

Botanic name: *Quisqualis indica* L. -- Sp. Pl., ed. 2. 1: 556. 1762 [Sep 1762] (IK)

Common name: Rangoon Creeper, Modhumonjori (Bengali), Niyog-niyogan

Family: Combretaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native in south-eastern Asia including the Philippines, India, Myanmar and Malaysia.

Description: A large climbing shrub; young shoots downy; leaves petioled, oblong, leave-apex acute; flower pentamerous, showy, fragrant; calyx hairy; the style united with the calyx-tube; fruit ellipsoidal in shape with five lengthwise wings; seeds black

Phytochemicals: Glucose, flavofallonic acid, gallic acid, palmitic acid. Leaves and flower contain rutin and pelargonidin-3-glucoside, quisqualic acid, trigonelline, L-proline and L-asparagine. Seeds gave arachidic, linoleic, oleic, palmitic and stearic acids.

Medicinal/Economic uses: Anti-diabetic, analgesic, antioxidant (flower extracts), cathartic and anti-tumor, also prevents weakness, cold, cough, digestive disorders, inflammation in kidneys, boils and skin ulcers, headache, diarrhea and fever. Leaf decoction as tea relieves pain during urination. Dried seeds are used to expel intestinal worms and parasites (anthelmintic by quisqualic acid). *Antiparasitic:* Roundworms, pinworms, tapeworms, parasites, digestive disturbances Harmonizes and tonifies the Spleen and Stomach Childhood nutritional impairment, abdominal distension, loss of appetite, weak constitution Harmonizes and tonifies the qi Childhood nutritional impairment, abdominal distension, loss of appetite, weak constitution Breaks up obstruction: Roundworms, pinworms, digestive disorders, childhood nutritional impairment, distension of the abdomen. In Indonesia, a decoction of the fruit is drunk to expel intestinal worms. In Malaysia, the fruits are eaten to expel intestinal worms, and a decoction of the fruit is given to children to stop diarrhea. The juice expressed from the leaves is used to heal boils and ulcers, and to treat ringworm infection and fever. The roots are used to relieve cough and hiccups. In the Philippines, the plant is used to treat diseases of the chest. In Vietnam, the fruit is used to expel intestinal worms and the roots are used to soothe rheumatism and assuage gastric discomfort [Medicinal Plants of The Asia-Pacific: Drugs for The Future]. Ornamental- a spectacular creeping vine, flowers changes colors in 2 to 3 days time when blooming. Flowers exhibit varying colors, from white, red, reddish purple, pink red to orange that sprouts into clusters. Fruits edible.

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