

Botanic name: *Phyllanthus reticulatus* Poir. -- Encycl. [J. Lamarck & al.] 5: 298. 1804 [9 Jan 1804] (IK)

Common name: Black-Honey shrub

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, through Asia to Australia but due to poor germination rate and commercial exploitation, the plant becomes rare in its natural habitat like Gangetic West Bengal, India

Description: Much-branched, scandent, deciduous shrub 0.5 - 4.5 metres tall with long, thin often drooping branches, to a tree growing 5 - 18 metres tall; leaves simple, alternate, lanceolate, acute at apex; flowers small, yellowish, unisexual monoecious, are borne in clusters on short axillary branches, fruits small

Phytochemicals: Tannins, triterpenoids-sitosterol, friedelin and betulinic acid (stem and leaves), pentacosane, 21- α -hydroxyfriedelan-3-one, taraxerol and lupene-24-diol (stem bark), lupeol, lupeol acetate, and stigmasterol, coumarin (stem bark), tannic acid, friedelin, epifriedelinol, betulin, taraxerone, beta-sitosterol, glochidonol, octacosanol, taraxeryl acetate and 21-alpha-hydroxyfriedelan-3-one, betulinic acid, β -sitosterol-3-O- β - glucoside, stigmasterol- 3- O- β - glucoside, methyl gallate, ellagic acid, corilagin, methyl brevifolin carboxylate, kaempferol, astragalin, including two flavonoid glycoside rutin (quercetin- 3- rutinoside) and quercetin-3-O- β - D glucopyranoside (leaves), ellagic acid

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antispastic (root decoction+ leaf sap), analgesic, antinociceptive, hepatoprotective, hypoglycemic, antiviral (polio, measles), diuretic, cooling, purgative (root), antitumor, antispasmodial, male aphrodisiac, to increase fertility, antimalarial. Traditionally used to cure eye soar, bleeding gum (powdered leaves), venereal sores, burns, suppurations and skin-chafes (leaf powder), hookworm, headache, dysmenorrhoea, hard abscesses, anaemia and intestinal haemorrhage, and rheumatoid arthritis (ellagic acid). In India, dried bark and leaves decoction are as a diuretic, alterative and for cooling effect and also used for smallpox. Edible: Fruit is occasionally sold in local markets. The root bark, stem bark and leaves are collected from the wild and traded in local markets. Other commercial uses include roof-bindings (stems), toothbrushes (twigs), dying and coloring (fruits, bark, roots), phytoremediation,

fuel, threshing flails, utensils and other small objects.

More read: Sharma and Kumar (2013) Int J Pharm Sci Res 4(7); 2528-2534.