

Botanic name : *Andrographis paniculata* Nees

Common name : Green chirayta, Kalmegh(Bengali)

Family : Acanthaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to India and Sri Lanka; also found in South Asia

Description : An erect annual herb; stem winged in the upper part; leaves lanceolate, acute at apex, small petioles; small pedicelled flowers with bracts and bracteoles, arranged in solitary axillary racemes, sepals linear-lanceolate, corolla 2-lipped, white, slightly enlarged, below the limb, upper lip oblong, apex 2 - toothed, lower lip deeply 3 – toothed, anther bearded at the base, filaments hirsute, flattened; capsule

Phytochemicals: Terpenoids, phenols, flavonoids, saponins, tannins

Medicinal/Economic uses: Febrifuge, anticarcinogenic, antiulcer, antimicrobial, antioxidant, antimalarial, antidiuretic, anti-inflammatory, antithrombotic, antiviral, antidiarrhial, antihelminthic, antidiabetic, alterative and bitter tonic; mixed with spices, such as cardamom, cloves, cinnamon etc fresh leaf juice are used in minor digestive ailments of children. Since ancient times, Kalmegh is used in Ayurvedic treatment as well as in tribal medicine in India and some other countries for multiple clinical applications. The plant acts on anti fungal and antityphoid activities.