant. Seeds oblong with tufts of pale brown hairs at both extremeties.
Fls. & Frts.: October - March.

Specimen examined: Damcherra, Hailakandi. 04-05-95. 0172.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh roots cut into small pieces, dried and finally powdered by crushing in a mortar. The powder (5 gm) is then taken orally with water twice a day during stomach trouble. It is also said to be useful in abdominal pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark is known in commerce as Dita bark, and used in medicine as bitter febrifuge and astringent in treatment of malarial fever, chronic dysentery and diarrhoea. The application of latex is useful in ulcers. Ethanol extract of stem is hypotensive and anti cancer. Bark contain two alkaloids-ditamine and echitamine. The latex is found to contain 2.8 - 7.9% caoutchouc, root barks contain echitamine chloride and amyrin. Picralinal, a key alkaloid of picralimin group isolated and constitution are reported by Rastogi et al (1970).

Sing and Anandkrishna (1983) reported that the milk of tree is given in postmortam pain of abdomen in delivery cases.

Milky latex applied to sores. Decoction of bark is drunk to treat genital trouble in men.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded.
Amaranthus spinosus L. Sp.Pl. 971, 1753; Hook.f., FBI 4: 718, 1885; Kanjilal et al., FA 4: 8, 1940; Hajra, BBSI 17: 84, 1975; Deb, FTS 2: 165, 1883; Rao et Rabha, BBSI 8: 301, 1966. (AMARANTHACEAE) "Khentamyra" (R), "Tanduliya" (S), "Kantilichaulai" (H), "Kanta notya" (B).

Herbs annual, erect, much branched, 45 cm high. Stems armed with 2-3 sharp spines at leaf axil. Leaves alternate, ovate-elliptic, cuneate at base. Flowers unisexual, green clustered at leaf axil even towards base of plant as well as elongated spikes or panicles at the top of the plants. Tepals 5, stamens 5. Styles 2-3. Utricle oblong with 3-lobed apex, circumsciss 3-below the middle. Seeds shining black.

Fls. & Frts.: Throughout the year.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0152.

Common on sandy soils and grows as weed in vegetable gardens.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh root cut into pieces and aqueous extract is made by crushing in a morter. The extract is then taken internally to reduce chest pain. It is also useful in the case of snake bite.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root is used in menorrhagia, gonorrhoea and eczema. Extract obtained by boiling leaves and roots given to children as laxative and applied as emolient poultice to abscesses.
Photo - 22: *Amischotolype hookeri* (Hassk.) Hara. - boiled leaves of the plant are taken as vegetable during naval pain.
Root powder is said to be used in dysentery (Shukla et al 1992).

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded.


Herb, stout, erect stem simple, rooting near the base. Leaves ob lanceolate sheaths tubular persistent after the fall of blade. Flowers sessile bracteate in globose fascicles of dense cymes. Sepals 3; petals 3; stamens 6 perfect, carpel 3, ovary 3-celled. Capsules subglobose.

Fls. & Frts.: July - October.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0262.

Common on shady hill slopes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Tender Leaves.

Tender leaves boiled and eaten with rice to reduce naval pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicine.

Plants tendril climber; branches much spreading. Tendrils leaf-opposed, 15-20 cm long, forked at the end. Leaves 3-foliolate, rhachis 5-8 cm long; leaflets membranous, margin serrated. Flowers reddish brown on compact 2-3 corymbose pedunculate cymes; cymes divaricate, bracteate.

Fls. & Frts.: June – July.

Specimen examined: Cheragi; Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0122.

Common in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Leaves of the plant are crushed with the leaves of Hibiscus rosasinensis and the paste so obtained in applied on fresh cuts to stop bleeding. The same is used as an antiseptic.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: A New report of its use in ethnomedicine is recorded here.

Tree small, barks greyish white. Leaves 3-12 x 2-4.5 cm elliptic oblong or oblong lanceolate; petioles 0.5 cm long. Flowers minute 2-6 together in umbellate cymes. Calyx cup shaped; corolla exceeding the calyx. Stamen adnate to petals, opposite, concealed. Ovary 3-celled, depressed. Drupes oblong.

FIs. & Frts.: June – July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0292. Grows wild.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Leaves cut into small pieces, pounded together with leaves of *Acanthus leucostachyus* and made to a paste. It is then applied locally around fresh cuts/wounds to reduce pain and also for antiseptic action.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Reported here as New.*

Photo - 23: *Angiopteris evecta* (Forst.) Hoffm. - caudex of the plant is used as antiseptic.
Well branched undershrubs. Branches tetraquatrous, glandular hairy, glabrous below, 3-8 x 1-2 cm, subsessile or the base attenuate. Flowers pedicillate, pubescent. Bract foliaceous c 1 cm long. Calyx c 3 mm long. Corolla c 5 mm, bilipped, 2+3 lobed, purplish white. Capsules oblong, c 1.2 x 0.3 cm, glandular, hairy, yellowish brown; retinacula curved upward.

Fls. & Frts.: Throughout the year.

Specimen examined: Damcherra, Hailakandi. 04-06-95. 0174.

Grows wild on forest floor. Often cultivated for medicinal uses.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Plant as a whole.

Dried or fresh plant cut into pieces and kept in a glass of water over night. This water is taken internally in empty stomach against stomach troubles and also used to expel small worm.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant is febrifuge, tonic, alterative, anthelmintic, useful in debility, dysentery and dyspepsia. Infusion of plant is used in fever.

Roots and leaves are febrifuge, stomachic, tonic, alterative and anthelmintic.

crassipes Wall. ex. Presl., Suppl. Tent. Pterid. 23, 1845. (ANGIOPTERIDACEAE)

"Skamiomamuidu"(R).

Ferns large; caudex stout, erect, with scars of stipes. Stipe fleshy, pale green with white dots. Fronds bipinnate, large, spreading; pinnae with 15-16 pairs of subsessile, lanceolate, ctenualate pinnules, 5-20 x 2-3 cm, veins dichotomously forked. Sori submarginal, 1 mm away from the margins, 10-12 sporangia in each sorus. Spores round with verrucose protuberence on the exine.

Sporulation: June - July.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0125.

Occasional occurrence on moist and shady places specially on hill slopes and along the banks of perennial streams and canals.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Caudex.

Apical parts of caudex is cut into pieces and boiled with water till the contents become half. This extract is applied locally over curbuncle twice a day to get relief from pain, at the same time the abscess dried up within a week.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: This is the First report of its use in ethnomedicine.

Herbs, caespitose, stemless. Leaves rosettes, long, spinny-serrate. Flowers sessile, violet on a stout peduncle terminally borne cone like, very dense, oblong spike, crowned with tuft of leafy bracts with suckers arising from base as also on top of spike; bracts subspinescent, projecting bearing a solitary flower embedded in the axil, uppermost empty, more or less leafy. Sepals 3, petals 3, Stamen 5. Carpels 3, syncarpus, ovary inferior. Fruit formed of coalescence of thickened rachis, spiny toothed bracts, abortive ovaries and adhering parts in to the large globose, ovoid or fleshy syncarpium. Seeds few, ovoid or oblong.

Fls. & Frts.: March – August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0295.

Cultivated on slopes of hillocks for edible fruits.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh root of the plant together with pieces of root of Citrus reticulata and Tamarindus indica are crushed with water. The product is strained with the help of a piece of cloth and the extract is taken internally thrice a day for seven days during typhoid.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
Juice of leaves is anthelmintic, unripe fruit is abortifacient juice of ripe fruit is antiscorbutic.

*Note: An additional new use of the plant is recorded.


Fls. & Frts.: March – May.

Specimen examined: Monapi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0145.

Common in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.

Crushed of fresh bark made in to paste and is applied locally on burns thrice a day till the burn heals.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Reported here as New.
Trees ever green, unbranched, erect, annulated, up to 15 m high. Leaves in terminal crown, pinnatisect with the upper segment, petiole with broad clasping base. Flowers unisexual, in spadix; spathes 3, deciduous. Spadix intrafoliar much branched, rachis stout. Male flower very small on filiform tips of branches. Female flowers solitary at the bases and axils of branches. Fruits 1-seeded nuts, ovoid exterior fleshy, orange, base enclosed in perianth cup.

Fls. & Frts.: May – November.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0240.

Cultivated for nuts used as masticatory.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Nuts.

A paste obtained by crushing dehasked nut is mixed with crushed tuberous roots of Curculigo capitulata and applied locally on fresh cuts as haemostat.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Nuts are aphrodisiac, astringent, anthelmintic and nerve tonic. It is also useful in urinary disorders and in snake bite.

In veterinary medicine nuts are used as vermifuge for tape worm.


Climber large, woody. Leaves 12-15 x 8-12 cm, ovate-cordate, coriaceous, glabrous above, silky tomentose beneath. Flowers in dense corymbose cymes, peduncles 3-5 cm long. Flowers bracteate; bracts foliaceous, ovate acute, wooly beneath, elliptic oblong, corolla purplish white. Ovary 4 celled with 1 ovule in each cell. Fruits capsules, indehiscent.

Fls. & Frts.: July – August.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0150.

Grows wild on forest floor. Common.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh root cut into small pieces, pounded to paste with water applied locally on bone joints as poultice.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Roots are alterative and tonic, useful in rheumatism and nervous disorders.
Leaves are antiphlogistic used as emolient, poultice for wounds and externally in skin diseases.


Trees medium to large, dense crown, evergreen, with milky latex. Leaves 6-10 x 5-8 cm, obovate-elliptic to elliptic, coriaceous, glossy green above, glaucous beneath, entire, juvenile leaves sometimes lobed, stipules prominent, caducous. Inflorescence in bud covered by large leathery deciduous sheath, caulifloras and ramifloras. Male heads clavate or ellipsoid. Female heads oblong to elliptic-oblung often various shaped, styles exerted, spatulate. Sorosis 30-100 x 25-40 cm. Seeds c 2.5 cm long.

*Fls. & Frts.*: January – August.

*Specimen examined*: Raifalmara, Hailakandi. 06-06-95. 0179.

Cultivated for edible fruits.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used**: Juvenile leaves.

Juvenile leaves are dried in sun, powdered and applied locally for the treatments of carbuncle or abscess till it dries up.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine**:

Leaves are useful in skin diseases and as an antidote in snake bite.

Roots are used internally in diarrhoea.
Juice of plant applied to glandular swelling and abscess to promote suppuration. Unripe fruits are astringents. Ripe fruits are laxative.


Under shrubs, much branched; stems minutely pubescent. Leaves opposite lanceolate; petioles short. Flowers in terminal and axillary umbellate cymes, orange red to red purple. Calyx 5-lobed, glandular within. Corolla 5-lobed, reflexed. Stamen 5. Coronal scales 5, erect spoon shaped, adnate with staminal column; pollinia smooth, solitary, pendulous in each anther sac, attached in pairs. Folicles-2, smooth, beaked 5.2 cm long, seeds flattened, silky.

Fls. & Frts.: March – May.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0130.

Grows common in wild condition.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

A paste made from 6-10 root pieces is applied in fresh cuts for arresting bleeding.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root is used as remedy in piles and gonorrhoea.

Leaf juice is anthelmintic and is used for arresting haemorrhages and gonorrhoea. Glucosides present are asclepiadin and Vincetoxin.


Fls. : September – October.

Specimen examined : Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0263.

Grows wild, often cultivated for medicinal purposes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine :

Parts used : Leaves.

Fresh leaves crushed and made paste with water applied as poultice locally and externally as pain killer.

Established reports of utilization in medicine :

Roots are astringent, demulcent, diuretic, aphrodisiac, antispasmodic, antidysenteric. Roots are also used as demulcent in veterinary medicine.

*Note : Additional mode of utilization of the plant is reported.

Medium sized tree. Leaves exstipulate, imparipinnate, leaflets 5-11, rhomboid - lanceolate, acuminate 5-6 x 2-3 cm. Flowers axillary pentamerous purplish. Sepal 5, free, half the length of the petals. Stamens 10, unequal, alternately 5 shorter without anthers. Ovary pubescent. Fruits 5-ribbed, yellow when ripe, very pulpy, mildly sour, fragrant.

Fls. & Frts.: March – August.

Specimen examined: Monapi, Karimganj. 05-06-94. 0115.

Grows wild, also cultivated.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fruits.

Fruit juice taken internally during diarrhoea. Excess taking of juice may cause diarrhoea.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Dried fruits used in fever. Ripe fruits used as remedy for piles and useful in relieving thirst and excitement.

*Note: Additional purpose of utilization is recorded here.

Trees medium sized, winter deciduous. Leaves imparipinnate, lanceolate-acuminate, leaflets 9-15. Flowers small, white bisexual c 6 mm. Drupes greenish white, one seeded.

Fls. & Frts. : March – August.

Specimen examined : Rongpur, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0152.

Usage in Ethnomedicine :

Parts used : Leaf.

Fresh leaves pounded and made into paste, when applied externally cures skin diseases. Boiled leaf is taken as vegetable without salt for rheumatic pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine :

Bark is bitter tonic astringent, antispasmodic, root bark and fruits are tonic, antispasmodic and asterative.

Leaves are used as poultice to boils; decoction of leaves is antiseptic.

Dry flowers are tonoc and stomachic.

Oil is stimulent, antiseptic and alterative and also used in rheumatism.


Trees small, bark lenticillate. Leaves lanceolate, acuminate, 12-18 x 2-6 cm; petioles c 2 cm. Flowers dioecious in densely fascicled, heary tomentose racemes on old wood and branches. Male flowers subsessile, in the axils of stipular bracts; Tepals 4 lobed; stamens 4-8, free. Female flowers yellow; ovary tomentose, 2-3 celled. Capsules 2-5 cm across, tomentose, globose, yellowish brown; seeds arillats, arils pulpy, yellow.

Fls. & frts. : March - July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj, 05-05-97. 0264

Single plant is under cultivation.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Root paste is applied locally in insect sting and is allowed to remain till pain subsides.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.

Shrubs erect, 4-5 m in height. Leaves slightly longer than broad 4-6 x 3.5 - 4.5 cm., cleft about 1/3 rd way down into subobtuse lobes; petioles 1.5 - 2 cm. Flowers white, 4 cm across, in terminal or leaf opposed short simple racemes; calyx spatheceous; petals elliptic, midvein distinct; stamens 10, fertile.

Fls. : March - July.

Specimen examined: Damcherra, Hailakandi, 04-06-96, 0175.

Along the edges of secondary forest and also under cultivation.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Tender leaves pounded and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content with water and decanted. The supernatant liquid is taken internally twice a day during congestion and chest pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of bark or leaves given in biliousness, leprosy, asthma and stone in bladder. Flowers eaten raw, cooling. (cf. The Useful Plants of India p. 65, 1994.)

*Note: Additional report of utilization of leaves in ethnomedicine is recorded.


"Thaichengmokhhol" (R).

Herbs rhizomatous. Leaves 10-12 x 8-9 cm, obliquely ovate, cordate, margins ciliated; petioles 11-13 cm long, pubescent. Flowers unisexuals in axillary
peduncles, pinkish purple to white. Capsules winged.

Fls.: June - July.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj, 07-06-94. 0128.

Found in moist and shady places.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root

Roots cut into pieces, pounded and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content and decanted. The supernatant is taken internally thrice a day during diarrhoea.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded elsewhere.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicine.


Baishya et Rao, Ferns and Fern allies, Meghalaya 118, 1982. (BLECHNACEAE)

"Sikiomamoidu" (R)

Rhizome erect, stout; caudex distinct; scales linear, dark brown. Fronds terminal, radially arranged, erect, scaly at base. Pinnae decurrent on the stipe, veins forked; sori elongated, close to both sides of the midrib. Spores round to oval, dark brown.

Sporulation: June - July.

Specimen examined: Hawaitang, Cachar. 02-04-94. 0104.
Common along moist and shady base of hillocks and roadside cuttings.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Pinnae

Hot decoction of pinnae is applied externally over abscess to liberate pus and also for its antiseptic action. Fresh decoction is applied once a day till abscess dries up.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Chinese use rhizome as an anthelmintic and in urinary disorders. Their poultice applied to boils in Malaya.

Kaushik and Dhiman (1995) reported the use of the plant in urinary disorder and delirium (Sanipat)

*Note: A new mode of use of the plant is recorded here.


Shrubs erect, branches stout, puberulous. Leaves oblanceolate, acuminate, distantly serrulate, coriaceous 14-20 x 3-5.5 cm; petiole short c 1cm. Heads clustered on elongated panicles, erect; peduncles and involucral bracts tomentose. Cypsela ribbed, hairy. Pappus hairs red.
FIs. & Frts.: April – August.

Specimen examined: Karimganj. 07-04-97. 0265.

Commonly grows.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Young leaves.

Fish curry is made with leaves and usually taken with rice by women in case of vaginal protution.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves are used as sudorific in Indo-China and also given in bronchties and aphthae.

*Note: Additional mode of use of the plant is recorded here.*


Shrubs, branches spreading. Leaves ovate – elliptic to orbicular 10-14 x 1.5-2 cm, coarsely dentate, acuminate, acute to rounded at base; petioles 1-3.5 cm. Spikes drooping. Flowers unisexual, monoecious; creamy yellow. Achenes compressed.

FIs. : March – April.

Specimen examined: Duhalia, Karimganj. 07-06-95. 0160.

Common along road sides hillocks and slopes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:
Parts used: Leaves.

Seven leaves pounded together and made into a paste, when applied locally on boils reduces pain and aid in liberating pus. Fresh poultice is applied every day till it is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Medicinal use of the plant is not recorded in literature. Only the fibre of the plant is used for cordage and fishing lines. *(cf. The useful plants of India p.76,1992.)*

*Note: Ethnomedicinal use of the plant is recorded here for the First time.*


Shrubs, branches peckled with lenticels; stems brownish red. Leaves alternate, imparipinnate; leaflets 13-15, lowest pair small, entire, ovate - lanceolate, acuminate, 2-4 x 1-1.5 cm. Inflorescence cymose panicles. Flowers greenish tinged with white, polygamous, tetramerous; ovary 4-lobed.

*Fls.*: March – April.

**Specimen examined:** Medlicherra, Karimganj. 07-04-97. 0266.

Grows wild on forest floor. Not so common.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

Parts used: Root.
Roots cut into pieces, pounded and made into a paste. About 10 gm of the paste is dissolved in a cup (c 40 ml) of water, decanted and supernatant is taken internally twice a day during dyspepsia till the disease is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far. But the allied species *Brucea javanica* (L.) Merrill is much utilised in redicise (cf. The useful plants of India p. 88, 1994)

*Note* : Recorded here as *New* in ethnomedicine.

