

Aristolochia indica

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Piperales
Family: Aristolochiaceae
Genus: Aristolochia
Species: A. Indica



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Plant profile

A glabrous, shrubby or herbaceous perennial arising from a woody root stock. Branches long, slender, grooved and glabrous.

Leaf: The leaves are variable, fiddle shaped to linear. They are 2 – 4 inches long, 3-5 nerved at the base. It is glabrous with a slightly undulate margin.

Flower: They occur in axillary racemes with few flowers. Bracts small. Perianth 1-1.5 inches long with a glabrous inflated, lobed base, which is suddenly narrowed, into a cylindrical tube about 0.5 inches long. It terminates in a funnel shaped mouth. The flower is pale green on the outer surface. The rim of the mouth is dark purple in colour. Flowers bloom between June and October.

Fruit: Fruit is a 6 valved dehiscent, ribbed capsule, 1.5 – 2 inches long. Seeds are flat triangular and winged all around. Fruits are produced between November and March.

Distribution: It is found to be distributed throughout the low hills and plains of India from Nepal to the south of Konkan. It is common in dry and deciduous forests.

Uses: The root is nauseously bitter and is considered an antidote to snake bite. It is used locally to treat fevers, insect bites and to prepare a health tonic for infants.