

**Botanic name:** *Holarrhena antidysenterica* Wall. ex A.DC. -- Prodr. [A. P. de Candolle] 8: 413. 1844; vide Santapau in Rec. Bot. Surv. India, xvi. 1. 167. 1953. [mid Mar 1844]

**Common name:** Tellicherry Bark (English), Kurchi (Hindi)

**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Habitat:** Tropical parts of Rajasthan (Regional habitat), also cultivated on road-sides.

**Distribution:** Tropical and subtropical Asia and Africa. In India, distributed throughout, especially in deciduous forests of tropical Himalayas, 900 to 1250 m. msl

**Description:** Small deciduous tree; leaves: elliptic, oblong, ovate or ovate-oblong, strong arched; flowers borne in corymbose cymes, white, fragrant; sepals acuminate; corolla-tube slender, lobes oblong; fruits follicles, slender, parallel, terete, usually with long white spots; seeds narrowly linear-oblong, glabrous.

**Phytochemicals:** Major bioactive constituents: steroidal alkaloids, flavonoids, triterpenoids, phenolic acids, tannin, resin, coumarins, saponins and ergosterol. Conessidine, conessimine and isoconessimine, sonessine, conimine, holadiene, holarrhenine, conamine, conarrhimine, holarrhine, kurchine, lettocine, norconessine. Linocerid, linolenic, linoleic, oleic, palmitic and stearic acids from stems, barks, seeds, and leaves

**Medicinal/ Economic uses:** Since time immemorial, 'Kurchi' has been used in Indian Ayurvedic system of medicine to treat atisaara (diarrhoea and dysentery); the pods have stanyasodhana-a lactodepurant from pods, the indrayava-seeds-ama and asthapanopaga-adjuncts to enema; emetic (vamaka) and anti-haemorrhoidal (Charaka); Susruta-seeds diuretic and the plant in general as sukrasodhana (sperm-purifier). Also used as antiseptic, vermifuge, febrifuge, anthelmintic and anti-microbial detoxicant and is believed to cure malignant ulcers, leprosy, diarrhoea and other virulent skin diseases (Susruta Samhita). In modern Ayurveda, the plant is suggested for treating obesity, asthma, bronchopneumonia, hepatosplenomegaly and rheumatism. This is also a remedy of colic pain, diabetes, haematuria, menorrhagia, hypertension, bsteric conditions, spermatorrhoea, splenomegaly. Leaf decoction used in chronic bronchitis; bark: useful in colitis, stomachic and tonic.

More read: Sinha et al. (2013): J Pharma Res (Elsevier) 6:488-492.