

Botanic name : *Desmodium gangeticum* Blanco -- Fl. Filip., ed. 2 [F.M. Blanco] 408. 1845 (IK)

Common name : Salparni, Anshumati, Dirghamoola, Tiek tree

Family : Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Habitat : Terrestrial-marshy land preferred

Distribution : Indian subcontinent, Africa, China, Japan, East to SE Asia; in India from Gangetic plains, Western Ghats to Sikkim up to 1500m, msl. Low germination rate, seedling settings, habitat destruction, grazing, and dryness are some of the concerns of its existence

Description: Perennial herb, erect shrubby, 20-200 cm tall, rarely prostrate or straggling; stems angular, pubescent with longer hairs on the angles; leaves unifoliolate, simple (unique in Fabaceae), round, oblong, elliptic or ovate-lanceolate, rounded or pointed at the apex, almost hairless or with fine very short hairs above, with much longer hairs beneath; entire at margin; stipulate; stipules lanceolate; inflorescences terminal and axillary racemes, sometimes branched 7-40 cm long; flowers pea-flower shaped, with standard pink, blue, mauve, white or greenish and dark blue; calyx hairy; sepal cup pale –green; fruit 8-25 mm long pods, joined by narrow necks and covered with short hooked hairs, sometimes with longer hairs on the margins

Phytochemicals: Hypaphorine, desmodin, caudicine, hordenine, gangetin-3H, gangetinin, lupeol, lauric acid and mixture of β -sitosterol and stigmasterol, flavonoids, alkaloids and pterocarpanoids

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis, anti-pyretic, astringent. Most important herb in Ayurveda as anthelmintic, immune-stimulant, anti-catarrhal, carminative, diuretic, febrifuge, expectorant, stomachic, nerve tonic and anti-diarrheal. Used in ayurveda for the treatment of neurological disorders, enteric fever, respiratory complications, skin diseases, sexual disability, digestive problems and piles. The roots are used traditionally for treating inflammatory conditions, chronic fever, cough, diarrhea, dysentery, biliousness, vomiting, piles, bronchitis, asthma, intestinal parasites, arthritis, rheumatism and post-delivery disorders.