

Botanic Name : *Solanum torvum* L.

Family: Solanaceae

Common name: Indian night shade

Habitat: Tropical

Distribution: Tropical India, South Asia

Description: Erect shrub, Stems are much branched, very prickly, and bearing compressed, stout, often recurved prickles, leaves are ovate, lobed in the margins, blunt or pointed at the tip, pointed at the base, and stellately woolly underneath. Branchlet leaves are much smaller; Flowers blue, borne in extra-axillary racemes. Calyx-lobes triangular, densely woolly, unarmed, or furnished with slender, straight spines. Corolla is broadly triangular and hairy on the outside; styles hairy. Fruit yellow, rounded, berry.

Phytochemicals: Steropids, sterols (leaves), flavonoids, steroid, tannin, glycosides and saponins (fruits), Solanine, Carotene, Carpesterol, Solanocarpone, Diosogenin, B-Sitosterol, Lanosterol, Solasonine, Solamargine, Solasodine, vitamin C etc

Medicinal/Economic uses: Root extracts used as diaphoretic, diuretic, expectorant, stimulant, in treating bronchites, itch, bodyaches, and asthma. Although injurious to children, the berries are often eaten by adults with impunity. Their juice has been used for treatments of ringworm infection, gout and earache, and when mixed with vinegar, is considered to be good for gargle and mouthwash. Half-ripe fruits are employed in the preparation of curries, chutneys and are analgesic.