*Brumella vulgaris* L. Sp.Pl.351,1753; Kanjilal *et al*, FA 3; 520, 1939. (LAMIACEAE)

"Lamaku" (R), "Dharu" (H).

Herbs, perennials. Leaves ovate – ovate lanceolate, entire 2-3 x 1-1.5 cm; petioles c .5 cm long. Flowers in dense whorl, deep blue. Stamens 4, didynamous, ovary on gonophore.

Fls. & Frts.: February – July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 07-04-97. 0267.

Common in wild condition.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.

Fresh bark of the plant cut into pieces, pounded and an aqueous concentrated extract is made and applied locally during toothache.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
Photo - 24: *Canna.coecinia* L. – under cultivated condition.
Plant is antispasmodic, expectorant and used for fevers and cough. It is also considered as antirheumatic, alterative and tonic.

Green leaves smeared with castor oil and warmed over fire applied externally to the anus in painful piles.

*Note: Additional usage in ethnomedicine of the plant is recorded.


Herbs rhizomatous, erect. Stem purplish. Leaves large, oblong lanceolate 30 x 11 cm. Flowers in simple raceme, red c 10.0 cm. Sepals 3, small c 1 x 2 cm. Petals 3, red, c 4.0 x 1.0 cm. Outer staminal segments 3, bright red, oblanceolate; labellum ovate acuminate wide at anterior portion; two lateral staminodes slightly larger; ½ anther fertile rest petaloid. Ovary worted, trilocular, placentation axile.

Fls.: February – June.

Specimen examined: Chotojamira, Hailakandi. 05-07-96. 0217.

Cultivated as ornamental plant.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.
Fresh rhizome cut into pieces and pounded with water in a mortar. The product is then filtered through cotton cloth and taken internally (c 10-15 ml) twice a day during fever to bring down body temperature.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Roots are diaphoratic, deuretic and used in fever and dropsy. Stalks cut into pieces and boiled with rice water and pepper given to cattle as antidote.


Shrubs herbaceous, stem succulent, with milky latex, fistular. Leaves alternate, digitately lobed, forming crown at apex; petioles long, fistular. Flowers dioecious, subsessile, creamy white. Male flowers axillary in long pendant panicles. Female flowers solitary or in short cymes at the axil. Bery green, yellow when ripe, seeds many, brownish black.

Fls. & Frts.: Most part of the year.

**Specimen examined:** Kundanala, Hailakandi. 08-06-95. 0182.

Cultivated for edible fruits.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Fruits.

Pieces of immature fruits when taken with sugar cures lung infection of children. The disease is completely cured if taken once a day for seven days.
Pseudofruit present inside the fruits crushed with honey is given orally to women for inducing fertility.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Milky latex of unripe fruits used to remove freckles and other blemishes from the skin, anthelmintic. Ripe fruits are stomachic, carminative and diuretic. Seeds reported as heart stimulant and as diuretic. It is also amoebicide particularly for amoebic dysentery. One of the constituents of indigenous drug ‘Gasex’ useful in post operative period to relieve distension. Papain the proteolytic enzyme contained in milky latex. Carpaine alkaloid is found in green parts and seeds.

Young leaves are eaten in case of constipation and indigestion. Latex is applied to skin disease (Megonitso and Rao 1993).

*Note: Additional new uses of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here.


Shrubs, erect, branching usually at the base, downy. Leaves unipinnate; rachis channelled; leaflets 10-12 pairs, oblong or ovate-elliptic, apiculate, glabrous above, downy beneath. Racemes terminal. Flowers bright yellow. Pods compressed, c 15 x 2 cm; wings crenulate.

**FIs. & Frts.:** September - February.

**Specimen examined:** Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0287.
Grows wild along road sides, frequently found in the area.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves are crushed in a mortar adding a few drops of water and made to a paste. The paste is then applied as poultice on skin infection locally called 'Dad' (Ring worm). The paste is applied till the infection is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Juice of the leaves used in skin troubles and snake bite; chrysophanic acid content is high.

Decoction of leaves and flowers are used internally in bronchities and asthma and washing eczematous patches.

Plant is poisonous to live stock and fish.

Leaves mashed in water applied on the white patches of skin that causes irritation and itch (Dagar & Dagar 1991).


Undershrubs, erect, diffusely branched. Leaves 2-6.5 cm, opposite, ovate, oblong or obovate, narrowed at the base to the short petiole, fallen leaves leaving scar on stem. Flowers axillary 1-2, rose pink with a reddish eye, pentamerous; sepals linear; petals forming a tube, salver shaped, lobes 5, twisted; stamens 5, inserted at the middle of the
corolla tube; styles connate at stigma; ovaries 2, free, alternating with 2 glands of the disc.

Fls. : Throughout the year.

Specimen examined : Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0220.

Grows wild in barren places, also cultivated as an ornamental plant.

Usage in Ethnomedicine :

Parts used : Leaves.

Paste obtained by crushing leaves adding few drops of water is applied over forehead in the form of poultice to reduce headache during fever and claimed to bring down body temperature.

Established reports of utilization in medicine :

Plant is used as remedy for diabetes. Infusion of leaves administered in menorrhagia. Juice of leaves applied to waspsting. The presence of Vincristine series of alkaloids extracted from leaves of young plants are extensively used for the treatment of various types of cancers and malignant growth. Ajmalicine alkaloid extracted from roots used in controlling hypertension and capillary frogility. These alkaloids also used in cardiovascular Research (J. K. Vasudeva, 1997).

*Note : Updated information on ethno-medico botany of this plant is provided here.

Herbs perennial, stem long creeping, rooting at nodes. Leaves reniform, crenate or dentate, palmately nerved; petioles long. Umbels many at each node. Flowers bracteate, subsessile, usually 3-5 in each umbel. Petals deep purple, ovate, acute or obtuse, imbricate. Stamens red. Fruits oblong with prominent subsimilar ridges.

Fls. & Frts.: November – August.

Specimen examined: Raifalmara. Hailakandi. 06-06-95. 0176.

Commonly found in wet places.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Whole plant & leaves.

Leaves are crushed in a mortar adding a few drops of water and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content and filtered. The filtrate is taken to provide relief during stomach ailments. Green leaves are taken regularly to maintain a good health.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves and stem of the plant used as an alterative, tonic and diuretic. It is also considered useful in diseases of nervous system for improving memory and useful in syphilitic, skin diseases. Drug has weak sedative but cardio-depressant and hypotensive action. A decoction of whole plant is used in treatment of leprosy. The plant is also reported to be used in tuberculosis.


Sporulation: May – August.

Specimen examined: Sultani, Hailakandi. 10.6.97. 0254.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fronds.

Fronds cut into pieces made to a paste and applied on abscess in the form of poultice to liberate pus and also used as antiseptic. The poultice is given once a day till the abscess is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: The plant is recorded here as New in ethnomedicine.
**Chonemorpha griffithi** Hook.f., FBI 3: 662,1881; Kanjilal et al, FA 3:265,1939. (APOCYNACEAE) “Yiangma” (R.)

Woody climber with milky latex bearing bark and green coriaceous, ovate obtuse leaves c 12 x 8 cm. Petiole short c 1.5 cm. Flowers in terminal cyme, white with yellow tint at centre, 4-6 cm across. Follicles 2. Seeds pale brown.

**Fls. & Frts.** : November – February.

**Specimen examined** : Magura, Karimganj. 05.06.94. 0113.

Grows wild on hillocks, particularly in sunny areas.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine** :

**Parts used** : Leaf.

Leaf paste is applied locally on fresh wound to stop bleeding and also used as antiseptic. Fresh poultice is given everyday till the wound is healed.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine** :

Not known so far.

*Note: The plant is reported here for the First time as regards its ethnomedicinal use.


Shrubs profusely branched, pungent smelling. Leaves opposite, ovate deltoid, serrate, 3-nerved at the base, c 5-9 x 2.8-5 cm; petioles c 0.5 cm. Capitula
homogamous bisexuals, stalked; involucre multiserriate. Florets bisexual, blue-purple. Achenes c 4 cm. Long. Pappus c 5 cm. Long, white.

Fls.: April – May.

Specimen examined: Chotojamira, Hailakandi. 05-07-96. 0214.

Grows wild on waste and barren places, and road sides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Paste made from pounded fresh leaves with water and applied locally on fresh wounds for blood coagulation. The same is said to prevent microbial growth in the wound surface. Fresh paste is given once a day till the wound is healed.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The plant is used to intoxicate fish.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here.


Trees evergreen, medium sized. Leaves opposite, oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, 3-nerved at base, aromatic, 8-12 x 4-5 cm; petioles c 1 cm long. Inflorescence panicle,
pubescent. Flowers creamy yellowish; perianth silky pubescent; stamens villous. Fruits black, ovoid, on thickened peduncle and enlarged base of perianth.

Fls. & Frts.: February - April.

Specimen examined: Jhalnacherra, Hailakandi. 05-07-96. 0213.

Found under cultivated condition.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Leaves dried, pounded to powder and used as preservatives for herbal drugs.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark is aromatic and is used in gonorrhoea.

Leaves are stimulant, carminative and used in rheumatism, colic, diorrhea and in scorpion sting (Kharkonger and Joseph 1981) reported that decoction of bark is taken as a remedy for cough.

*Note: A new mode of use of the plant is recorded.


Climber, stem hard, pubescent throughout. Leaves stipulate, simple, ovate-cordate, bristly serrate, rusty tomentose beneath, c 12 x 6 cm, tendril hard, forked.
Cymes drooping. Flowers bisexual, tetramerous, greenish yellow, berries obovoid, smooth, 3.5 cm long, black on thickened pedicels.

Fls. & Frts.: June – November.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0136.

Grows wild in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Tubers.

Fresh tubers are pounded and made to a paste. The paste is applied locally on carbuncle as poultice to get relief from pain and liberate pus.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of tubers is diuretic, alterative, and blood purifier.

Root is powdered and heated applied to cuts and fractures.

*Note: Additional new use in ethnomedicine is recorded here.


Climbers massive, stem rigid, glabrous. Leaves ovate – orbicular, cordate, acuminate c 6 x 3 cm; petioles c 2 cm long; peduncles 2-4 cm. Berries blackish, obovoid-turbinate, one seeded; seeds pyriform, ridged.

Fls. & Frts.: March – April.
Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0288.

Grows commonly inside forest as climber.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Freshly harvested roots cut into pieces, pounded and made to a paste. The paste is then applied locally on carbuncle as poultice to get relief from pain. The carbuncle bursts open within 2/3 days to liberate pus.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Utilization of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.

Cissus quadrangularis L., Mant. 1:39, 1767; Deb, FTS 1:413, 1981. Vitis quadrangularis (L.) Wall., Cat. 5992, 1832; Hook.f., FBI 1: 645, 1875; Kanjilal et al, FA 1:290, 1936. (VITACEAE) “Lepung” (R), “Asthisanhara” (S.), Hadjora “(H), Harjora” (B)

Climbers large; stem quadriangular, fleshy, green. Leaves reniform, cordate, crenate-serrate, c 3 x 1.4 cm; tendrils simple, leaf opposed. Cymes c 4 cm across. Flowers tetramerous, whitish. Berries globose.

Fls. & Frts.: June – July.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0210.

Grows wild forming a green cover on trunks of woody trees.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Leaves pounded and made to a paste, applied locally as poultice on fractured bones after setting properly. Bamboo splints are tied around the joints to prevent further displacement of bones. It is claimed that within 7 days the fractured bone is perfectly healed. Leaf extract is also useful in dysentery.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves and young shoots are alterative, stomachic and used in powder form in digestive troubles.

Juice of stem used in regular menstruation and scurvy.


Shrubs large with glossy green leaves, aromatic; spines delicate, short. Leaves elliptic, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, petiolar wing narrow; petioles c 0.4 cm. long. Flowers white, regular, bisexual. Sepals 4-5 lobed; petal 4-5; Stamens 10. Ovary cells many ovuled. Hesperidium depressed; orange red when ripe.

Fls. & Frts.: July – December.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0257.

Cultivated for edible fruits.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.
Freshly harvested roots cut into pieces and pounded together with the roots of *Tamarindus indica* and *Ananas comosus* and made to a paste. The paste is then diluted to double its content with water and filtered through cotton. 3 teaspoonful of the filtrate is taken twice a day for the treatment of Typhoid.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Fruit is laxative, aphrodisiac, astringent and tonic. Flowers are stimulent.

Fruit juice is made to dissolve in a kind of sea shell and drunk during malarial fever. (Megoneitso and Rao 1983).

*Note: Utilization of the root of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.*


Shrubs small, bushy, aromatic. Leaves imparipinnate, 20-30 cm long; leaflets 5-9, gradually tapering at base, emerginate at apex, crenulate, gland dotted; petiolules 0.4 cm long. Panicles racemose, terminal. Flowers regular, bisexual, white. Sepals 4-5 loded. Petals 4-5, imbricate. Filaments shorter alternately. Ovary cells 2 ovuled.

**Fls.:** March – April.

**Specimen examined:** Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0285.

Cultivated mainly for edible fruits.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**
Parts used: Fruits.

Fruit juice with rock salt is taken internally for the treatment of cough and claimed to be effective against asthma.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: The plant is recorded here as New in ethnomedicine.


Shrubs small, c 1 m high. Leaves crowded at the apex of stem, large, opposite beneath, denticulate, c 17 x 15 cm; petioles long c 10 cm. Panicles terminal cymose.

Flowers zygomorphic, red. Corolla tube exceeding the calyx.

Fls. : May - June.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0148.

Grows commonly on waste places and roadsides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves cut into small pieces, pounded in a mortar and made to a paste. The paste is then diluted to double its content by adding water and filtered through cotton.
Photo - 25: *Clerodendrum philippinum* Schauer. - leaves of the plant are eaten as vegetable during stomach trouble.
About 1/2 cup of the filtrate is taken orally twice a day during fever to bring down body temperature and continued till back to normal.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

- Paste of tender leaves mixed in water is used for washing ulcers (Dagar and Dagar, 1991).
- Leaves boiled and eaten by the people of Akha tribe of Thailand (Anderson 1986).

*Note: A new mode of application of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded.


Shrubs erect, 60-90 cm high, branches angled, pubescent. Leaves broadly ovate, cordate, acute, glandular at the base beneath, sparsely serrated, 10-20 x 6-12 cm; petioles stout, 10-12 cm. Flowers in terminal compact corymbs, fragrant, white; calyx 5 toothed, prolonged, purple or red. Petals in series of 5, white. Stamen 1 or 2 antheriferous, rest modified to petals, white. Ovary imperfectly 4 - celled; cells 1 - ovuled.

Fls.: March - April.

Specimen examined: Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0268.

Commonly found in waste places and under cultivated condition also.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Fresh leaves are boiled with salt and eaten twice a day for expelling gas. The treatment is continued till recovery.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaf juice is applied to wounds; bark juice is applied on burns (Manadhar, 1991).

*Note: Additional new use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here.


Shrubs, small with foetid smell, tender parts villous. Leaves c 12 x 6 cm, margins entire or denticulate; petioles c 6 cm long. Flowers in terminal pyramidal panicle of cymes c 12 cm long, fragrant; calyx deeply 5-lobed; corolla c 3 cm long, white to purple; stamens and style much exerted. Drupe bluish black.

Fls.: March - April.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 04-06-97. 0149.

Grows wild in waste land.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:
Parts used: Root.

Root cut into small pieces, pounde together with garlic (Allium sativum) and made into a paste to prepare pills. It is taken internally 3 pills a day for 7 days to ensure relief from malfunctioning of vocal cord - a disease locally called "Totapira".

Leaves crushed in a mortar with a small piece of Zinger (Zingiber officinale) adding water. The decoction is taken with sugar orally for the treatment of dysentery.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves and roots are employed externally for tumors and certain skin diseases.

Fresh juice of leaves is vermifuge and used as bitter tonic and febrifuge in malaria.

Leaves and flowers are used in scorpion sting. Leaves are also used as substitute for chireta as tonic and antiperiodic.

Sprouts are used in snake bite. Decoction of flower is given to cattle offspring to kill germ on their skin (Khanna et al 1993).

*Note: Additional new use of the root of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded.


Annuals, erect; stem hollow, fibrous. Leaves simple, ovate, oblong, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, acuminate, serrate, basal serratines prolonged into a tail like appendage on each side; petioles slender; stipules filiform. Flowers in axillary cymes,
yellow, bracteate; sepals 5, ovate, acuminate; petals 5, ovate, acuminate. Stamens many.
Style short, ovary 5 celled; capsule subglobose, ridged; seeds wedge-shaped, smooth, light brown.

Fls. & Frts.: July – August.

Specimen examined: Ramnathpur, Hailakandi. 28-02-99. 0305.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:
Parts used: Seeds.

Dried seeds crushed to powder. About 10 gm of the powder is applied locally everyday in back sore disease of Cows and Buffaloes till it heals.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Infusion of leaves used as demulcent and stomachic. It is also used as stimulant to appetite and also in dysentery, fever and liver disorder. Decoction of root and unripe fruits given in diarrhoea.

*Note: Additional new mode of use of the plant is recorded here as.


Herbs small, branches scandent. Leaves broadly ovate, acuminate, base rounded or cordate, coarsely toothed, sub coriaceous; petioles 1-2 cm long. Racemes slender, pubescent, c 12 cm long. Flowers clustered; petals of male flower wooly; stamens 15-30; petals in male flower small. Capsules rusty, pubescent.
Photo - 26: *Curculigo capitulata* Lour. - rhizome of the plant is used as antiseptic.
Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0209.

Grows wild on forest floor and abandoned Jhum land.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves are used in preparation of cakes for fermentation of rice beer.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Concoction of roots used to relieve constipation. Leaves are used in sprains as poultice. Tender shoots used for cholera; gum from stem used to cure cataract.


Fls.: April – May.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0260.

Grows wild on forest floor.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Tuberous root, Seeds.
Fresh roots cut into pieces, mixed with yolk of egg crushed and made to a paste. The paste is then applied on fresh wounds for clotting of blood. It is claimed to have antiseptic property. Fresh paste is applied twice a day for 7 days for prevention of abscess. Dried seeds pounded, dissolved in water and taken orally as a cure of cough.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicine.


