

**Botanic name :** *Hibiscus vitifolius* L.

**Common name :** Grape Leaved Mallow, Vankapasa, Vanakarpasa (Sanskrit)

**Family :** Malvaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Widespread pan tropical, alien in India, dangerously invasive in parts of India due to extremely hardy and drought resistance capability

**Description :** Perennial herb up to 1.5 m. tall, sometimes scandent or scrambling; stems terete, nearly glabrous or with a very variable indumentum, sometimes tomentose or tomentellous, often glandular, sometimes hispid or stellate-hispid or aculeate and with these different types of hairs occurring in various combinations; leaf-lamina, ovate to suborbicular; not lobed to deeply 3–5 (7)-palmatilobed, with a variable indumentum (as on the stems) but stellate hispid or bifurcate hairs, rather rare on the stems, are more frequent especially on the under surface, margin serrate, base truncate to cordate, strongly nerved; lobes acute or bluntish; petiole hairy; flowers yellow with a dark reddish or purple centre, pendent solitary or forming terminal racemes by reduction of the upper leaves; epicalyx of c. 10 bracts, filiform; calyx long in flower, accrescent, somewhat scarious; broadly elliptic, acuminate, joined to about half-way; corolla regular, yellowish-crimson, Staminal tube up to 15 mm. long; free parts of filaments up to 5 mm. long; style-branches 1.5–3 mm. long, minutely glandular; fruits-Capsule, winged, scarious, usually hispid; valves  $\pm$  aristate. <http://powo.science.kew.org/taxon>

**Phytochemicals:** Gossypin, quinolone alkaloid, vitiquinolone along with  $\beta$ -Amyrin acetate, n-octacosanol,  $\beta$ -Amyrin, stigmasterol, xanthyletin, alloxanthoxyletin, xanthoxyletin and betulinic acid

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Antioxidant (stem bark), anti-tubercular drug induced hepatotoxicity, aphrodisiac and stomachic, hepatoprotective, antiparasitic, neuroprotective, purgative, anti-inflammatory and pain-reducing, anti-diabetic. Used to treat jaundice, melanoma, biliousness with acidity, pains and bruises, dysentery and bilious, blood and throat disorders, anaemia, fatigue, lassitude. Used as livestock. Used as edible. Agroforestry.