

Botanic Name : *Solanum nigrum L.* -- Sp. Pl. 1: 186. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Family: Solanaceae

Common name: Indian night shade

Habitat: Tropical

Distribution: Tropical India, South Asia

Description: Annual erect undershrub; stems are much branched, lax; leaves are ovate, lobed or pinnatifid in the margins, pointed at the base. Branchlet leaves are much smaller; Flowers white, small, borne in extra-axillary racemes; calyx-lobes five, connate; corolla white, widely open, connate from midway; androecium composed of five stamens, adnate with corolla, alternipetalous; anther lobes larger than filament; hairy style in gynoecium; fruit deep green-black, round, berry

Phytochemicals: Toxic glycoalkaloids, alkaloid-solanin, Steroids, sterols (leaves), flavonoids, steroid, tannin, glycosides and saponins (fruits), Solanine, Carotene, Carpesterol, Solanocarphone, Diosogenin, B- Sitosterol, Lanosterol, Solasonine, Solamargine, Solasodine, vitamin C etc

Medicinal/Economic uses: Used to treat psoriasis, leucoderma, hepatomegaly (enlarged liver), chronic dysentery, hemorrhoids, chronic fevers, cardiac oedema, gout and rheumatoid arthritis. Plant extract cathartic, diuretic, alterative, used in piles, liver troubles, leprosy and dysentery; shoots given in skin diseases, scabies, eczema and psoriasis. Branches and fruits applied as a vulnerary and antiinflammatory; an infusion drunk as a tonic. Berries bitter, laxative, aphrodisiac, diuretic. Unripe fruits applied to aching teeth and squeezed on baby's gums to ease pain during teething; fruit for jaundice, diarrhea, fever and eye ailments; extract of berries, leaves and stems used for skin diseases. Leaves used for stomachache, female ailments and liver disorders; leaf poultice applied to rheumatic joints; raw leaves eaten to cure mouth and nose blisters; leaves decoction diuretic, laxative, for swellings on the body; leaves and fruits pounded and the extract used for tonsillitis; leaves cooked and eaten to cure jaundice; leaves fried and eaten for cough. Roots boiled in milk and given to children as tonic. Stem of *Vitis vinifera* mixed with *Solanum nigrum* and *Cestrum parqui* and applied to treat inflammation. Magico-religious beliefs, ritual. Veterinary medicine, root mixed with pepper and ginger is fed to cows to reduce gas formation in the stomach. [CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and poisonous Plants]. Traditional Medicinal Uses: The stem, leaves and roots are used as a decoction for wounds, tumours and cancerous growths, sores and as an astringent. They are also used as a condiment, stimulant, tonic, for treatment of piles, dysentery, abdominal pain, inflammation of bladder, relief of

asthma, bronchitis, coughs, eye ailments, itch, psoriasis, skin diseases, eczema, ulcer, relief of cramps, rheumatism, neuralgia and expulsion of excess fluids. The roots are used as an expectorant. The leaf is applied as a poultice on gouty joints and rheumatism.

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