Herbs biennial, rhizomatous, strongly aromatic. Leaves oblong elliptic or oblong larnecolate, c 30 x 12 cm; petioles as long as the blade; flowering peduncle appears with the leaf. Flowers fragrant. Flowering bracts c 4 cm long. Calyx c 7 cm long, 3-lobed; corolla-tube 2.0 cm long lateral lobes oblong, dorsal lobe ovate.

Fls. & Frts.: June – September.

Specimen examined : Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0246.

Grows along road sides and in jhumfield.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Rhizome.

About 20 gm of fresh rhizome is taken with molasses in empty stomach for seven days for the treatment of stomach ailments.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Rhizome is tonic, carminative, externally applied in combination with astringent to bruises and sprains to promote eruptions, powder used as anthelmintic. Essential oil from rhizome anthelmintic, antifungal, antimicrobial. Oil also useful in treatment of early stages of cervix cancer. The active constituents are curcumol and curdion.

_Curcuma caesia_ Roxb. in As. Res.XI:334, 1810; Hook.f., FBI 6:212,1894,

(ZINGIBERACEAE) “Kala halud” or “Karmoksom” (R.)

Herbs, rootstocks tuberous. Leaves broadly lanceolate or oblong, 25-50 x 10-12 cm, glabrous, with deep ferruginous purple cloud down the middle; petioles and sheaths as long as the blade. Spike appearing rather before the leaves, c 15 cm long; flowering bracts green with a ferruginous tinge; coma bright red, tending to crimson. Flowers pale yellow reddish at the outer edge, shorter than bracts.

Fls. & Frts.: May – June.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0255.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

About 20 gm of fresh rhizome is taken with molasses in empty stomach as a cure for stomach disorders.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
The rhizome is stomachic, cooling diuretic, aromatic, stimulant carminative, applied to bruises and pains. Decoction of rhizome with pepper, cinnamon and honey is also useful in cold.


Herbs, rhizomatous, rhizome much branched, yellow inside. Leaves large, 25-55 x 8-15 cm; oblong, acuminate, narrowed at the base, glabrous; petioles shorter than blade. Spikes c 10 cm long. Flowers purplish white, epigynous, equalling the bracts; corolla tube c 2.5 mm long, lobes white; staminodes creamy with yellow median band; lip yellow.

Fls. & Frts.: July – September.

Specimen examined : Lakhicherra, Cachar. 06-04-97. 0233.

Cultivated in kitchen garden and hill slopes and abandoned jhum land.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Rhizome.

Fresh rhizome is taken with molasses in empty stomach during liver trouble.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
Rhizome is aromatite, stimulant, tonic, carminative, blood purifier, antiperiodic, alterative, and applied externally to sprains and wounds.

Decoction of rhizome is used in conjunctivitis.

Fresh juice is anthelmintic and used as antiparasitic for many skin diseases.


Twiner, total stem parasite; stem filiform, leafless, golden yellow. Flowers solitary or fascicled. Calyx cupular, 5-lobed, lobes orbicular. Corolla c 6 mm long, creamy white; stamen 5, epipetalous, appendaged between the filaments; ovary 2-celled, 2 ovules in each loculous.

Fls.: December – January.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0154.

Grows wild as total stem parasite on a number of angiospermic plant species.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Stem.

Stem cut into small pieces and crushed. The paste so obtained is then diluted to double its content and filtered through cotton cloth. The filtrate (about 5 ml) is then taken internally in empty stomach for 7 days in mornings during jaundice.
Photo - 27: *Cyathea contaminas* (Wall ex Hook.) Copel. - an endangered species. Apex of trunk of the plant is used as antiseptic.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Seeds are carminative, anthelmintic and alterative. Plant is purgative and used externally against itch, internally in protracted fevers.

Infusion of plant is used as wash for sores. Stems are useful in bilious disorder.

*Note: Curing of Jaundice is an additional new use of the plant reported here.


"Bongreng" (R.).

Tree ferns c 5.5 m long. Caudex stout, erect, unbranched, covered with persistent leaf bases. Stipes and rachis whitish green, densely covered with brownish scales. Fronds large c 3 m long, bipinnate, spirally arranged at the apex of caudex. Pinnae spreading, c 60 x 30 cm; pinnaules numerous, alternate to subopposite, shortly stalked, 15-20 x 2x3 cm, silvery white beneath.

Sporulation.: May – August.

**Specimen examined** : Duhalia, Karimganj. 05-06-97. 0253.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine** :

**Parts used** : Soft and young apex of the caudex.

Apical soft portion of the caudex cut into pieces and crushed in a mortar and added water to make a paste. The paste is then applied locally on major cuts/wounds.
for immediate clotting of blood. The same also prevent microbial growth in cut surface so that no abscess is developed. Fresh paste is applied everyday till the wound is healed.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

Besides the medicinal use the caudex is cut into pieces making logs for cultivation of Orchids and mostly utilized for making floor brash.

*Note: Use of the plant in Ethnomedicine appears to be a New report.

To confirm Reang's claim experimental tests and chemical screening should be done immediately as all the species of *Cyathea* are in the endangered list. Wide local application may threaten the species.

Dixit (1984) reported the occurrence of this species from Sikkim only, finding of the species in Karimganj district of Assam is interesting and reported here as New record of it occurrence in North East Region of India.


Tree ferns, c 3 m height, caudex erect covered with bases of stipes, stipes dark purple. Fronds large upto 2.5 m long, bipinnate. Pinnae spirally arranged at the apex forming a crown; pinnules shortly stalked, lobed nearly to the costules, margins serrate, veins 8-10 pairs. Sori globose, forming and inverted "V" shape, ex-indusiate.
Sporulation.: April - July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 10-06-97. 0255.

Rare on moist and shady hill slopes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Soft apex of trunk.

Apical portion of the trunk cut into pieces and crushed in a mortar. The paste so obtained is applied on major cut/wound for immediate arrest of bleeding. The same also prevents microbial growth in the cut portion so that no infection takes place. Fresh paste is applied everyday till the wound is healed.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is reported here for the First time.


Herbs annual, erect; stem triangular. Leaves opposite, ovate to rhomboid-ovate, acute to rounded at base; petioles c 6 cm. Racemes c 15 cm. Flowers in spikes often clustered, polygamous, two lateral flowers usually imperfect, reduced to hooked awns, central flower perfect. Staminodes bifid, alternating stamens.

FIs. & Frts.: July – January.
Specimen examined: Medhcherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0256.

Grows wild in waste land and road sides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Cold decoction of leaves applied locally with cotton to provide relief during toothache.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of root given for dysentery in Malaya. Plant is used in external applications for various skin complaints. Plant is also ecdysterone.

*Note: Reported here for a quite different ethnomedicinal use.


"Khelang" (R.)

Epiphytes, perennial. Leaves long, linearly oblong, unequally lobed at the apex, thickly coriaceous. Inflorescence raceme, pendulous, c 30 cm long. Flowers light yellow with brownish streaks on labellum; sepals oblong, lanceolate c 1 x 5 cm; sepals and petals creamy yellow; petals elliptic oblong c 1.5 x 0.5 cm, papillate; labellum trilobed; colum clavate; pollinia 2.
Photo – 28: Medicine man with *Cymbopogon citratus* Stapf. - leaf of the plant is useful in cough and cold.
Grows as epiphyte on tree trunks.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Aerial roots.

Aerial root cut into pieces, crushed between two stones and a paste is made. This is applied in the form of poultice on the broken joints after setting the bones. Bamboo splints are usually tied around the joints to check further displacement of the fractured bones.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant is emetic. It furnishes salep which is used as a nutrient and demulcent.

*Note: Additional new use in ethnomedicine is reported here.


Herbs perennial, rhizome, short, aromatic. Culms 60-90 cm long. Leaves 30-60 cm long, rigid, linearly oblong, gradually tapering towards apex. Fertile spikelets linear-lanceolate with sub-equal glume. Lower florets reduced to lemma, upper florets bisexual.

FIs. & Frts.: April - June.
Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj, 06-04-94. 0232
Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Hailakandi, 05-05-97. 0286.

Cultivated as ornamental plant and also for medicinal uses.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Hot decoction (c 10 ml) is taken orally twice a day for the treatment of cough and cold.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Oil is carminative and used in cholera.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded.


Annuals, stem green, often purplish 1-1.5 m high. Leaves 12-16 x 6-8 cm, sinuate. Flowers white or light violet, 8-12 cm long; calyx long, tubular, 5 toothed, base persistent; corolla funnel shaped, limb plaited; stamens 5 adnate to base of corolla tube. Capsule ovoid, prickly, 4 - valved.

Fls.: June - July.

Specimen examined: Kundanala, Hailakandi. 08-06-95. 0183.

Grows wild, often cultivated.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.
Paste made by crushing fresh young leaves and taken internally (about 5 gm) once daily against rheumatism in old women. It is said to have narcotic properties and action exists for a few hours. The drug is restricted to youths.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves and flowering tops constitute the drug stramonium, hyoscyamine is the chief alkaloid. Leaves and seeds are antispasmodic, mydriatic, anodyne and narcotic. Fruits are sedative. Leaves applied to boils, sores and fish bites. Juice of fruits applied to scalp for curing dandruff and falling hair. Leaves used in Cigarettes for asthma.

*Note: Additional new mode of ethnomedicinal use of the plant is recorded.


Shrubs or small trees with scandent branches. Leaves large 20 - 26 x 7-8 cm, oblong lanceolate, acute, glossy green above, glaucous beneath. Flowers pendulous, large, red; pedicels short; sepals triangular, 0.2 cm long; outer petals 2 or 3, fleshy, c 12 cm long, lanceolate, reddish yellow to purple red. Ovary 2-4 ovuled.

Fls. : April - July.

Specimen examined : Guaura, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0199.

Grows wild in the forest. Occurrence common.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:
Parts used: Bark.

Bark cut into pieces pounded and about 50 gms of it boiled in a glass of water. The extract so obtained is used as mouth wash during toothache. The mouth wash is repeated 2-3 times a day till the ache subsides.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Recorded here as New in ethnomedicine.


Trees evergreen, upto 15 m tall. Leaves 15-20 x 5-10 cm, oblong; petioles winged. Flowers white; sepals 5, fleshy green; petals 5-8 cm long; stamens about 2.5 cm long, numerous, white; carpels many, styles 10 – many, green, deflexed; ovules many; fruits large, globose, green, tightly enclosed within the persistent calyx.

Fls. & Frts.: June - January.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0140.

Commonly found in tropical evergreen forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fruits.

Fruits crushed, mixed with salt and chilli and taken for the treatment of cough.

Unripe fruits are also taken for treatment of diarrhoea.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Fruits are tonic, laxative and used in abdominal pain. Bark and leaves astringent. The fruit juice mixed with sugar and water used as a cooling beverage in fever and as a cough mixture. Bark and leaves contain tannin.

*Note: Reported here as additional new use in Ethnomedicine.


Climbers; twining to the left. Bulbils axillary, solitary, subsessile, warded. Stem up to 20 m high narrowly winged. Leaves alternate, broadly ovate-cordate, 5-nerved; petioles 6-8 cm long, auricled. Male flowering axes 1-4 in axil of bracts on leafless branch. Inflorescence terminal, c 1 m long, pendulus, rarely in leaf axils. Flowers whitish or pale rosy; outer tepals lanceolate, 1.5-5 mm long; stamens 6. Female flowering axes 1-2 or more together, axillary. Flowers 35-45; tepals lanceolate, 1-1.5 mm long.

Fls. & Frts.: July – September.

**Specimen examined:** Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-94. 0112.

Grows wild, climbing on woody trees.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Tuber.
Tubers dugged from underground and cut into pieces boiled and taken with salt and chilli for maintaining good health.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Tubers are used in piles, dysentery, syphilis and also applied to ulcers.

*Note: Rao and Verma (1976) reported the plant from Kameng, Siang, and Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh and Darang, Goalpara, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, North Cachar and Mikir hills district of Assam.

The plant is reported here for the first time from Barak Valley of Assam.


Rhizome semierect; roots stiff, fibrous; apex covered with dark-brown lanceolate scales. Fronds 1-1.2 m, bipinnate; stipes 55-65 cm long. Pinnae spreading, pinnules distant on the rachis, pinnatifid at the base, serrate at apex. Costae paleate on the ventral surface, veins forked, anastomosing between the opposite pairs of veinlets. Sori indussate, linear on both sides of the veins. Spores oval, dark and hyaline.

**Sporulation**: May – August.

**Specimen examined**: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0185.
Dipteris wallichii (R.Br.) Moore. - a threatened plant species, rhizome of which is useful in jaundice.
Common on marshy places and flat areas of foot hills.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Frond.

Circinately coiled young and fresh frond is boiled with salt and taken for maintaining all round health.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Young fronds are cooked and eaten by the tribals of India for general health (Kaushik and Dhiman 1995).


Rhizome creeping 2-3 mm in diam., covered with black, hard, subulate scales. Stipes 0.5-1 m long, hard, young green, chocolate when old. Fronds copius, fan shaped, dichotomous, each dichotomy deeply cleft. Veins prominent beneath. Sori small, round, superficial, scattered in the areoles; sporangia oval, light brown, spores oval, hyaline, plate white, exine smooth.

Sporulation: June – July.

Specimen examined: Ramnathpur, Hailakandi. 03-07-94. 0102.
Grows on road side cuttings and exposed areas. Rare in occurrence.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

Fresh rhizome cut into pieces pounded and made a paste. The paste is then diluted to double its content and decanted. The decoction is taken internally (1/2 cup c 20 ml) a day in empty stomach for the treatment of jaundice. This process is continued till recovery.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Utilization of the plant in ethnomedicine is reported here as New.


Epiphytes, Rhizome wide creeping, wirey, densely sealy; scales dark brown, ovate - peltate. Fronds dimorphic glabrous, fleshy, membranous, shortly stipulate; stipes upto 1.5 mm long, densely covered with rhizome scales; sterile pinnae thick, coriaceous, orbicular, ovate to elliptic 1.5 - 2.5 x 1 - 1.5 cm rounded at apex, cuneate at base; fertile pinnae linear to oblong, 5-6 x 1.5 - 2 cm. Sori linear confluent along both
sides of the margin; sporangia oval, shortly stalked, spores oval to elliptic, hyaline, exime tuberculate.

Sporulation: April – August.

Specimen examined: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0184.

Common on tree trunk of exposed areas and on humus deposit of rocks.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Lamina.

Paste obtained by crushing pinnae and applied externally in the form of poultice on fractured bones after setting up the bones. Bamboo splints are usually tied around so as to prevent displacement of fractured bones.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as New.


“Lamaku” (R).

Medium sized trees, leaves oblong elliptic 10-25 x 3-8 cm, reticulate on both surface, base acute, petiole c 1 cm. Stigmas obscure. Fruits globose.

Fls. & Frts.: April – August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0269.
Grows wild on forest floor.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Bark.

Bark decoction is applied locally in toothache.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as *New* in ethnomedicine.


Herbs diffuse or erect, profusely branched, often rooting at nodes, strignose. Leaves opposite, short, petioled, sub-entire, oblong or elliptic, Heads small white, axillary or terminal, heterogamous, peduncled; involucre broadly companulate, bracts 3-seriate. Ray florets sub 2-seriate, small. Disc florets companulate; receptacle flat, anther bases obtuse; cypsela minute, 2-edged.

_Fls._ : April - May.

**Specimen examined:** Medlicherra, Karimganj, 06-04-97. 0248.

Grows commonly in open moist places.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Leaf.
Fresh leaves pounded in a mortar and made a paste. This is applied locally on fresh wounds to stop bleeding and healing of wounds.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The plant is used in headache. The juice of leaves given in jaundice and fevers. It is also used in intestinal parasite, asthma, anemia. Its application promotes growth of hair on the shaved scalp. The plant is also used in skin diseases and leaves in boils. It contains alkaloids ecliptine and nicotine.

*Note: Additional new mode of use of the plant is recorded here.


Climbers large, woody, branches twisted and angled. Leaves bipinnate, rachis usually ending in tendrils. Pinnae 4, 5-10 cm long. Spikes peduncled, c 15 cm long, from nodes of old branches. Flowers small, 0.3-0.5 cm long, yellowish green, polygamous; petals free; stamen 10, free, anther deciduously glandular; pods curved, constricted between the seeds, 25-75 X 5-10 cm, oblong, laterally compressed; seeds hard, round, shiny.

Fls. & Frts: March - May.

Specimen examined: Monapi, Karimganj. 07-06-94.0128.

Grows wild in the forest. Distribution - rare.
Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts use: Seed.

Oily paste obtained by crushing 2-3 mature seeds is used for body massage during severe pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Some hill tribes of India use the seeds as soap to wash their hair. Paste obtained from seeds is applied locally to inflammatory swellings of the glands. Poultice made from the kernal applied locally, is believe to relieve colic. The seeds are also used as fish poison in certain parts of India. It is also used in dropsy, cancer, pain in loins, epilepsy, constipation and rinder pest. (Asolkar et al 1992).


(ORCHIDACEAE) “Khelangpachi”(R).

Epiphytes, creeping rhizome. Pseudobulb stout, compressed, erect, 2-4 leaved. Leaves petiolate, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse. Racemes solitary or paired, 28 cm long, peduncles, rachis and pedicels densely pubescent. Flowers c 2 cm across, greenish yellow; bracts ovate-acuminate. Lip sessile, purple, purple spotted, defluxed.

Fls. & Frts.: April – June.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0232.
Photo - 30: *Euphorbia ligularia* Roxb. – cultivated for medicinal uses.
Commonly found on tree trunk as epiphytes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fruits.

Powdery seeds obtained from ripe fruits applied locally in earsore. About 1 gm of powder is given at a time twice daily till the sores dried up.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicine.


(EUPHORBIACEAE) “Siblatha” (R), “Snuhi” (S), “Sehund” (H), Monsasij” (B).

Shurbs or small trees, c 5 m high, stem corky when old, branches 5-angled. Leaves deciduous, thickly coriaceous, ovate, 6-12 x 3-6 cm, Cyathea small in dichotomous pendulous cymes; involucre hemispheric, yellowish, lobes large, reddish. Bractioles fimbriate.

Fls. & Frts.: February – March.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0225.

Commonly cultivated for medicinal purpose.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.
Leaves warmed over a flame and crushed and extracted watery juice. The decoction (about 2 teaspoonful) is given internally twice daily during hooping cough. The drug is very effective for children.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Latex acrid, rubefacient, purgative and expectorant, used to remove warts and cutaneous eruptions. Milky juice of the plant is used as expectorant. Root is used in scorpion sting and snake bite.

