

**Botanic name:** *Phyllanthus fraternus* G.L. Webster -- Contr. Gray Herb. 176: 53. 1955 (IK)

**Common name:** Gulf-leaf flower, Hazar mani (Bengali)

**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Habitat:** Terrestrial

**Distribution:** Native in Indian subcontinent; now pantropical

**Description:** An erect, annual herb; leaves are alternate, stipulate and almost sessile with obtuse apex; flowers are unisexual, both male and female flower contain 6 perianth-lobes; stamens 3; ovary superior; capsules are globose and 3-lobed.

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids (alkamides, a quinolizidine alkaloid), the flavone triclin, triterpenoids, the tetraterpenoid phyllanthusone, and waxes, saponin, steroid, seco-sterols phyllanthosterol, phyllanthosecosteryl ester, phyllanthostigmasterol and fraternusterol, fatty acids (ricinoleic acid, linoleic acid and linolenic acid), alkamides

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Diuretic (leaves), laxative, antimalarial and galactagogue (mixed with milk). The plant part/s is effective in treating oedema, costal pain and fever, dysentery (North Africa), gripping, coughs and hiccups (children), gonorrhoea, dropsy. The plant sap is applied to treat bruises, sores and ulcers, and mixed with oil against ophthalmia and conjunctivitis. Also employed to treat ulcers, wounds, sores, scabies, ringworm (fruits), jaundice (fresh roots). In Indian states, in a mixture with other *Phyllanthus* spp., this plant called 'Bhumyamlaki', is widely used against jaundice, thirst, bronchitis, asthma, leprosy, anaemia, venereal diseases, problems of the genito-urinary tract, anuria, biliousness and hiccups and is considered acrid, moderately antiplasmodial and carminative. Black dye obtained from the stems and leaves is used to dye cotton, and as an ink