

Botanic name : *Mukia scabrella* Arn. (syn. *Mukia maderaspatana* (L.) M.Roem.)

Common name : Musimusikkayi (Sanskrit)

Family : Cucurbitaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : India (widespread in Southern part), Nepal, Bhutan, parts of Pakistan, Myanmar

Description : Scabridly hairy climber, unisexual; stem much branched, angled, grooved, petioles and inflorescence axis hispid and scabrid with small white prickles. Leaves pale green or hoary, rather coriaceous, cordate or oblong or deltoid-cordate, entire or 3–7-lobed, obtusely sinuate-soothed, scabrid on both surfaces and hispid below. Male fl.: Pedicellate, fascicled, stamens synandrous. Female fl: Sessile. pale to bright yellow. Fruit red or yellowish berries

Phytochemicals: Tannins, Flavonoids, Alkaloids, Terpenoids, Steroids

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antibacterial against nosocomial and nasobronchial infections. Plant extracts in various formulations have been found to be effective as antihypertensive, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, antihyperglycaemic, immunomodulatory, antihyperlipidemic, anxiolytic, antiulcer, local anasthaetic, mosquito ovicidal, larvicidal, and repellent. The plant is also useful in phytoremediation & immensely used in ethnomedicine in Arabia, SE Asia, South Asia, Africa & Australia. In India, thousands of standard formulations are available to cure diabetes, wound, scabies, ringworm infection, giddiness, fever of new-born baby, piles, body irritation, insect and scorpion bite, dog bite, toothache, dysentery, stomach upset, chest pain, asthma, and to impart disease resistance.

More read: Petrus AJA (2013): Ind J Nat Prod Resour4(1): 9-26.