Pith is burnt on fire and taken to kill intestinal parasites. The same is also used as purgative. (Rao and Jamir 1982).

*Note: Additional use is reported here.


Undershubs erect or decumbent, much branched. Leaves many in a whorl, shortly petioled, linearly oblong, 8 x 1 cm pubescent above. Spikes slender, tomentose. Calyx hemispheric, teeth short, erect or incurved in fruits. Corolla tube very short, lobes hirsute.
Fis. & Frts.: January – March.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0273.

Grows wild in the forest. Often cultivated.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Fresh leaves pounded together with kidney of goat and made a paste. About 10 gm of it is taken internally twice a day for seven days for night blindness.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded in literature.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicine.


Shurbs or small trees, branches hollow. Leaves suborbicular, broadly ovate, acuminate, serrate, sometimes 3-5 lobed, scabrid above, hirsute or tomentose beneath, 10-25 x 10-15 cm; lateral nerves 3-7 in each sides; petioles 2-10 cm long; stipules ovate-lanceolate, hairy. Hypanthodia axillary in pairs, globose.

Hypanthodia: January – May.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0274.

Found in moderate forest. Not so common.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.
Root cut into small pieces, inserted into small metallic tube made of copper and tied over the arms of the children to reduce the tendency to get faint frequently – a common disease of the children locally called “Lankhaitaima ni”.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far of its medicinal use. Reported only for its edible fruits.

*Note: Ethnomedicinal use of the plant is reported here as New.


Trees medium sized, branches fistular. Leaves oblong-elliptic, 8-12 x 4-6 cm; lateral nerves 6-10; petioles 1.5-2.0 long, stipules lanceolate. Hypanthodia solitary, axillary, 2 cm across, shortly peduncled, yellow when ripe.

\textbf{Hypanthodia:} March – August.

\textbf{Specimen examined:} Chotojamira, Hailakandi. 05-06-97. 0216.

Common in the forest.

\textbf{Usage in Ethnomedicine:}

\textbf{Parts used:} Hypanthodia.

2-3 fresh hypanthodia crushed and taken with common salt twice daily against mild cough.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Fruits seeds and bark are purgative and emetic. Considered tonic, lactagogue and emetic.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded here.


Fls. & Frts.: March – July.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0141.

Common inside secondary forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Roots cut into pieces and pounded to made a paste. About 10 gm of the paste is taken internally in the form of tablets at bed time which act as laxative.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as New.

Trees evergreen, medium sized. Young branches with axillary simple thorns. Leaves obovate, acute at the base, crenate towards the apex. Racemes short, axillary. Flowers usually 1 or 2 on short shoots. Fruits round c 1.2 cm across.

Fls. & Frts.: March – July.

Specimen examined: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0190.

Commonly found in secondary forest and also cultivated in the home garden.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Fresh leaves pounded in a mortar and made a paste. The paste is applied externally in the form of poultice around carbuncle to enhance the process of healing.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Fruits are used in jaundice and enlarged spleen. Gum is given with other ingradient for cholera.

*Note: Additional new mode of ethnomedicinal use of the leaves of the plant is recorded.

Herbs rhizomatous. Leaves oblong lanceolate, c 14 x 2 cm. Panicle c 10 cm long. Flowers yellow; calyx 2-4 cm long; corolla tube c 12 cm long, staminodes 2.5 x 1.7 mm; filament 10-12 mm long, capsules smooth.

Fls.: April - August.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96, 0205.

Common along road side cuttings and on shady and moist areas.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

Hot decoction of rhizome is taken internally, half cup.(c 20 ml) twice daily for the treatment of hooping cough. The process is continued till recovery.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Utilization of the plant in ethnomedicine is reported here as New.

Rao et Verma (1972), (1975) reported the plant from Kamrup, Lakhimpur, N.Cachar, Mikir hills, Nagaon and Sibsagar district of Assam. Collection of the species from Karimganj district shows its wider distributional areas extended up to Barak Valley of Assam.

Gomphostennum parviflora Wall. ex Benth. in wall. pl. Asiat. Rar. 2:12, 1831; Hook.f. FBI
Under shrub; stem quadriangular. Leaves opposite ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-ovate, 5.5-8 x 2-2.5 cm; petioles c 1 cm long. Cymes branched, axillary, pedunculate, of many flowers. Flowers yellow; bracts linear to lanceolate; calyx densely white tomentose. Corolla slender, bilabiate, upper lip hooded, lower 3-fid. stamen 4, lower pair larger. Style glabrous. Nutlets c 7mm long, ellipsoid, glabrous.

Fls. & Frts.: August – November.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0281.

Grows wild on forest floor.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh roots cut into pieces, crushed and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its contents. The supernatant is then given orally thrice a day for seven days to cure dyspepsia.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicinal use.

Shrubs glabrous. Leaves linear - oblong or lanceolate, cuneate at the base and obtusely acuminate at apex, 20-35 x 4-10 cm, coriaceous, pellucid punctate. Flowers solitary axillary or extra axillary, greenish yellow; sepals 3, free ovate acute, c 6 x 3 mm, persistent. Petals 6 (3+3); outer petals ovate-lanceolate; inner petals shortly clawed, free in lower part, carpels few, linear, c 4 mm long, styles slightly recurved. Ripe carpels ovoid, orange red.

Fls.: June- July.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0188.

Common in the forest.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh root cut into pieces pounded and made paste with water. It is then diluted to double of its content and supernatant is taken internally half a cup (c 20 ml) thrice daily for dyspepsia till it is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far of its medicinal use.

*Note: Utilization of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.

Tree, medium sized, much branched. Leaves oval, 7-16 x 5-8 cm; petioles 0.5-1.5 cm long. Inflorescence terminal, cymose panicle, 3-flowered. Flowers pale yellow; sepals 5, oblanceolate, tomentose; petals 5, much shorter, glandular; stamens numerous, filaments yellow, shorter than sepals; ovary glabrous; drupe globose, smooth, black when ripe.

**Fla. & Frts. April - August.**

**Specimen examined:** Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0204.

Common in the forest.

**Usage in ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Bark.

The juice extracted from barks by crushing in water is applied locally with the help of cotton to cure toothache.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Decoction of root used in cough in Indo-China.

*Note: Additional mode of utilization of the plant is recorded here.

_Hibiscus rosa-sinensis_ L., Sp.pl. 694, 1753; Masters in Hook.f., FBI 1:344, 1874; Kanjilal et al, FA 1(1): 145, 1934; Deb, FTS 1:302, 1981. (MALVACEAE) "Uribly" (R), "Joba" (S), "Jaswm" (H).
Shrubs large or small bushes. Leaves ovate acuminate more or less serrate, 3-nerved at base, 4-12 x 2-6 cm. Flowers solitary axillary, on jointed peduncle; epicalyx 6-10, free; calyx gamosepalous, sepal 5, imbricate petals 5, twisted, united at the base and with the staminal column; stamens many, monodelphous, anthers unilocular, reniform. Carpels 5, style 1, stigma 5, ovary 5 chambered, axile placentation.

**Fls.** : Through out the year.

**Specimen examined**: Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0169

Cultivated as ornamental plant

Usage in ethnomedicine:

**Parts used**: Flowers, leaves and roots.

Flowers and leaves pounded together between palms and made a paste, applied locally on fresh cuts for instant arresting of bleeding.

Roots cut into pieces pounded and made extract with water, supernatant of which is given orally one cup (c 40 ml) thrice a day during malarial fever till the temperature comes down.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine**:

Roots are useful in cough; petals' infusion is given as a demulcent and refregerant drink in fever. Leaves are anodyne emmollient, aperient. Flowers are also emmollient. Buds are useful, in treatment of vaginal and uterine discharges. Their decoction given in bronchial catarrh.

Trees small, deciduous, with milky latex. Leaves elliptic-ovate or elliptic oblong, sub-coriaceous, sub acuminate, c 11x5.5 cm; rounded at base; petioles c 1 cm long. Flowers fragrent, 2-2.5 cm across; calyx deeply cleft; corolla lobes 5,oblong; stamens 5, adnate near the base of the tube. Carpels 2 distinct, stigma united. Follicles 2, long.

Fls.: April – October.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97.0280.

Grows wild on forest floor. Not so common.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.

Fresh barks cut into pieces, pounded and made extract with little water. The decoction is given internally 2-3 tsp. thrice a day for coming out of supressed measles.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark is used in dysentery. Dried and gruond bark rubbed over the body in
Photo - 31: *Homalomena aromatica* (Roxb.) Schott. - rhizome of the plant is useful in eye disease.
dropsy.

Seeds are astringent, febrifuge and used in fever, dysentery, diarrhoea and intestinal worms.

*Note*: Additional new use of the plant is recorded.


Shrubs rhizomatous, aromatic. Leaves large, broadly ovate, acuminate, cordate 12-25 x 8 -20 cm, petioles 25-30 cm long; peduncles 8-12 cm long. Spathe convolute, oblong 4-6cm long. Spadix stipitate. Stamens 4; ovaries 3 loculed, stigma sessile, discoid.

Fls.: June - July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0224.

Grows wild on forest floor. Not so common.

**Usage in ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used**: Rhizome and petiole.

Fresh pieces of rhizome pounded and made to a concentrated extract with few drops of water and is applied drop wise to clear the white spot on the eye ball. Petioles cut into pieces, boiled with salt and eaten as vegetable for maintaining good health.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
Rhizome is aromatic, yields an essential oil, stimulant. Plant is used in skin troubles.

*Note: Additional new mode of use of the plant is recorded.


Climbers woody, pubescent. Leaves opposite, elliptic or oblong, cuspidate, thickly coriaceous 13.0 - 15.0 x 3.5 - 4.5 cm, base rounded, midrib stout; petioles 0.5 - 1 cm long. Umbels on hard peduncle. Flowers white; calyx 5 - lobed, corolla 5 - lobed, incurved. Follicles 25-35 cm long.

Fls.: April - May.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0279.

Grows luxuriantly as epiphytes on tree trunks.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Thick coriaceous leaves cut into small pieces, pounded to make a paste and applied locally on fractured bones and massage for 15 minutes to soften the bones so as to enable to place in normal position and then poulticed with the paste. Bamboo splints are tied usually arounded the bones to prevent further displacement and covered with cloths. It takes 15 days to heal. Local medicineman Sarat Chandra Reang has claimed to cure as many as 70 patients by this plant.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Shrubs scandent. Leaves elliptic to linear lanceolate, acuminate rounded or obtuse at base, c 6 x 4 cm glabrous petioles c 7 mm long. Cymes terminal, 3 flowered; flowers white, fragrant.

Fls. & Frts.: March – July.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0127.

Grows wild, also cultivated as ornamental plants.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

About 10 gm of leaf together with leaves of Aegle marmelos crushed in a mortar. The decoction is taken internally to stop vomiting. About 1/2 cup decoction is taken once during vomiting.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Recorded here as New in ethnomedicinal use.

Jatropha curcas L. Sp. Pl. 1006, 1753; Hook.f., FBI. 5:383, 1887; Kanjilal et al, FA 4. 190,
Shrubs deciduous, c 2.5 cm high. Leaves suborbicular, 5.5-12.0 cm across, 3-5 lobed, cordate at base, petioles 6-12 cm long. Flowers c 6mm across, unisexuals, monoecious, male flowers light green; sepals 5; petals companulate, 5 lobed. Female flowers creamy yellow; calyx and corolla same as male flowers, stamens 10, biseriate, 2-3 mm long. Capsule globose or ovoid c 3mm across, green.

Fls.&Frts.: April - June.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96.0207.

Grows wild, also cultivated as hedge plants.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Young stem.

Sap collected by breaking young stem is applied locally on fresh cuts to stop bleeding and also for antimicrobial action. The sap is applied once a day till healing.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Juice of the plant is useful in scabies, eczema and ring worm. Twigs are used for tooth brushing. Leaf decoction used as lectagogue. Seed contain a toxic principle curcin.

Latex of stem is applied over skin to treat boils. (Khanna at al, 1995).

*Note: Healing of wounds by sap of the plant is an additional use in ethnomedicine.

"Asuamfang" (R), "Adhulasa" (H), "Vaska" (S).

Shrubs bushy. Leaves elliptic, elliptic - lanceolate, acuminate, narrowed at the base, 8-15 x 3-6.5; petioles c. 4 cm long. Spikes c. 14 cm long. Flowers 2-3 cm long, subtended by foliaceous bracts and bractioles, calyx 5-fid; segments oblong acuminate; corolla white 2-3 cm long; stamens 2, filament hairy at the base only; ovary hairy; ovules 2 in each cell.

Fls.& Frts.: November - February.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0237.

Grows wild, also cultivated for medicinal purpose.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root and leaf.

Cold decoction of root is taken orally (one cup c. 40 ml) twice a day during pneumonia till the temperature comes down.

Fresh leaves cut into pieces, pounded and made a paste. It is then diluted to double of its content with water and the supernatant is taken internally (one cup c. 40 ml) a day when affected by cough and cold.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The leaf, the root and flower are extensively used in the form of juice, decoction or powder as a remedy for cold, cough, bronchities, asthma and tuberculosis of lungs. Also used in sciatica, dropsy and paralysis and externally for skin diseases and rheumatism.
The leaves contain an alkaloid vasicine and an essential oil- vascinol, an alkaloid extracted from the root, has been investigated pharmacologically and compared with vasicine and vasicinone (Lahiri & Pradhan 1964).

* Note: Additional new uses recorded here.

_Senecio jacobaea_ L., Sp.Pl. 15,1753; Cl. in FBI 4: 525,1885; Santapu, Fl. Khandala (ed.3) : 208,1967. _J. betonica_ Var. _ramosissima_ (Roxb.) Cl. in Hook. f.,FBI, 4: 525,1885. (ACANTHACEAE) "Yosrem" (R).

Shrubs tall. Leaves ovate - lanceolate c 7 x 4 cm, punctulate on both surfaces. Spikes terminal and lateral, short peduncled, c 8 cm long; flowers subtended by bracts and bracteoles, bracts white. Sepal pubescent; corolla rose spotted. Capsules pubescent, shortly clavate.

Fls.& Frts.: March - April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0284.

Grows wild on forest floor.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Leaves pounded and made to a paste and applied locally on abscesses twice daily till it dries up. It is said to have antimicrobial action.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant used in application for boils and swellings, also in diarrhoea.
Jitshcin gendarussa  Burm. f., Fl. Ind. 10,1768; Hook.f., FBI 4: 532,1884; Kanjilal et al, FA 3:454,1939; Deb, FTS 2: 292,1983. (ACANTHACEAE) "Bikshumo" (R), "Nila nirgundi" (S), "Nili nargandi" (H), "Jagatmadan"(B).

Shrubs bushy, stem, purplish black. Leaves 5.5-11 x . 5-1.5 cm, linear lanceolate, bluntly acuminate, cuneate at base; petioles 0.2-1.0 cm long. Spikes terminal. Flowers creamy white with purple spot; upper lip slightly hooded; stamens 2, filaments villose below. Capsules c 1.2 cm long, glabrous.

Fls.: October – April.

Specimen examined : Cheragi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0158.

Cultivated commonly as hedge plant.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Fresh leaves crushed in water. The decoction is taken internally (1/2 cup c 20 ml) at a time for relief of body pain. External application of the leaf paste is also useful.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves and roots are diphoretic and given in the form of decoction in chronic rheumatism. Infusion of leaves given internally in cephalalgia, hemiplegia and facial paralysis. Juice of leaves stops haemorrhage and earache. The plant is febrifuge and emetic.

*Note: Recorded here as additional new use in ethnomedicine.
Photo - 33: Kaempferia rotunda L. - appearance of inflorescence after withering of leaves.
Photo - 32: *Kaempferia rotunda* L. - tuber of the plant is useful in chest pain.

(ZINGIBERACEAE) "Khuntowia" (R), "Bhuchampaka" (S), "Bhuichampa" (H) & (B).

Herbs rhizomatous, aromatic, roots tuberous. Leaves oblong, 15-30 x 4-8 cm, hairy beneath. Spikes subsessile. Flowers 5-8 cm long; calyx 4-5 cm long, purplish dotted; corolla white, lobes linear 4 - 7 cm long; staminodes oblong, filament 3-4mm long; anther c 5mm long.

Fls.: March – April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra; Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0259.

Rare on dry hillocks.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Tuber

Piece of fresh tuber and black zinger pounded together and made a paste; applied locally in the form of poultice over chest in case of acute pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Roots are stomachic and also applied to reduce swelling. It is used to promote suppuration in the form of poultice. Paste of tuber applied locally in mumps. Plant powder used in healing fresh wounds. The same is taken internally to remove any coagulated blood.

Rao et Verma (1975) reported the plant only from Sibsagar district of Assam. Occurrence of the plant in Karimganj district indicates its wider distributional area.

Herbs perennial, erect, attaining a height of c 1.5 m. Stem hard, swollen at nodes. Leaves simple, opposite, petiolate, oblong - elliptic, 8-10 x 4-6 cm, succulent, petioles semi amplexicaulous. Inflorescence paniculate cymes. Flowers pale brownish yellow; calyx purplish green 2.0 x 3.0 cm long; corolla globose with basal portion octagonal, green, constricted in the middle. Fruits enclosed in the persistent, papery calyx and corolla.

Fls.: January – October.

Specimen examined: Rainfalmara, Hailakandi. 06-06-95. 0178.

Common in dry areas.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Fresh succulent leaves cut into pieces and pounded. The extracted juice is taken internally (about half a cup c 20 ml) thrice daily during respiratory problem till it is cured.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Roasted leaves are applied to bruises, boils and bites of venomous insects to prevent swelling and discolouration of affected parts. In the form of poultice and powder they are applied to sloughing ulcers.

Leaves contain malic acid, isocitric and citric acid.

* Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded.


"Singshree" (R), "Jarul" (H) & (B).

Fls. & frts. : May – August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj, 06-04-97. 0242

Grows wild in the forest.

Usage in ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.

Pieces of fresh barks boiled in water. The decoction is then cooled and used as mouth wash to clean tongue during fever. The process is repeated 2-3 times a day.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Seeds are narcotic. Bark and leaves are purgative. Roots are astringent, stimulant and febrifuge. Fruits are used as local application for apathe of the mouth.

Decoction of dried fruits and leaves used in diabetics.

*Note: Additional new use of bark of the plant is reported here.*
Photo - 34: Medicine man collecting *Lepisanthes senegalensis* (Poir) for preparing herbal drug.

