

Note on *Trigonella corniculata* (L.) L.

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Syn: *Trigonella esculenta* Willd.

Ayurvedic synonyms: *Granthiparna, nilapuspa, sukaspuspa* and *sukacchada*.

Family: Fabaceae.

Hindi name: *Kasur methi*.

English name: Cultivated fenugreek.

Location: Europe - Mediterranean to W. Asia.

Botany: Annual herb. Leaf pinnately trifoliolate, leaflets usually dentate; stipules adnate to petiole. Inflorescence solitary axillary or a head, or spike or short raceme. Bracts minute, bracteoles absent. Calyx teeth equal or unequal. Corolla yellow, blue or purplish, free from the staminal tube, deciduous. Stamens diadelphous, 9+1 or monadelphous, anthers uniform. Ovary sessile or stipitate, ovules numerous, style glabrous, stigma terminal. Fruit linear or oblong, straight or arcuate, dehiscent along one suture or indehiscent, continuous within, 1-many seeded.

Chemical composition: Ethyl galactoside has been isolated from seeds (Varshney, *et al.*, 1974) and diosgenin (Mahna, Raisinghani, *et al.*, 1994).

Actions: Astringent, bitter and styptic. As per *Ayurveda* it is appetizer and pacifies *Vata* and *Kapha*. It is hot in potency.

Therapeutics: Applied externally in swelling and bruises.

Parts used: Whole plant and seeds.

References:

Atal, C.K.; Sood, S.P. 1964 *J Pharm Pharmacol*. **16**:627-9.

Varshney, I.P. *et al.*, 1974 *Planta Med*. **26**(1):26-32.

Mahna, S. K., G. Raisinghani, *et al.* (1994). *Fitoterapia* **65**(6): 515-516.

