

Botanic name : *Psoralea corylifolia* L. -- Sp. Pl. 2: 764. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name: Babchi, Bavachi, Hakuch, Kushtonashini (Sanskrit)

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to India, In India the species is distributed in south eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar & Gujrat regions. But, the naturally occurring stands of the plant are being disintegrated rapidly, causing concern about possible extinction of this species. One of its sister species *P. fascicularis* has been tagged as endangered by IUCN Red List (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/47608216/0>)

Description: Erect annual herb Grooved; Leaves Simple, 3.8x2.5-5.0 cm, broadly elliptic, inciso-dentate, rounded and mucronate at apex, white hairy, nigro-punctate, petioles hairy and gland dotted. Flowers In dense axillary, solitary, 10-30 flowered racemes; Corolla bluish purple, standard orbicular, clawed. Pod-ovoid-oblong, closely pitted, mucronate, Seeds- One, smooth.

Phytochemicals: Flavonoids, corylifols a-c (prenylfoavanoids)-seeds, psoralen, isopsoralen and neobavaisflavones (dried ripe fruits), Daidzein (4:7 dihydroisoflavon) and genistein (4'5'7 trihydroxyisoflavon), psoralidin, isopsoralidin, corylidin, coumarins-bavacoumestan A & B, flavonoids, neoba-vaislfloavone, borachin, bavachromene corylifolinin, bavaislfavooz, bavachalcone, barachini psoralenoside, isopsoralenoside and coumarinsphenolics, volatile oils, saponins, glucoside, angelicin etc.

More read: Zhang et al. (2016): Am J Chin Med 44:35-60.

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antimicrobial, antipsoriasis, antifungal, larvicidal, pesticidal, anti-cancer, anthelmintic, antigenotoxic, antibacterial, antifungal anti-inflammatory, antitumor, hepatoprotective activit, anti-psoriasis, anthelmintic, antidiabetic, immunomodulatory activities anti AIDS. The herb possesses diverse bioactive properties and immense utilization in medicine, health care, cosmetics and as health supplements. Long been used in traditional Ayurvedic and Chinese medicine, used to improve general vitality. It is also used in the treatment of skin disorders, including vitiligo, also in febrile diseases, premature ejaculation, impotence, lower back pains, frequent urination, incontinence, bed wetting etc. The seed is anthelmintic, antibacterial, aphrodisiac, astringent, cardiac, cytotoxic, deobstruent, diaphoretic, diuretic, stimulant, stomachic and tonic. It is also used externally to treat leprosy, leucoderma and hair loss. The antibacterial action of the fruit inhibits the growth of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

More Read: Khushboo et al. (2010): Pharmacognosy Rev. 4: 69-76.