Trees small, evergreen, leaves crowded at the ends of branches, 1 - foliate, obovate-elliptic, oblong, ovate-lanceolate; petioles 0.5 - 1 cm long. Panicles terminal. Flowers pink. Sepals 5, petals 5, each with a wooly scale at base. Drupes ellipsoid 1-1.2 cm.

**Fls. & frts.** : April - July.

**Specimen examined:** Medlicherra, Karimganj, 05-05-97. 0275.

Grows wild in the forest. Not so common.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Ripe fruits and bark.

5-10 ripe fruits are chewed at a time for bowel clearance. Bark cut into pieces, pounded with water to make an extract. It is then diluted to double of its content by adding water and shaked well. The supenatant of the extract is taken internally (1/4 cup = 10 ml) twice daily during acute stomach pain in children.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**
Not recorded so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is reported here for the First time.


Trees small, branches pubescent. Leaves very variable 7-15 x 1.5 - 2.5 cm, long, ellipsoid, obovoid, pale white turning to purplish, seated on enlarged capsular perianth.

Fls. & frts.: February – June.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj, 07-06-94. 0133.

Grows wild. Not so common.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root and leaf.

- About 50 gm of fresh roots pounded in a morter and the extract is taken internally (One cup c 40 ml) once a day as energy drink.

  A paste is made of leaves mixed with leaves of Ageratum conyzoides. About 10 gm of it is dissolved in a cup (c 40 ml) of water. The decoction is then taken internally twice daily under febrile conditions.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Ethnomedicinal use of the plant is reported here for as New.

Climbers, rhizome creeping, subterranean, rachis twining, long, ends in a tuft of brown hairs, bearing alternate primary branches; secondary branches dichotomous. Pinna digitately lobed, glabrous; dimorphic bearing sterile and fertile parts. Margins serrulate, often cleft at the apex, variable in size, 5-15 x 1-2.5 cm. Vein prominent, forked twice. Fertile pinnae narrow, bearing 2-rows of sporangia at the marginal lobe protruding from the margins.

Sporulation: April - August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj, 06-04-97. 0223.

Common on shady and moist road side cuttings.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Whole plant.

Rachis of the plant tied on hand to be secured from evil spirit. The same when tied over forehead reduces headache.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
The plant is used as expectorent. Fresh root boiled in mustard oil useful as local application to carbuncle, externally in rheumatism, scabies, ulcers, eczema and cut wounds.

Aqueous extract of the rhizome given twice a day for gonorrhoea. Rhizome paste is also useful in piles and tied on waist. (Kaushik & Dhiman 1995).

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded here.


Trees evergreen, medium sized, young parts rusty tomentose. Leaves peltate, deltoid, ovate acuminate, 8-10 x 4 -15 cm, denticulate or entire, glaucous beneath; petioles 4-12 cm long; pubescent. Male flowers 5-6 subtended by bracts; tepals 2-3 lobed; stamens 5-25. Female flowers on short panicles; tepals 3-4 lobed. Capsules c 4 mm across, blakish, covered with wary glands.

Fls. & Frts.: February – July.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-94. 0115.

Grows wild in the forest and road sides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.
Aqueous bark extract mixed with seed powder of *piper nigrum* is given internally to stop haemorrhage after child birth. For such purpose bark should be collected cutting from the lower portion to the upper part of the plant. If the bark is cut in a reverse manner and the extract is given internally it will release the coagulated blood and reduce pain after child birth.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Hyniewta (1984) reported that juice of stem is used on wound.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is reported.*


Trees evergreen, large, barks fissured. Leaves crowded at the apex of branchlet, sub-coriaceous, entire, acute to subacuminate; extrafoliar nectaries at base on mature leaf. Panicle terminal. Flowers polygamous, small, 4-5 merous, ovary sessile, 1-celled; style internal. Drupes large and fleshy, endocarp fibrous; seeds compressed, with papary testa.

**Fls. & Frts.:** January – July.

**Specimen examined:** Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0198.

Cultivated for edible fruits.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Bark and tender leaves.
Fresh bark pounded, made a water extract, filtered and half cup (c 20 ml) taken internally thrice a day during dysentery till the disease is cured. Aqueous extract of tender leaves is also used for the same purpose.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Leaves are used in scorpion sting.

Ripe fruit is laxative, diuretic, astringent and useful in haemorrhage from uterus, lungs or intestines.

Unripe fruit is useful in ophthalmia and eruptions.

Rind of fruit is astringent, stimulant and tonic in debility of stomach.

Seeds are useful in asthma.

Kernel is astringent and used in uterine haemorrhage, haemoptysis and malaena, diarrhoea and other discharges.

*Note: Additional uses recorded here.*


Shrubs bushy upto 2m high; stems with short dense appressed hairs. Leaves 4-10 x 2.5-5 cm, oblong lanceolate or elliptic, acuminate scabrous above and nerves beneath; Petioles strigose. Inflorescence in terminal fascicles; buds completely enclosed within the bracts. Flowers showy, attractive, 4-5 cm across, mauve purple 1-5 at branch tips; calyx densely scaly, 5-lobes, lanceolate, deciduous; petals c 35 cm long; stamens 10, unequal, alternately long and short; anthers of longer stamens mauve coloured, shorter
yellow; ovary adnate to calyx tube. Fruits truncate, urecolate, fleshy, irregularly dehiscent.

Fls.: June - July.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0129.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Grows wild on road side cutting and in waste lands.

Parts used: Stem.

Fresh stem cut into pieces and used as tooth brush.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves are used in diarrhoea and dysentery; leaves and flower top given as astringent and in leucorrhoea. Bark and leaves used for skin troubles.

*Note: Additional new use recorded here.


Climbers, branches slender, sulcate, glabrous. Leaves oblong, narrowly lanceolate; tendrils simple. Flowers dioecious, small, yellow. Male flowers few to many; peduncles slender, c 4 cm long; calyx tube comanulate, 2-3 mm long; corolla c 1.5 mm long, anthers sub orbicular. Female flowers solitary; peduncles 0.5-1.0 cm long; fruits 3.3 – 5 x 2-2.0 cm, ovoid or globose.
Fls.: July - August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0282.

Grows wild on forest floor.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh roots cut into pieces pounded and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content and decanted. The decoction (c 20 ml) is taken internally thrice a day for 7 days to ease and release urinary troubles and blockages.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root extract with cumin and sugar in cold milk given as a remedy for spermatorrhoea.

*Note: Additional use of the plant is recorded here.


"Khumbaw baw" (R), "Podena" (H) & (B).

Herbs decumbent; stems hairy, aromatic. Leaves shortly petioled or sessile, oblong ovate or lanceolate, obtusely serrate. Flowers axillary, bracteate; calyx teeth triangular, hairy. Corolla hairy within and without.

Fls. & Frts.: March - April.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

About 10 gm of leaves pounded together with a few seeds of *piper nigrum* and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content and decanted. The decoction is taken internally thrice a day during asthmatic problem and continued till the disease is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Dried plant is antispasmodic, carminative, stomachic, refrigerant, stimulent, emmenagogue and diuretic.

*Mesua ferrea* L., Sp. Pl. 515, 1753; Hook.f., FBI 1:277, 1874; Kanjilal *et al*, FA 1:111, 1934; Deb, FTS 1:365, 1981. (GUTTIFERAE) "Khersai" (R.) "Nagakeshora" (S.) "Nagkesor" (H.) & (B.)

Trees evergreen, handsome, medium sized with a dense conical crown. Leaves opposite decussate, lanceolate or narrowly elliptic oblong, acuminate, white or glaucus beneath, reddish pink when young, 6-10 x 2.0-3.0 cm; petioles c 0.4 cm. Flowers solitary or paired, white, fragrant, tetramerous; stamens many forming a globose yellow mass. Ovary bilocular, 2 ovules in each locules. Fruits ovoid; seeds 1-4.

Fls. & Frts.: March – August.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0206.
Cultivated for timber.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Seed.

Seeds pounded and made an oily paste used for massaging the body to reduce excess pain. One message is given a day till pain reduces. Seeds are also burnt as substitute for candle.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Flowers are astringent, stomachic and used in cough. Flower buds given in dysentery.

Unripe fruits are aromatic and sudorific.

Bark is astringent, aromatic and combined with ginger used as sudorific.

Leaves and flowers are used in snake bite and scorpion sting. Seeds yield on fatty oil and used for skin troubles and as an embrocation in rheumatism.


Twiner, stem slender, pubescent. Leaves pubescent and simple, ovate - lanceolate to oblong, entire, truncate to hastate at base, acute at apex, c 5-6 x 2-3 cm; petioles c 1 cm long. Umbellate cymes axillary, rarely solitary. Flowers yellow,
bracteate, pentamerous; calyx persistant; petals funnel shaped. Capsules globose, with pointed tip, c 1 cm diam.

Fls.: June - July.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0207.

Perennial twiner grows in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaf cut into small pieces pounded and made paste with a few drops of water. The paste is then dissolved in water to make the volume double, decanted and taken internally thrice a day during dysentery till it is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Seeds are used in medicine.

*Note: Additional new mode of use of the plant is recorded.


Trees evergreen, medium sized, young shoots silky. Leaves ovate lanceolate – ovate, acuminate 10–20 x 3-6 cm; stipules conduplicate, deciduous. Flowers axillary, solitary, c 2.5 cm long, pale or orange yellow, fragrant; perianth in trimerous whorls, free, inner ones narrower, ob lanceolate; stamens many free, carpels many, free ovoid or ellipsoid. Fruits aggregated, cone like, drooping.
FIs. & Frts.: May - August.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0132.

Cultivated mainly for scented flower.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Seeds.

About 10 gm of seed powder is dissolved in a cup (i.e., 40 ml) of cold water and taken in empty stomach during jaundice. The disease is cured if it is taken regularly for 7 days.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark is febrifuge, stimulant, expectorant and astringent. Dried root and root bark is purgative, in form of infusion useful emmenagogue; mixed with curdled milk useful application to abscess. Flowers and fruits considered stimulant, antiseptic, tonic, stomachic carminative, bitter and cooling, used in dyspepsia, nausea, fever, renal diseases, gonorrhoea and skin diseases. Oil from the flowers is useful in cephalalgia, opthalmia and gout. Juice of leaves given with honey in colic. Seeds and fruits used for healing cracks in feet. Flowers contain essential oil. Flowers and fruits are one of the ingredients of some important Ayurvedic formulations.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded here.


Epiphytes, rhizome widely creeping, covered with thin brown scales, stipes c 10 cm long, slender, dark brown, sparsely covered with brown, ovate, scales. Fronds lanceolate, 25-30x4-4 cm, subcoriaceous, glabrous, dark green; vein obscure, areoles numerous, irregular with free veinlets. Sori large, copius, superficial, irregularly scattered on the surface of pinna, yellowish when young.

Sporulation: April – July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0219.

Common on tree trunks of exposed areas.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

About 20 gm paste obtained by crushing fresh rhizome alongwith seeds of Piper nigrum is taken orally to cure cough and cold. It should be taken thrice a day till the disease is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Reported medicinal utility of this plant appears to be First of its kind.

Herbs twining, stems pubescent. Leaves opposite, triangular ovate cordate 4-8 x 2-4 cm. Heads terminal and upper axillary, corymbose panicle, homogamous; bracts of involucre 4. Cypsela 5-angled, pappus hairy.


Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0139.

A noxious weed spreading rapidly on waste lands during rainy season.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves crushed in between palms; juice squeezed out and is applied locally on fresh wounds to stop bleeding instantly and also as an antiseptic, when applied 2-3 times a day the wound is healed. It is also applied over forehead during headache.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The plant is used as a remedy for snake bite and scorpion sting. Leaves are used in itches and in the form of poultice to wounds in different parts of the world.

*Note: Analgesic activity of the plant is recorded here as new.

Undershubs, branches prostrate, prickly and hairy all over. Leaves paripinnate, sensitive, rachis bristly, leaflets 14-18 pairs, elliptic oblong. Flowers in head c 1 cm in diam., pale pink. Pods jointed between seeds, prickly.

Fls. & Frts.: Throughout the year.

Specimen examined: Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0164.

Grows wild on barren lands.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves pounded in a mortar with a few drops of water and made to a paste. The paste is applied locally twice a day around carbuncle for contraction and squeezing out pus and as pain killer.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of leaves used in grovelish complaints; leaves and roots used in piles and fistula; leaves rubbed into paste applied to hydrocele; leaf and stem used in scorpion sting.

Climbers with simple tendrils, profusely branched. Leaves orbicular, 5 lobed. Flowers solitary unisexuals, monoecious, yellow. Male flowers bracteate, on long peduncle; calyx campanulate, 5 lobed; corolla 5 partite, nearly to the base; stamens 3. Female flowers epigynous, with a bract near base, calyx and corolla same as in male flower; ovary fusiform, stigma, 3. Fruits pointed at both ends; many ribbed covered with triangular tubercles; seeds sculptured on surface.

Fls. & Frts.: December – March.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-94.0120.

Cultivated in jhum fields mainly for edible fruits.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves pounded and macerated in mortar and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content and decanted. The decoction is taken internally (c 20 ml) twice a day for lowering temperature during high fever. This is continued till the temperature comes down.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Fruits tonic, stomachic, carminative and cooling, used in rheumatism, gout and diseases of liver and spleen, also for diabetes. Juice of fruits given in bilious affections. Fruit is famous in Syria for healing wounds. It contains cathechu principle momordicin which seems to be identical with elaterin. Dried fruits is useful in dysentery. (Shukla et al, 1992). Roots used for hemorrhoids.

*Note: Additional mode of use is recorded.

Climbers, profusely branched with simple tendrils, roots tuberous; stems angular, green. Leaves cordate variously lobed 4-8 cm across; petioles c 3 cm long. Flowers solitary, unisexuals, dioecious, yellow, male flowers bracteate, bracts foliaceous enclosing the flower; calyx 5-lobed; petals 5, obovate; stamen 3. Female flowers creamy yellow; calyx and corolla same as male flower. Ovary ovoid, tubercled.

Fls. & Frts.: March – August.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 05-06-94.0110.

Cultivated in the kitchen gardens and jhum field for edible fruits.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Fresh root cut into pieces, pounded and made to a paste and applied in the form of poultice on body for reducing temperature during high fever.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Roots used in urinary problem, root paste smeared over the body as a sedative in high fever with delirium and also used in snake bite and scorpion sting. Juice is used as antiseptic.
Powder or infusion of dried fruits, if introduced in tonsils, produces a powerful errhine effect and provokes a copious discharge from the schneiderian mucous membrane.

*Note: Additional mode of use is recorded.


Herbs rhizomatous, usually covered with remains of old sheaths. Leaves 15-20 x 9-14 cm, sagittate or hastate, basal lobes rounded; petioles long; leaf sheaths subcaudate. Inflorescence racemose, shortly pedunculate, arising from the sheath of uppermost leaf. Flowers 2-3 cm across, pale blue-violet, pedicles 1.5-4 cm long. Perianth 6. Stamen 6, unequal, 1 long and larded, appendaged at base, light blue - violet; 5 short, anthers yellow. Capsule c 1 cm long.

Fls.: March - April.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 03-07-95. 0175.

Grows wild in waterlodged and marshy places.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Petiole.

Fresh petiole cut into pieces, boiled with salt and eaten as vegetable for general health.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant is alterative, tonic and used in insanity.

Juice of leaves applied to boils, rootstocks are pounded with charcoal and used for scurf.


"Mukhoiyangfa" (R), "Shalmali" (S.), "Tut" (H.) & (B.)

Trees small, deciduous. Leaves ovate-elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, caudate-acuminate, 5-10 x 2-4 cm, sharply serrate, submembranous, scaberulous to glabrous, rounded or subcordate and 3-nerved at base; petioles c 2.5 cm. Flowers unisexual, monoecious, appear with leaves, male spikes short, lax flowered. Female spikes many c 1 cm long, sepals 4, obovate; styles connate below. Fruits subglobose, green turning black when ripe, aromatic.

**Fls. & Fruits.** : March – August.

**Specimen examined** : Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0266.

Grows wild and under cultivation.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine** :

**Parts used** : Fruits.
Ripe fruits are eaten for better functioning of stomach. Unripe fruit if eaten causes abdominal pain.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Fruits are aromatic, cooling, laxative; bark is anthelmintic. Leaves decoction used in gargling during inflammation of vocal cords. Roots are anthelmintic and astringent.


Shrubs small, deciduous, aromatic, young parts downy. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets 9-33, obliquely ovate-lanceolate, nearly rhomboid, acuminate, irregularly crenulate. Flowers in terminal corymbose cymose panicles, dirty white. Sepals 5-lobed. Petals 5, oblong, valvate. Stamens 10; filaments subulate. Fruits apiculate, subglobose, rugose, 2-seeded, black when ripe.

Fls.: June – July.

**Specimen examined:** Guaura, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0131.

Grows wild in dry areas.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

Parts used: Root.
Fresh root cut into pieces pounded and made to a paste. Tablets (Weighing 5 gm) are made and taken internally one tablet thrice a day during stomachache and dyspepsia till it is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves, root and bark tonic, stomachic and carminative. Bark and roots are stimulent and externally used in eruption and bites of poisonous animals. Green leaves used for diarrhoea and dysentery and for checking vomiting. Juice of roots taken for relief from renal pain.


Herbs large, rhizomatous, steboniferous often arborescent 2-4 m high, monocarpic; pseudostem composed of convoluted leaf sheaths. Leaves very large, spirally arranged forming a compact crown at the top oblong, bright green above, glaucous beneath waxy, petiolate above the sheaths; apex cirrhose, lateral nerves parallel, mid nerve strong, raised beneath, channelled above. Inflorescence from the centre of pseudostem developed directly from rhizome; peduncles hard, bearing condensed spikes, pendant. Flowers enclosed in spatheceous bract, bracts reddish, flowers cream yellow, epigynous. Sepals 3 adnate to 2 petals split on one side, third petal free concave, apiculate, stamens 5; stigma capitate. Barries oblong tapering both ends, yellow when ripe.
Fls. & Frts.: Once in a year.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0291.

Cultivated for its edible fruits.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Stem.

Stem cut into small pieces, macerated, watery extract so obtained is then decanted and taken internally (c 40 ml) with sugar twice a day during mild dysentery and continued till it cures. Green fruits may also be eaten for the same purpose.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root is anthelmintic, flowers astringent and juice of the core of pseudo stem used in otalgia and haemoptysis. Banana fruit laxative, used in intestinal disorder, uraemia, nephritis, hypertension and other vascular diseases. A very nutritious fruit.

