

# **Pseudarthria viscida (L.) Wight & Arn.**

**Synonym:** *Hedysarum viscidum* L.

**Family:** Leguminosae

## **Various names**

**Common/Trade name:** Moovila

**Sanskrit names:** Salaparni, Chitraparni

**Hindi name:** Chapakno

## **Popular names in the southern region**

- *Andaman & Nicobar Islands:* Not recorded
- *Andhra Pradesh:* Nayakuponna, Muyyakuponna
- *Karnataka:* Antubelegida
- *Kerala:* Moovila
- *Lakshadweep:* Moovila
- *Puducherry:* Pitani
- *Tamil Nadu:* Nirmalli, Muvilai
- *Telangana:* Nayakuponna, Muyyakuponna



## **Distribution**

*Pseudarthria viscida* is distributed in the Indo-Malaysian region and Sri Lanka. In India it is recorded in the states of Gujarat and Peninsular Indian region.

## **Description**

Annual to biennial diffuse herbs. Leaves 3-foliolate; branches pubescent, terminal leaflet 5-8 × 4-6 cm, ovate-rhomboid; laterals 3-4 × 2-3.5 cm, obliquely ovate, base cuneate or obtuse, apex acute, densely tomentose below. Flowers in axillary or terminal, often branched racemes. Calyx-tube 1-1.5 mm long; lobes, subulate, hairy. Corolla purplish. Pods 1-2 × 0.4-0.5 cm, linear-oblong, compressed, pubescent with hooked hairs; seeds 4-6, reniform.

## **Uses**

The plant is useful in vast range of diseases like fevers, asthma, digestive disorders and urinary diseases. The plant is an ingredient in Dasamoola. It is also used in the important drug preparations Agastyaharitaki, Brahma rasayana, Dasamulakwathachurna, Vidaryadichurnakwatha, Eladigritha, Dasamulagritha, Dasamulasatpalaka, Dadhikagritha, Sudarshanachurna, Dhanvantaraghritha, Narayana taila, Madhuyastiyaditaila, Sahaccaraditaila, Manasamitrataila, Salaparnyaditaila, Salaparnadikwatha, Laghupanchamulakwatha and Dasamularishta.

## **Agro-ecological requirements**

The plant grows in all types of soils. The plants are shade loving and are very suitable for intercropping.

## Cultivation

**Planting-stock production:** The plants can be propagated by seeds without any pre treatments. The fruits become mature during February to March. Intercropping is the suitable method for growing these plants. Areca nut, rubber plantation and coconut fields are suitable for intercropping.

**Field planting:** Before sowing, the field should be ploughed and levelled. Broadcasting is the best method for growing this plant. Seeds are mixed with 4 times of sand and broadcast-sown in the field. Seeds will germinate within 10-15 days. For broad casting 500 g of seeds are required for one hectare. The crop should be maintained without weed competition.

**Manuring/Fertilization:** Manure/fertilizer application is done ideally after soil/plant analysis. Since the plant is able to fix nitrogen, organic matter is enough for this crop.

**Irrigation:** Although irrigation is not essential in monsoon, but provide irrigation during drought conditions.

**Pest and diseases:** No serious pests/ diseases are reported

## Harvesting & Post-harvest processing

Harvesting is done one year after planting. The plants are uprooted manually. Separate the aerial part by cutting 15 cm above the ground portion. Collected roots are cleaned and dried in shade. Mature plants bearing the seeds are retained to get the natural regeneration and to reduce the cost of replanting.

## Yield

About 7.5 tonnes of fresh material can be obtained from one hectare.

## Economics of cultivation

Cost of cultivation: ₹ 6,25,000 per hectare

Market price: ₹ 120/kg

## Quantitative quality standards (acceptable limits) (w/v)

- *Foreign matter (other plant parts, soil, stone, sand, dust, organisms and their parts):* Not more than 1.0 %
- *Ash:* Not more than 1.8 %
- *Acid-insoluble ash:* Not more than 1.2 %
- *Ethanol-soluble extractives:* Not less than 3.0 %
- *Water-soluble extractive:* Not less than 3.8 %

**Note:** The farmers are advised to adopt suitable cultivation practices so as to meet the quality parameters and standards of the buyers.