

Botanic name : *Hedyotis scandens* Roxb. -- Hort. Bengal. [10]; Fl. Ind. i. 364. (IK)

Common name : Bishma, Bhuitida, Basachilla (Chakma)

Family : Rubiaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : E. Asia - southwest China, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam. The plant is under threat due to its slow regeneration, loss of climbing plant, extensive exploitation and habitat degradation and tagged as vulnerable in Indian NE, Red list of threatened taxa in Japan, and similar status in many other countries

Description : A slender woody much-branched climbing, lianescent, shrub; stems compressed terete to angled, smooth or sulcate, glabrous or puberulent in lines; leaves sessile or shortly petioled, elliptic or lanceolate, acuminate at apex, stipulate; stipule interpetiolar; flower small, white, subumbellate, in terminal, spreading, leafy cymes; Inflorescences terminal and usually also in axils of uppermost leaves, cymose to compound-cymose, densely pilosulous or hirtellous, pedunculate; flowers pedicellate, distylous. Calyx glabrous; hypanthium portion obconical, sometimes ridged; limb 1-2 mm, lobed for 1/3-1/2, lobes triangular and thickened, sometimes costate; corolla white or yellow, tubular-funnelform to funnelform, outside glabrous, inside densely villous in throat and throughout lobes; tube 1-2 mm; lobes narrowly spatulate-oblong to narrowly triangular, 3-4 mm, acute; anthers shortly to long exserted; stigmas 0.3-1 mm; fruit capsular, subglobose, ellipsoid, or ovoid

Phytochemicals: Rotenone, **6 alpha -hydroxygeniposide, γ -sitosterol, biflorine, asperuloside, scandoside ester, rutin, geniposide;** phenolic glycosides, hedyotosides A–E, including a new cyanogenic glycoside

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antioxidant, anticancer, antimalarial, analgesic, antiulcer, antibacterial, and diuretic. Used in the treatment of eye diseases, uterine contraction, and problems following the birth of a child, sprains. Warm leaf paste is applied on boils. An infusion of the leaves is given in stomach pain by the Chakma in Rangamati, Bangladesh. The herb has huge ethnobotanical significance as number of reports indicated its use as folk medicines. Plant is used in eye diseases and in troubles following child birth. Root is used for sprain. Root paste is used in indigestion and plant paste is used for treatment of peptic ulcer (Nepal). In lower Assam, India, leaves and roots are used to treat pain, malaria, and fever. The Monpa tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, India use decoction of leaves and twigs with sugars to treat gastritis and use the beverages fermentation. Besides, several tribes in India's NE states use this herb as folk medicines. A dye obtained from the leaves is used to colour fabrics whereas seed capsules are used to colour teeth black