*Note: Additional new uses recorded.


Shrubs large, erect, much branched. Leaves elliptic to lanceolate, caudate, acuminate c 12 x 6 cm, cuneate at base; petioles c 1 cm, stout. Cymes c 4 cm. Flowers epigynous, pentamerous, heterostylus; calyx lobes filiform, out of 5 lobes 1 modified to a large white petaloid appendage, attractive; corolla orange yellow inside, whitish outside. Berries glabrous, crown areolate.
Fls. & Frts.: May – August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0283.

Grows wild in base hillocks.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.

Fresh bark cut into pieces pounded and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content by adding water and decanted. The decoction (c 20 ml) is given thrice a day against cholera.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root and bark powder mixing with water drunk for ulcers of mouth and also for causing appetite. The leaf juice is applied on cuts and wounds as haemostatic.

*Note: Recorded here for a quite different purpose of use.


Herbs woody at base, glabrescent, aromatic. Leaves petiolate, ovate lanceolate, acuminate 4-6 x 1-1.8 cm; petioles c 2 cm long. Flowers in whorls on simple or branched...
racemes, terminal; bracts oblanceolate, c 3 mm long; calyx bilabiate more or less villous within, c 2.5 mm long; corolla bilabiate, c 1 cm long, creamy white; style gynobasic.

Nutlets ellipsoid, pitted.

Fls. & Frts. : Throughout the year.

Specimen examined : Cheragi, Karimganj. 05-06-95. 0154.

Cultivated in the home garden for medicinal purpose.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaf juice (¼ cup, c 10 ml) taken internally during stomach pain. It is believed that *O. basilicum* gives better result than *Ocimum tenuiflorum*.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Flowers carminative, diuretic, stimulent and demulcent. Seeds demulcent, stimulant, diaphoretic and diuretic and used in case of habitual constipation and piles and poultices for sores. Infusion of seeds given in gonorrhoea, dysentery and chronic diarrhoea. Roots used in bowel complaints of children. Juice of leaves used as a nasal douche and for ringworm.

Shrubs, 1.5 - 2 m high, much branched, pubescent when young, aromatic. Leaves sub-membranous, elliptic lanceolate, acute or acuminate, serrate, pubescent, gland dotted, 5.5-12 x 1.5-2.5 cm; petioles c 2.5 cm long. Racemes simple or branched, wooly. Flowers shortly pedicillate, greenish yellow or creamy white; bracts lanceolate, sessile; calyx bilabiate hirsute, c 4 mm long, upper lip broad, round recurved in age, lowers spinulose, much shorter; corolla bilabiate, nearly twice as long as calyx; stamen 4, exerted; Nutlets subglobose, rugose, brown, c 1 mm diam.

FIs. & Frts. : October - December.

Specimen examined : Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0237.

Commonly cultivated in the home garden for medicinal purposes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine :

Parts used : Leaves.

About 10 gm of leaves crushed and made ¼ cup (c 10 ml) extract with water. It is then decanted and is taken internally twice a day during cough and cold, also useful in case of stomach pain and stomach swelling.

Established reports of utilization in medicine :

Plants digestive, tonic, stimulant, demulcent, diuretic, anthelmintic, antiseptic and styptic, employed in cough mixtures, used in aromatic baths fumigations for
rheumatism and paralysis. Decoction of leaf used in seminal weakness and
gonorrhoea. Seeds are given in headache and neuralgia.


Fls. & Frts. : Throughout the year.

Specimen examined : Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0168.

Commonly cultivated in the home garden as holly plant and also
for medicinal purposes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine :

Parts used : Leaves.

About 10 gm of leaves crushed and made to ¼ cup of extract with water. The
decoction is taken internally adding a few drops of honey, twice a day during cough
and cold till the ailment is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine :

Juice of the leaf is diaphoretic, antiperiodic and stimulating expectorant, as
remedy for earache; Infusion used as stomachic. Powder of dried leaves used as snuff
in ozaena. Seeds are demulcent and given in disorders of genetio-urinary systems.
Root decoction given as a diaphoratic in malarial fevers. Extract of fresh roots, leaves and stems applied locally in mosquito bite and scorpion sting.


Herbs; stem decumbent. Leaves elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, nerves pubescent beneath; stipules large, subulate, ciliate. Inflorescence cymose panicles; peduncles very stout; cymes 2 - 4.5 cm diam. flat topped; bracteoles large, as long as the flowers. Flowers white. Calyx tube globose, hispid, teeth glabrous. Corolla tubular, dilated at the base, villous within. Capsules hispid.

Fls. & Frts. : April - July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0271.

Grows wild in the secondary forest.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

Parts used: Leaves.

Paste of leaves is considered to be very strong antiseptic and applied locally to dry old abscess. Fresh paste is applied twice a day till the abscess dries up.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Not known so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.*

Trees small, deciduous, with brownish and corky bark. Leaves opposite, bipinnate, very large; leaflets broadly ovate. Flowers in long terminal erect raceme, purplish; calyx campanulate, leathery; corolla campanulate, 5-lobed, fleshy; stamen 5; ovary 2-celled. Capsules sword like; seeds winged.

Fls. & Frts. : May – August.

Specimen examined : Guaura, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0145.

Common in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine :

Parts used : Bark.

Fresh bark cut into pieces, pounded, made to an aqueous extract and applied locally on fresh wounds as an antiseptic. It is also used in eczema.

Established reports of utilization in medicine :

Root bark is astringent, tonic, useful in diarrhoea and dysentery, also diaphoretic and used in rheumatism. Seeds purgative. Bark made into powder alongi with Curcuma domestica useful for sore back of horses. It is also used in acute rheumatism. Bark powder used to treat cuts and burns. Decoction of leaves given in stomachache and rheumatism; leaves used externally for enlarged spleen. Bark decoction given for contraction of uterus during delivery. (Anderson 1986).
Photo - 35: Pajanelia longifolia (Willd.) Schum - bark of the plant is useful in dog’s bite.


Trees deciduous, medium sized to large. Leaves large, imparipinnate, 50-80 cm long, rachis ridged; leaflets 19-25, ovate, ovate deltoid or ovate lanceolate, elliptic, acuminate, 12-25 x 5-10 cm. Panicles 30-45 cm long. Flowers pale yellow with pungent smell. Calyx large, 5-lobed. Corolla 5-lobed, hairs along the margins. Stamen 4. Capsules flat, 2-valved, winged on both margins. Seeds compressed.

**Fls. & Frts.** : February - June.

**Specimen examined** : Kotamoni, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0247.

Un commonly distributed along roadsided. Cultivated on bank of ponds in other part of the district.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine** :

**Parts used** : Bark.

The paste made out of fresh bark is applied locally on mad dog’s bite thrice a day for 7 days to get it cured.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine** :

Medicinal uses are similar to *Oroxylum indicum*; stem and bark contain pajaneelin.

*Note : Additional new use of the plant is recorded.*
Dendrobium teres Roxb., Fl. Ind. 3:485, 1832. (ORTHIDACEAE) “Khelang” (R.)

Epiphytes; stem branched, monopodial, long erect or arched, many noded, cylindric, green; roots long, simple or branched. Leaves terete, 4-8 cm long, green. Raceme lateral, 2-4 flowered; peduncle stout, 3-4 noded, c 8 cm long, simple; rachis c 2 cm long, zigzag. Flowers showy, 6-8 cm across, violet to purplish white; bracts c 2.5 cm long. Pedicelled ovary c 3.5 cm long, resupitate. Lateral sepals keeled. Petals suborbicular, c 3.5 cm across; lip 3 lobed, c 4 x 5 cm, light pink with dark crimson spotted lines; side lobes elliptic, encircling the column; midlobe ovate.

Fls.: April – May.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0227.

Grows on tree trunks as epiphytes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Aerial roots.

Aerial roots cut into pieces pounded and made to a paste. The paste is then applied in the form of poultice over fractured bones after placing them in proper place.

Bamboo splits are tied around the bone to check further displacement.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.
*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as *New.*


Epiphytes; stem stout, 8-30 cm long. Roots all along the stem, simple or branched. Leaves sessile c 4.5 x 1.5 cm, oblong, coriaceous, channeled, obliquely bilobed at apex, green. Raceme short. Flowers pink purple subtended by ovate bracts, perianth segments 3-5 mm long; lip longer than sepals, 3-lobed, longitudinally septeate, spurred; column 2-horned; pollinia globose; caudicle short.

Fls.: May – June.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0229.

Grows wild as epiphytes on tree trunks.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Leaves.

Leaves of the plant and aerial roots of *Papilionanthe teres* cut into pieces, pounded and made to a paste. The paste is applied in the form of poultice on fractured bones after placing them in proper place. Bamboo splints are tied usually around the bone. It is believed that the poultice accelerate healing of bones and also act as pain killer.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Not recorded so far.

* Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as *New.*

Trees medium sized, 5-10 m high, deciduous. Leaves linear oblong, 5-1.5 x 0.04-0.2 cm base rounded. Flowers unisexuals, monoecious, minute, white, c 0.1 cm across; perianth segments 6; stamens 3 in male flowers; ovary 3 celled in female flowers. Drupes 1.5-3 cm across, subglobose, obscurely 6 lobed.

Fls. & Frts. : July - November.

Specimen examined : Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0161.

Generally cultivated in gardens for its edible fruits, found also in Jhum land.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Leaves and Fruits.

About 5 gm of leaves crushed with water and made ¼ cup (c 10 ml) of extract and given twice daily against stomachache and constipation.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Fruit is of great medicinal value. It is one of the richest sources of vitamin C. The fresh fruit is refrigerant, tonic, antiscorbutic, diuretic and laxative. It is used in fevers, vomiting, indigestion, habitual constipation and other digestion troubles. The dried fruit is a good astringent, refrigerant, stomachic, antiscorbutic and blood purifier.
It is given in diarrhoea, dysentery and haemorrhage. The infusion of seeds is useful as eye-wash in ophthalmic diseases. Root and root bark is astringent. Seeds are useful in asthma, bronchitis and biliousness.

Fruits, bark and leaves are rich in tannin. Fruits are richest source of vitamin C. The seeds contain 26% of fixed oil. The oil contains 57% of mixed acids, sitosterol and phytosterol. m.p. 124°-25° (Dhar et al. 1951).

* Note: Additional new uses recorded.


Climbers much branched, nodes swollen with clinging roots at nodes. Leaves broadly ovate, cordate acuminate, often unequal sided, 10-16 x 6-8 cm. Spikes short, 2-6 cm long, greenish. Flowers small, dioecious. Male flowers with 2-4 stamens; female spikes pendulous; fruits globose.

Fls. & Frts.: December – April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj, 06-04-97, 0241.

Cultivated in the gardens.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Petiole.

Petiole cut into pieces mixed with dead housefly, inserted into a small metallic tube made of copper, sealed with wax tied on arm for sleeping sickness.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaf aromatic, carminative, stimulant and used in snake bite.

Essential oils from leaves used in respiratory catarrhs and antiseptic.

Juice of leaves dropped into eyes in painful affections and night blindness and also used to relieve cerebral congestion. Fruit used in cough. Roots alongwith black pepper used to produce sterility in women.

*Note: Additional new uses recorded here.

* * *


Climber with stout stem. Leaves coriaceous, broadly ovate, shortly acuminate, 15 x 5-7 cm; petioles c 1.5 cm long. Spikes 5-8 cm long, pendant. Flowers dioecious, bract of female flowers cupular, adnate to margins of ovary. Fruiting spikes fleshy. Berries sub-globose c 2.5 mm diam., blackish.

Fls. & Frts. : August – March.

Specimen examined : Manapi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0147.

Cultivated for commercial purposes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Fruits.
Powder of dried fruits (5 gm) and leaf extract in equal proportion of *Ocimum basilicum*, and *O. tenuiflorum* in combination taken with sugar (1/2 cup c 20 ml) twice a day to get relief from cough and cold.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Fruits used as aromatic stimulant in cholera, in weakness following fever, in dyspepsia, in malarial fever. It is externally used as rubefacient and as local application for sore throat, piles and skin disease.

*Note: Additional new uses recorded here.*


Trees medium sized, bark greyish. Leaves bipinnate; rachis angled, with a large gland at base, 4-12 cm long; leaflets 5-10 pairs, oblong – lanceolate to elliptic, gradually narrowed in size. Flowers yellowish white in peduncled umbellate corymbs; calyx and petal 5 lobed. Stamens numerous. Fruits spirally twisted.

**Fls. & Frts.: March – August.**

**Specimen examined:** Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0203.

Gows wild on forest floor.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves boiled, the decoction is cold and used to give bath once a day during jaundice. A few drops of the decoction is taken internally in empty stomach for the same disease.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves used in poultices applied in swellings, chickenpox and small pox. Ashes of the leaves mixed with coconut oil used in Skin affection.

*Note: Additional new uses recorded here.


Shrubs erect, attaining a height of 1 m. Leaves long, 12-40x3-5.5 cm, elliptic, ob lanceolate, acuminate; petiòles broad. Flowers in Spikes, simple, branched; perianth pale green, cleft half way down. Fruits orange red.

Fls. & Frts.: March – April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0289.

Grows wild on forest floor.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Modified roots.
Plumbago zeylanica L. - bark of the plant is useful in dysentery and stomachache.
Bark of modified root is removed and the soft white inner portion is taken raw against stomach trouble.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.


Undershubs, branches scandent. Leaves elliptic ovate, acute to apiculate 3-6 x 2-4 cm; petioles c 2 cm. Raceme terminal, elongate in age, simple or (Sub) paniculate, 5-20 cm long. Flowers white; calyx c 1 cm long; corolla c 2 cm across. Capsules 1.2 cm long.

Fls. & Frts.: March – April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97.

Cultivated in the residential compound for medicinal uses.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Tender leaves cut into pieces, boiled with fish and made to a curry, taken with rice as medicine for the treatment of rheumatism.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
Roots are appetizer, also used in skin diseases, diarrhoea, piles and leprosy. Paste of the root applied for opening abscesses. Infusion of roots used in influenza and black water fever.

Root bark is powerful sudorific and antiperiodic.

*Note: Utilization of leaves of the plant in rheumatism is reported here as an additional use.


Trees medium sized, deciduous; branches dichotomous, latex bearing. Leaves oblanceolate, acute, glabrous, coriaceous, midvein raised beneath, 25.0-35.0 x 6.0-10.0 cm; petioles c 5 cm long. Cymes compound, terminal. Flowers white with yellow centre, strongly fragrant; calyx 5-lobed, imbricate; corolla tubular 5-lobed, twisted to the left. Stamen 5, adnate near the base of the tube.

Fls. : March - May.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj. 03-07-94. 0103.

Cultivated for flowers and medicinal uses.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Bark.
Bark pounded and made to a paste. About 10 gm of it dissolved in a cup of water (c 40 ml) and decanted. The decoction is taken internally twice daily during stomachache and dysentery and continued till the ailment is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root bark is used mostly in blennorrhagia in Guiana. Latex rubefacient and purgative, enters into applications for itch, rheumatism and given in toothache and for carious teeth. Flowers used as pectoral syrup. Bark stimulant; its decoction used as a purgative, febrifuge and emmenagogue; also used in dropsied and venereal affections and said to be antitherpetic.


Herbs annual, upto 45 cm high, hairy throughout; stem hollow above, woody below. Leaves ovate, acuminate, 6-12 x 2-4 cm; petioles long. Racemes terminal, 2-4 cm long. Flowers white; stamens 5. Nuts biconvex.

FIs. & Frts.: March – May.

Specimen examined : Medlicherra, Karimganj, 06-04-97. 0245.

Grows extensively in dry paddy field during off season.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Whole plant.
Macerated plant (black variety) is rinsed in stagnant water pools and slow flowing water for intoxication of fish. The fish started floating within 10 minutes and make it easy to catch.

Leaf extract of yellow variety of the plant is given internally in minute quantities to release dry cough. The same is also useful in asthma.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant used as a good tonic and vulnerary.

*Note: Additional mode of utilization of the plant is recorded.

Potrulaca quadrifida L., Mant. 73, 1767; Roxb. Fl. Indica 464, 1832; Hook.f.,FBI 1:247, 1872.
(PORTULACACEAE) "Khumchowma" (R).

Herbs prostrate, succulent, rooting at nodes; stipules forming ring of white hairs. Leaves linear, borne all round the stem. Flowers yellow, solitary, surrounded by a whorl of 4 leaves and hairs; sepals 2; petals 4, caducous; stamen 8.

Fls.: April – July.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0202.

Cultivated in the home garden for coloured flowers and medicinal uses.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.
Leaves pounded and made to a paste. The paste is diluted to double its content with water, decanted during congestion in lung and when develops chest pain due to gastric problem.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant used in asthma, cough, urinary discharges, inflammation and ulcers. Poultice of herbs applied in haemorrhoids.


Rhizome wide creeping. Stipes upto 85 cm long. Fronds unipinnate, upto 155 x 65 cm, rough, coriaceous; pinnae 8-12 pairs, largest pinnae 16-30 x 2.4 – 3.0 cm, widest near the base very gradually tapering, base broadly cuneate, acuminate, margins sharply crenate, strongly cartilaginous; veins 16-22 pairs, free, excurrent. Lower surface of pinnae postular, variously hairy; upper surface hairy on costa only. Sori small, round, medial; indusia small often rudimentary, hairy; sporangia glabrous. Spores dark, exine minutely spinulose.
Sporulation: May – August.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0135.

Common on moist and shaddy forest floor, often grows along streams and road side cutting.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Pinnae.

Cold decoction of pinnae is used as mouthwash during acute pyorrhoea. 2-3 wash is given a day till it is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: A New report of its use in ethnomedicine.


Trees small; branches strong, young stiff hairy. Leaves coriaceous, acuminate, base rounded, 8-16 x 4-6 cm; margins densely ciliated; petioles short, 0.6 cm. Racemes 2.5 – 4 cm, solitary, or fascicled on old stems. Flowers 0.5 cm in diam, light pink; calyx areolate 0.5 x 1 mm; petals 1 x 2 mm, ovate lanceolate; stamens many, filaments 1-2 mm long; styles c 4 mm long; drupes 6-12 x 4-8 mm, ellipsoid.
FIs.: March – May.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 05-06-94. 0114.

Grows wild in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Roots pounded to make a paste, about 5 gm of it is taken internally in the form of pills twice daily as an appetiser.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Utilization of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here as New.


Shrubs c 1.2 m high. Stems pubescent on younger parts. Leaves elliptic, acuminate at both ends. Racemes elongating in age, upto 30 cm long, rachis pubescent. Flowers pale purple, bilabiate; sepal linear, pubescent c 3 mm; corolla tube linear, purple, sparsely spotted yellow; capsules pubescent c 2.5 cm.

FIs. & Frts: January – May.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0278.
Grows wild on the forest floor.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves pounded and made to a paste and applied locally on fresh wounds to stop bleeding instantly. The paste should remain on wound till it is healed.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Reported here as New in ethnomedicine.


Trees small; young branches pubescent. Leaves oposite, oblong to elliptic oblong, acute or obtuse, base cordate, 4-12 x 3-5 cm; petioles c 1 cm long. Flowers 1-3 on axillary peduncles, 2-3 cm across, white; calyx urcerolate, thick; petals broad, membranous free; stamens numerous; exerted; ovary 3-4 celled, ovules numerous. Berries many seeded.

Fls.: March - April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0221.

Cultivated for edible fruits and medicinal uses.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves and root.
The decoction of tender leaves after cooling used as a gargle to cure pyorrhoea. This is also taken against diarrhoea and prescribed 2-3 times a day.

About 10 gm of roots pounded and made into a paste and taken internally in the form of pills twice daily during fever in bringing down body temperature.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark of root is astringent, used in diarrhoea of children. Fruit laxative useful in colic and bleeding gums and leaves are used as astringent for bowel troubles also in wounds and ulcers. Decoction of leaves used in Cholera for arresting vomiting and diarrhoea.

*Note: Additional use of the plant reported here for a quite different purpose of use.


Rhizome short, covered with lanceolate dark brown scales. Stipes c 5-15 cm long. Fronds dimorphic; sterile short, simple, often with 2-3 pairs of lobes, margins dentate. Fertile long, bipinnate; lateral pinnae 2-5 pairs, oblique, veins free. Sori marginal, confluent, developing basipetally; spores dark brown.

Sporulation: April - July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 10-06-97. 0257.

Common on moist and shady forest floor, on road sides and forest cleanings.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fronds.

Fronds pounded to paste with water, applied locally twice a day during swelling of joints till it is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of fresh fronds given for dysentery. Juice of rhizome applied for the glandular swelling of the neck.

*Note: Additional new information is provided here.


Rhizome creeping clothed with dense brown scales. Stipes caespitose, erect, upto 35 cm long. Fronds semipinnate; pinnae upto 16 cm long, basal pairs of pinnae distant and distinct, apical deltoid, gradually narrowed to acute apex. Pinnae subequally pinnatifid at lower margin, upper margin subentire, pinnules linear with acute apex, serrate, basal pinnules larger, size gradually decreases towards the apices, veins slightly raised on both surfaces costae and costules slightly grooved, scally at base. Sori linear, marginal, indusia reaching the sinus; apex of pinnules sterile. Spores triangular to oval, yellowish brown.

Fls. & Frts: June – July.

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Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 04-04-97. 0220.

Frequent along moist and shady base of hillocks and on moist road side cuttings.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fronds.

Fronds pounded to paste with water applied locally around carbuncle for getting it burst and also to reduce pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: Report of this plant in ethnomedicine appears to be First of its kind.


"Bormondi" (R.).

Epiphytes. Rhizome wiry, long, creeping, covered with scales, scale margins fimbricate. Stipe upto 4 cm long, scaly at base. Fronds shortly stalked, coriaceous, 8-12 x 0.8 - 1.2 cm, ovate, lower surface stellately hairy; upper surface sparsely hairy or hairs absent, midrib prominently raised, veins obscure. Sori scattered in upper half, small, globose, depressed, dark brown; sporangia oval, slender, stalked. Spores round, bilobed, exine tuberculate.
Sporulation: May - August.

Specimen examined: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0186.

Common on tree trunks of exposed areas.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

Cold decoction of rhizome mixed with a little powdered seeds of *Piper nigrum* is taken orally during cough and cold twice a day for 7 days.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not known so far.

*Note: A New report of its use in ethnomedicine.


Climbers, stem stout, leaves sub-coriaceous, elliptic-ovate, falcate, 12-30 x 8-18 cm, pinnatisect, glaucous beneath; segments 3-5, unequal; petioles slender, c 15 cm long, channelled upto the blade; spathes coriaceous, ovate-oblong or oblong lanceolate, 8-12 x 2-4 cm. Spaidx 5-10 cm long, pale yellow.

Fls.: June.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0277.

Grows wild in the forest climbing on woody trees.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:
Parts used: Stem.

Young stem cut into pieces, boiled with salt and taken along with rice as medicine twice daily during arthritis till the disease is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Ethnomedicinal utility of the plant is recorded as New.

*Rhus chinensis* Miller, Gard. (ed.8) R. no. 7, 1768; *R. semialata* Murray., Hook.f., FBI 2:10, 1876; Kanjilal *et al*, FA. 1(2) : 331, 1936. (ANACARDIACEAE) "Dounilby" (R.), "Tatri" (H).

Trees deciduous, branches spreading. Leaves imparipinnate; often found with galls on leaflets. Leaflets 4-6 pairs, opposite, sessile, 4-12 x 2-4 cm, elliptic ovate or oblong lanceolate, acuminate. Panicles terminal, 12-18 cm long. Flowers c 20 cm across, whitish or pale green; pedicels minute, sepals small, ovate, pubescent, petals oblong, ciliate. Drupes pink, 4 mm long subglobose, compressed, tomentose.

Fls. & Frts: January – March.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0250.

Common in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.
The paste of fresh leaves applied locally on fresh cuts and wounds for clotting of blood and also for antiseptic action. Fresh paste is given every day till the wound is healed. It is also applied over carbuncle in the form of poultice to get relief from pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Galls yield high quality tannins and gallic acid; also used for dyeing. They are astringent and expectorent and employed in preparation of ointment for swelling and wounds. Fruits are edible, and also used for treatment of colic and dysentery.


Epiphytes; stem stout, curved, covered with dried leaf sheaths. Roots loosely hanging. Leaves oblong, keeled apex praemorse with a curved spine; 20-25 x 2.5-3 cm. Racemes 1-3, lateral, pendant, many flowered, c 25 cm long; peduncles stout, sheathed. Flowers sweet scented, rosy to whitish pink, c 1.5 cm across; perianth spreading, subequal; lip adnate to the base of the column, entire, 5-nerved, pink; epichile erect; spur without calli, laterally compressed. Column short, stout; pollinia 2, attached to a slender caudicle. Fruits oblong, ribbed.

Fls. & Frts.: March – August.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0230.

Grows on tree trunk as epiphyte.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

The leaf extract is used as gargle against acute pyorrhoea. It is said to be effective if it is done 4-5 times a day and continued for 7 days.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Plant is used as an emollient.

*Note: Additional new mode of use of the plant is recorded.


Shrubs soft wooded, upto 4 m high. Leaves alternate, large, peltate, orbicular, digitately lobed, lobes oblong, serrate, acuminate at apex. Panicles terminal; Flowers pale yellow, monoecious androgynous. Male flowers crowded; calyx segments 3-5; stamens many, connate in several branched columns. Female flowers larger than males, styles 3, bipartite. Capsules oblong ellipsoid, covered with aril; seeds brownish, endospermous.

Fls. & Frts.: Throughout the year.

Specimen examined: Medicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0222.

Grows wild in fields, gardens and waste places.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark and seed.
Bark cut into pieces, crushed in a mortar with water, the extract is then applied locally for 7 days on vagina within three months of conception for abortion.

Seeds soaked in water for 3-4 hours. The water is then taken internally thrice a day for three days against chaked voice – a disease locally called totapira.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The oil obtained from the seed called castor oil is used as purgative and lubricant. It is also used as ointments as smoothing agent and as an oil vehicle in eye drops. Leaf applied to head to relieve headache and as poultice for boils. Roots are carminative, purgative and useful in leprosy. Flowers and fruits applied to treat obstinate wound. (Monadhar 1991). Leaf paste is applied on boils. Seed paste is used as an antidote to food poisoning (Megoneitso and Rao 1983).

*Note: Additional new uses of the plant is recorded.


Perennial robust erect grass; rhizomes thick; culms solid, up to 2.5 m high, leaves erect, rigid, coriaceous, linearly oblong, acuminate 4-160 x 4-4.5 cm; sheaths auricled; ligule ovate. Panicle of spikelets tufted, secondary branches silky hairy; pedicles ciliate. Spikelets 3-6 mm long; lower floret empty, upper bisexual; glumes lanceolate, acuminate; palea ovate ciliate; lodicules ciliak.

FIs. & Frts.: March – April.
Specimen examined: Lakhicarra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0163.

Cultivated in hilly places as well as in plains for commercial purposes.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Culms.

Culms are crushed after removing bark and squeezed to collect juice. The juice is warmed and taken internally as an antiblood coagulant.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Stem is laxative, diuretic, cooling and aphrodisiac. Root is demulcent, cooling and diuretic.

*Note: Additional purpose of utilization is recorded.


Shrubs large; stems mostly younger parts covered with tomentose scales. Leaves elliptic or elliptic oblong, shortly acuminate, ferruginous tomentose beneath, 12-25 x 4-10 cm. Flowers light pink, shortly pedicelled; sepals 5, persistent; petals 5, ovate; stamens numerous; styles 5, united below. berries globose, white.

Fls. & Frts.: March - April.

Specimen examined: Rangpur, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0123.
Grows wild.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Roots cut into pieces, pounded and made to a paste. About 10 gm of it dissolved in a cup (c 40 ml) of water and is given internally with black piper (Piper nigrum) to prevent dyspepsia to pregnant women just before delivery.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as New.


Robust tall climber. Stem c 1 cm thick with nodal adventitious roots. Leaves simple, alternate, petiolate. Petioles winged to the geniculation. Spathes oblong, beak cuspidate. Spadix as long as spathe, stout, sessile, perianth 0. Stamen 4. Ovaries tetragonal, 1 celled, ovules solitary.

Fls. & Frts.: March – April.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0270.

Grows wild climbing tall trees.
Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaf extract is used to give bath twice a day to the patient suffering from Leprosy. Second bath is given after washing the debries of the first one.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Use of the plant in ethnomedicine is recorded here for the First time.


Herbs erect; stems branched, sparsely hairy. Leaves opposite or alternately whorled, elliptic, serate c 2 x 0.5 cm. Flowers solitary axillary tetramerous, actinomorphic, white. Calyx imbricate in buds, corolla c 4 mm, densely pilose; stamens exerted, filament base wooly; capsules globose.

Fls. & Frts.: April – December.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0228.

Grows wild on waste land and road sides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Decoction of leaf (c 20 ml) mixed with sugar is taken orally thrice a day for 7 days during rheumatism till the disease is cured.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
The plants infusion is used in agne; a cold decoction is given against gravel and kidney complaints. An infusion of leaves, root and tops are applied in fever, cough and bronchitis. Leaves and stems are used for diabetes. It is helpful in anaemia, albuminuria, ketonuria, retinitis and other complications associated with diabetes mellitus. All parts of plant are emetic. It contains an antidiabetic principle amellin in the leaves and stems of green plants.

*Note: Application of leaf decoction of the plant in rheumatism is recorded here as an additional new usage.


Undershubs erect. Leaves rhomboid, margins serrated towards the apex, base 3-nerved, 1.5-2 x 1-1.2 cm. Petioles c 0.5 cm long; stipules linear c 3.5 mm long. Flowers solitary, axillary on jointed pedicel, yellow; calyx campanulate; corolla 5, connated below; staminal column short. Carpels 10.

Fls. & Frts.: November - December.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0134.

Grows wild in the forest floor.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.
Leaves pounded and made to a paste and applied locally on fresh wounds for instant coagulation of blood.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Leaves are pounded and applied on swellings. Stem is used as demulcent and emollient, also for skin troubles and as a diuretic and febrifuge.

Roots are considered valuable in tuberculosis and rheumatism in Europe.

Manadhar (1991) reported that the plant and its roots are used in tuberculosis by the Tamang tribe of Nepal.

*Note: Additional information for new usage in ethnomedicine is provided.


Undershrubs erect, much branched; stems and branches with curved prickles, younger parts stellately tomentose. Leaves ovate oblong, sinuate or lobed 7-14 x 2-8 cm. Cymes extra axillary, scorpioid. Calyx c 0.4 cm long; corolla c 0.6 cm long, bluish purple. Stamen 0.4 cm long, epipetalous, alternate to corolla lobes; filament short; anthers yellow; pollen dehiscing through apical pores; carpels 2, obliquely placed. Berry globose, orange - red when ripe.

Fls. & Frts.: November - January.

Specimen examined: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0189.
Photo - 37: *Solanum indicum* L. - leaves of the plant are used in preparation of alcohol.
Grows wild on waste land and road sides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaf.

Leaf is used in preparation of cake for fermentation of rice to prepare local liquor (alcohol).

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Roots are carminative, expectorant and useful in asthma, cough, catarrhal affection, toothache, fevers, warm complaints, colic, dysuria and inchuria. Leaf juice mixing with fresh juice of zinger taken to stop vomiting. Leaves and fruits rubbed up with sugar used as external application for itch. Fruits laxative and digestive, also for preparation of cortisone and steroid sex hormones has been suggested.

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is recorded.


Shrubs erect, upto 4 m high, branches tomentose, sparsely prickled. Leaves large, shallowly lobed, acuminate, densely tomentose. Cymes scorpion. Flowers white; pedicels c 2 cm long in fruit; calyx hirsute; corolla stellate pubescent; stamen 5. Berries 1.0 - 1.5 cm in diam., globose, yellow.

Fls. & Frts.: April - December.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0249.
Grows abundantly on waste place and Jhuming areas.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Roots cut into pieces pounded and made to a paste, about 10 gm of it dissolved in a cup (c 40 ml) of water and supernatant is taken internally thrice a day for 7 days during gastric problems.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The fruits are used as vegetable. Fumes of burning seeds are inhaled for toothache. Plants are reported to be useful in cough and as sedative, diuretic and digestive tonic. Fruits are useful in liver as well as spleen enlargement. Paste of pounded fruits is applied as cure for skin diseases by ‘Adi’ tribe against local name ‘Bako’ (Pal 1984) Roots used in poultices for cracks in the feet. Root extract taken in malaria against the local name ‘Bangko’ (Adi) as reported by Hynniewta (1987).


Herbs decumbent, rooting at nodes, leaves opposite, ovate or ovate elliptic, crenate 5-10 x 2-5 cm. Heads terminal, solitary, yellow; peduncles long; bract of involucre sub 2-seriate, 8-12, slightly unequal; receptacles conical, elongate, paleae enclosing the florets. Ray florets female, ligulate. Disc florets tubular, bisexual, 4-5 fid,
anther base truncate; style arms rather long, truncate. Achenes glabrous c 2 mm long, with persistent 2-3 bristles.

Fls. & Frts.: Through out the year.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0234.

Grows in open places and in rice fields.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaf paste in large scale added to stagnant water pools for intoxication of fish to capture them easily.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Flowers made into a tincture used to relieve toothache; also used for relief in throat infections and paralysis of tongue and chewed for stammering in children, and also powerful mosquito larvicides. Tincture of the capitula acts as a sialagogue and stimulant and used in caries and inflammation of jaw-bones. Herbs used in dysentery. Decoction given as a lithontriptic and diuretic also used in scabies and psoriasis. Roots purgative. Plant used as fish poison. Seeds chewed to produce salivation when the mouth is dry.

Its flowers contain spilanthol has strong local anaesthetic action. Flowers contain also a sterol and non-reducing polysaccharide.

Flowers are chewed in case of toothache (Kholi 1992).

Climbers large, perennating by corms; corms subglobose, base tapering, weighing 5-10 kg. Leaves peltate, suborbicular, herbaceous repand or lobed at the margins; petioles c 8 cm long. Cymes umbellate, from leafless stems, pendant. Flowers unisexual, monoecious, yellowish. Sepal 6-9 free; petals 3-6, fleshy c 1.5 mm long in male flowers. Female flowers trimerous; carpel solitary. Drupes obovate, compressed, tubercled.

Fls. & Frts.: July – October.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0239.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Corms.

Corms cut into pieces and pounded to a paste. About 10 gm of it boiled in a cup of water (c 40 ml). After cooling supernatant is taken orally twice a day against stomachache derived from gastrointestinal problems.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

The corms are acrid, used in pulmonary tuberculosis, asthma dysentery and fever, and intestinal complaints. The roots are also used in urinary diseases.

The tubers contain three crystalline alkaloids gindarine, gindarinin and gindaricine. Gindarinine nitrate possess definite antibiotic action against
Gindarine and gindarinine are identical with tetrahydropalmatine and palmatine respectively.


Trees middle sized, deciduous, with spreading crown, younger parts tomentose. Leaves crowded at the ends of branchlets, simple, deeply 5-7 lobed, cordate 22-40 cm across, reddish when young. Panicles in racemes pendant, unisexuals, monoecious, arisen when completely deciduous. Flowers light yellowish to dirty brown; sepals 4-5 lobed, companulate; petals absent; staminal column with 30-40 anthers. Female flowers 5 carpellate; follicles coriaceous.

Fls.: April - August.

**Specimen examined:** Manapi, Karimganj. 07-06-94. 0128.

Grows wild, not very common.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine:**

**Parts used:** Root.

Root cut into pieces pounded and made to a paste. About 10 gm of it dissolved in a cup of water (c 40 ml). The decoction is taken internally once a day for good health. The extract may be taken regularly to keep strong.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine:**

Not known so far.

Trees large, evergreen, bark greyish black. Leaves elliptic oblong or ovate subobtuse, glossy green 6-12 x 3-6 cm, petioles grooved, 1.0-2.0 cm long. Cymes panicled, lateral, developed from leafless nodes. Flowers creamy, c 1 cm across; calyx turbinate, obscurely lobed; corolla calyptrate. Berries black, inside purple-violet; seeds solitary.

FIs.: May – July.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-06-96. 0208.

Grows wild also cultivated for edible fruits as well as for timbers.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark and Fruits.

About half cup (c 20 ml) bark extract is taken internally thrice a day for 3 days to check excess mucus with stool. Fruits are similiary used.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark is astringent. Decoction of bark and that of powdered seeds are used in diabetes and also used as mouth washes and gargles.

Fresh Juice of bark given with goat milk in diarrhoea of children.
Juice of leaves used in dysentery.

Juice of ripe fruit made in a vinegar used as stomachic, carminative and a diuretic.

Fruits are useful astringent in bilious diarrhoea.

*Note: Additional new uses of the plant is recorded.


Shrubs bushy; branches dichotomous, latex bearing. Leaves oblong or elliptic, caudate-acuminate, submembranous, upper surface glossy green, 5-8 x 2-4 cm; petiole up to 1 cm long. Cymes usually axillary, corymbose, few flowered; flowers pentamerous, white; calyx 5 lobed; corolla tube c 2 cm long, lobes 5, c 1.5 x 1cm, anthers subsessile, carpels 2, distinct. Follicles divaricate, recurved orange red inside; seeds enclosed in a red aril.

Fls. & Frts.: April – December.

Specimen examined: Lakhicherra, Cachar. 05-07-95. 0166.

Along the edges of forest and cultivated in the home garden as an ornamental plant and also for medicinal purposes.

Usage in Ethomedicine:
Parts used: Root bark.

Concentrated extract of root bark is applied locally on teeth as germicide. The extract is applied 3-4 times a day for seven days to prevent tooth decay.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Wood is refrigerant. Milky juice is used for diseases of eye. Roots are acrid, bitter, used as local anodyne and chewed for relief of toothache. Bark of stem and root contains a crystalline substance and alkaloids tabernaemontanine and coronarine. The alkaloids are pharmacologically active. Seeds, leaves and barks purgative, latex cathartic.

Leaf paste applied on forehead during headache and fever. Decoction of plant said to be anthelmintic (Kharkongor and Joseph 1981).

*Tagetes patula* L., Sp. Pl.887,1753; Clarke, Comp. Ind. 142, 1876; Rao et Verma, BBSI 11 (3&4): 408,(1969), 1972, (ASTERACEAE) "Khumtu" (R).

Herbs annual, erect, branching from base, strongly odorous. Leaves opposite, sometimes alternate at the terminal ends, segments of leaves oblong-lanceolate, serrulate, glandular dotted. Heads solitary, large, heterogamous, yellow; peduncles long, enlarged on top; bracts of involucre 2-serial. Ray florets female, ligulate, yellow with brownish red markings, emerginate, sinuate at apex. Disc florets tubular, bisexual, toothed, anthers syngenesious. Cypsela linear, compressed, crowned with persistent scaly pappus.

Fls. & Frts.: November - March.
Specimen examined: Chotojamira, Hailakandi. 05-07-96. 0218.

Cultivated for ornamental purposes.

Uses in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves pounded and made to a paste, applied locally around carbuncle for contraction of skin and squeezing out pus and also used as antiseptic. Fresh poultice is given everyday till the carbuncle dries up.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Flowers are used in the diseases of eyes, unhealthy ulcers and are also eaten as blood purifier. Roots and seeds purgative. Decoction of capitula used as carminative, their juice contains iodine and is applied to cuts and wounds.

Leaves used as an application for boils and carbuncles.


"Taintai"(R), "Tintrini"(S), "Imti" (H).

Trees medium size to large, evergreen, bark greyish brown, rough. Leaves paripinnate; leaflets 10-20 pairs, linearly oblong. Flowers c. 1 cm across, pale yellow; sepals lanceolate; petals 3, creamy yellow, stamens monodelphous below, 3 perfect with staminodes 3-4. Pods 4-8 x 1 cm, usually curved, indehiscent; seed dark brown, smooth.

Fls. & Frts.: April - December.
Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0145.

Grows wild in the forest. Often cultivated for edible fruit.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Root cut into small pieces pounded and made to a paste. About 10 gm of the paste administered internally in the form of pills thrice a day during typhoid. When used in combination with fruits of Benincasa cerifera, and root paste of Ananas comosus and Citrus reticulata gives better result.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Fruits are refrigerent, digestive, carminative, laxative and useful in diseases caused by deranged bile; their infusion employed as a drink in febrile diseases.

*Note:- Additional new use of the plant is recorded.

Telanthera ficoidea Moq. in DC, Prodr. 13(2) : 363, 1849; Kanjilal et al FA 4:9, 1940. (AMARANTHACEAE) "Khurmurmu" (R).

Undershubs, erect or decumbent. Stem coarsely hairy. Leaves opposite, sessile, elliptic or obovate-oblong petiolate, 2.5 - 5 x 2-2.5 cm. Spikes cylindric, greyish white. Flowers in clusters, greyish white, hairy, usually with an imperfect flower at the base of perfect flowers; bracts and bractioles scarious white perianth 5; stamens 5 with 5 interposed staminodes united at base forming a short cup. Fruits indehiscent utricles enclosed by dried perianth.

Fls. : March - April.
Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0244.

Cultivated as hedge plant and for medicinal uses.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Leaves pounded and made a paste, applied locally on fresh wounds to stop bleeding and also used as an antiseptic. This process is repeated till the wound is healed.

Roots cut into pieces and boiled. The decoction is used as mouth wash during pyorrhoea.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Not recorded so far.

*Note: Reported here as *Nero.*


(COMBRETACEAE) "Arjun(R), "Arjuna"(S), "Arjun" (H) & (B).

Trees large, deciduous, branches spreading, often pendant, bark exfoliating in irregular sheets. Leaves sub-opposite, ovate or oblong, obtuse or rounded, 6-12 x 4-6 cm; petioles short with 1 or 2 prominent glands at the top. Spikes axillary, 8-12 cm long, peduncles 3-5 cm long. Flowers white, mildly fragrant. Drupes c 3 x 2 cm, oblong, glabrous, dark brown; wings 5, stout.

Fls. & Frts.: October - March.
Specimen examined: Lakhicherra, Cachar. 03-07-95. 0175.

Grows wild, also cultivated along road sides.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Bark.

About 20 gm of fresh bark is pounded and made an extract with a cup of water. It is then decanted and taken internally once a day for body pain. About 10 gm of bark powder boiled in milk and taken internally for the treatment of cardiac problem.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Bark is tonic, astringent, febrifuge and antidysenteric used in heart diseases as a cardiac tonic. Fruits are tonic, deobstruent. Juice of fresh leaves used for earache. Ashes of bark used in scorpion sting.

Terminalia chebula Retz. Obs. Bot. 5:31, 1789; Hook.f., FBI 2:446, 1878; Kanjilal et al, FA 2:244, 1938; Deb, FTS 1:385, 1981. (COMBRETACEAE) “Baukhla” (R); “Harir” (H); “Haritaki” (S) & (B).

Trees medium sized; deciduous; bark greyish; branches often pendant. Leaves 6-14 x 4-6 cm, alternate or sub opposite, glabrous, elliptic or ovate-oblong, shortly acuminate at the apex; petioles 2-6 cm long with two or more glands at the top. Spikes terminal or form upper axils on new shoot, often panicked or fascicled. Flowers minute, rusty pubescent when young, bisexual with obnoxious smell; calyx cup shaped limbs expanding, glabrescent outside, villous within. Drupes 3-5 cm long, ellipsoid or obvoid, yellowish green when ripe, 5 angled, bitter.
Specimen examined: Raifalmara, Hailakandi. 06-06-95. 0178.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Fruits.

Sun dried mature fruits pounded and made powder. About 10 gm of it dissolved in a cup of cold water and 40 ml is taken internally in empty stomach for seven days in liver trouble.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Dried fruits constitute the drug commonly known as chebulic myrobalan. Fruits are astringent, laxative and alterative. Bark is diuretic and cardiotonic. Fruits contain about 30% of an astringent substance, astringency is due to the characteristic principle chebulinic acid, also contain tannic acid (20-40%), gallic acid, resin, etc. and some purgative principle of the nature of anthraquinone. Coarsely powdered fruit is smoked in asthma.

Climbers large, stem fistular. Leaves ovate, orbicular, angularly toothed; petioles upto 4 cm long, rigid. Spikes c 5 cm long. Flowers c 4 cm across, bluish white. Capsules curved upwards with a beak.

Fls. & Frts.: April – July.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0144.

Grows wild. Common in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves and stem.

Leaf extract is applied locally drop wise (2 drop thrice a day for 7 days) on eyes during conjunctivities. Stems cut in between internode and air is blown through the lumina of the stem for remedy of troubled eyes.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of leaves given in stomach complaints.

*Note: Reported here as additional new usage of plant in ethnomedicine.


"Nausi" (R).

Herbs perennial, culms reed like, solid at base. Leaves with broad lamina; ligules short, fruncate. Spikelets in panicles. Florets 2; lower barren, epaleate; upper hermaphrodite; stamens 2-3. Caryopsis free.
Fls. & Frts.: November - March.

Specimen examined: Bishnuram basti, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0192.

Grows wild in the forest. Common.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Tender leaves are crushed and made to a paste, when applied locally on fresh wounds stops bleeding and used also as antiseptic. Fresh paste is applied to wounds till it is healed.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Juice of young stem applied to eyes when it is red and dirty. (Kharkongor and Joseph 1981).

*Note: Additional new use of the plant is reported.

*Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Hook.f., & Thomson, Fl. India, 184, 1855 & FBI 1:97, 1872.


Climbers large, deciduous. Stem woody, bark corky. Leaves 4-8 × 2-6 cm, ovate or roundish, acute to acuminate, cordate, thickly coriaceous, petioles c 5 cm long. Racemes axillary and terminal, developing when completely leafless. Flowers
monoecious, minute, greenish yellow, glabrous. Male flowers clustered and female flowers solitary on longer pedicels; bracts foliaceous. Drupes globose.

Fls. & Frts.: February – April.

Specimen examined: Chotojamira, Hailakandi. 05-07-96. 0211.

Commonly climb upon mango tree.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Stem.

Stem cut into pieces, pounded and made to a paste. It is then diluted to double its content and decanted. About \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup c 20 ml of the extract is taken internally thrice a day against dysentery with abdominal pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Stem is considered alterative, antipyretic, aphrodisiac, bitter diuretic, febrifuge, stomachic and tonic and used in general debility. It is also useful in diabetes, enteric fever, gonorrhoea, jaundice, leprosy, piles. It is good blood purifier. Stem contains Berberin. Fresh stem contains Giloin and Gilonin. Decoction of leaves given in gout. Pulverised fruit is used as a tonic and also for jaundice and rheumatism. Guduchi satwa - the glucoside extract prepared from the plant is a favourite tonic of Ayurvedic Pharmacopea, much used as an aphrodisiac, and tonic. The stem is an ingredient of several other formulation viz; Amritasava, Amritarista, Aswagandha churna, Chandra Prabhavati, Guduchi tail, Chandra Kala ras, etc.
Tournefortia montana Lour. Var. griffithi (Cl.) John.
Leaves of the plant are effective antiseptic.

Shrubs bushy, c 2 m high. Leaves simple, alternate, oblong to ovate, acuminate, 4-8 x 2-4 cm. Cymes scorpioid, terminal, dichotomously branched, 7-8 cm long. Flowers mauve turning white. Drupes sessile c 3-5 mm.

Fls. & Frts.: March – May.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0261.

Grows wild, often cultivated.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Leaves.

Watery extract is an effective antiseptic, applied locally on fresh wounds. Fresh extract is given twice daily till the wound is healed.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Infusion of roots employed to bathe the convalescing babies.

*Note: Information provided here appears to be new usage in ethnomedicine. Experimental findings to prove its efficiency are dealt in chapter 4.
Urena lobata L. Sp. Pl.692, 1753; Masters, Hook.f., FBI 1:329, 1874; Kanjilal et al, FA 1.141, 1934. (MALVACEAE) "Santhai" (R), "Vanabhenda" (S), "Bachata" (H), "Bonokra" (B).

Under shrubs, erect, c 2 m. high. Leaves orbicular, often lobed rounded to cuneate at base, acute at apex, 2-8 x 1-10 cm; petioles 0.5-0.8 cm. Flowers pink with purple centre, 2-3 cm across, solitary or in clusters of 2-3; pedicles short, clustered bracteoles 5, connate below; calyx deciduous, lobes c 2 cm long, ovate to oblong lanceolate; petals 5, tomentose outside, connate below and adnate to the staminal tube, ovary 5-celled, each with one ovule; style with 10 capitate stigmatic branches. Fruits 3-5 x 2-4 cm, subglobose, covered with glochidia.

Fls. & Frts.: July – February.

Specimen examined: Guaura, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0196.

Commonly found among weeds along road sides and forest cleanings and abandoned Jhum field.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Roots.

Decoction is taken internally ½ cup, c 20 ml at a time to reduce excess thrust during fever.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root is diuretic and also used as an external remedy for rheumatism. Seeds contain urease. Decoction of stems and roots used for flatulent colic. Flowers expectorant, their infusion used in aphthae and sore throat.
Leaves mashed between palm applied on cuts to clot blood. (Dagar and Dagar 1991).


Shrubs large, c 6 m high, stems thorny, strongly aromatic; bark greyish brown. Leaves imparipinnate, rachis winged; 5-8 cm long, leaflets 5-11, 2-4 x 1-2 cm oblong-lanceolate, ovate to elliptic lanceolate, obscurely serrulate, shining above. Panicles pyramidal, lax flowered. Flowers small c 2 mm across, yellowish; calyx 6-8; petals absent; stamens 6-8 in male flowers; carpels 1-2, compressed. Fruits tubercled; seeds black, rugose.

Fls. : March – May.

Specimen examined: Manapi, Karimganj. 05-05-96. 0193.

Grows wild in the forest.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Root.

Root paste is taken orally in the form of pills thrice a day during acute gastric pain.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:
Fruits, seeds and bark are aromatic, tonic, carminative. Stomachic and anthelmintic. It is useful in gastrointestinal diseases. Stems exhibit hypoglycaemic activity. Dried fruits on steam distillation yield essential oil.

Hynneiewta (1984) reported the fruits of this plant have been utilized against stomach pain. Pal (1984) reported that fruits are prescribed for dysentery and stomachache. Where as Kohli (1992) reported that dried fruits are used in preparation of Apatani black salt. Two to three seeds of the plant are taken as remedy for indigestion. (Monadhar 1991).

*Note: Utilization of the root of the plant in medicine appears to be the new report.


"Hiching" (R), "Vanardraka" (S), "Banada" (H) & (B).

Herbs rhizomatous; rhizomes deep yellow inside, aromatic. Leaves sessile, lamina elliptic-lanceolate, acute to acuminate c 25 x 5 cm., ligules oblong obtuse. Spikes acutely oblong-ellipsoid c 10 cm long. Bracts greenish red. Flowers yellow.

Fls.: June - July.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 06-04-97. 0238.

Found common in wild condition.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Rhizome.

Decoction of rhizome is warmed and taken orally to cure cough and cold.
Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Rhizome is used as stimulative, carminative and flavouring agent. It is also given in dyspepsia and flatulent colic. It is also prescribed as an adjunct to many tonic and stimulating remedies.


Herbs rhizomatous, aromatic; stems erect, slender, 60-90 cm high. Leaves distichous, long, radical, lanceolate, gradually tapering to apex. Spikes c 6 cm long. Flowers greenish; stamen dark purple, as long as the lip; filaments shorter than the anther.

Fls. : September.

Specimen examined : Medlicherra, Karinganj. 06-04-97. 0233.

Cultivated commonly in kitchen garden mainly for rhizome.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used : Rhizome.

Rhizome extract mixed with cardamon (elaichi) and Cinnamon (dalchini) taken internally as a remedy for headache.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Rhizome used for flavouring foods and also eaten fresh to increase digestive power and to control stomachial acids and gas.
Photo - 39: Zingiber rubens Roxb. - root of the plant is useful in urinary disorder.
Paste obtained by rubbing dried roots applied over forehead during headache. (Shukla et al 1992).


"Brintaukru" (R).

Herbs 1.5-2.5 m high, rhizomatous, aromatic; stems slender. Leaves oblong lanceolate, gradually acute at apex, c 50 x 6 cm; ligule forked at apex. Spikes c 6 cm long, dense flowered, bracts sub-coriaceous, c 3.5 x 1.5 cm. Flowers red; lip red tinged yellowish white; stamens as long as lip.

Fls.: May – June.

Specimen examined: Medlicherra, Karimganj. 05-05-97. 0258.

Common in exposed and dry areas of forest.

Usage in Ethnmedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Root paste is taken orally to get relief from difficulty in passage of Urine.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Root of _Zingiber rubens_, _Holmskioldia sanguinea_ and pseudo bulbs of _Coelogyne stricta_ mashed together and applied over forehead during headache. (Kharkongor and Joseph 1984).
Rao and Verma (1972) reported the distribution of the plant in Khasi-Jaintea hills and Manipur. Occurrence of the species in Karimganj district appears to be its first report of existence in Assam.


Trees small or medium sized, spreading crown, armed with stipulary spines. Leaves obliquely elliptic, suborbicular closely serrulate, distinctly 3-nerved; petioles c 1 cm long. Cymes axillary. Flowers small, greenish yellow; calyx glabrous; petals concave, clawed. Ovary 2 celled, style – 2; drupes globose or ellipsoidal, red when ripe; seeds tubercled.

*Fls. & Frts.*: October – November.

*Specimen examined*: Guaura, Karimganj. 05-06-94. 0121.

Commonly cultivated for edible fruits.

**Usage in Ethnomedicine**:

**Parts used**: Roots.

Roots paste is taken internally during high fever and dysentery.

**Established reports of utilization in medicine**:

Fruits of cultivated plants nutritious. Fruits of wild plants cooling, anodyne and tonic, employed as antidote to aconite – poisoning and recommended in nausea and
vomiting and also for abdominal pain in pregnancy. Kernels edible, sedative, used in insomnia. Seeds are given in diarrhoea.

*Note: Application of root in ethnomedicine appears to be new usage.


Shrubs bushy, thorny; branches long, sarmentose. Leaves obliquely lanceolate, acuminate 3-5 x 1 cm. Cymes axillary. Flowers greenish yellow; sepals keeled; obtriangular; styles 2, united above. Fruits globose, obovoid, black when ripe; seed tubercled.

Fls. & Frts.: October – November.

Specimen examined: Cheragi, Karimganj. 04-06-95. 0142.

Usage in Ethnomedicine:

Parts used: Root.

Root extract along with garlic and black pepper is taken internally to get relief from throat irritation during fever.

Established reports of utilization in medicine:

Decoction of root bark is used to heal fresh wounds and in hyperacidity and *Ascaris* infection. Fruits used as an ingredient of stomachic pills.

*Note: Additional new mode of ethnomedicinal use of the plant is recorded here.