Botanical Name: Anisomeles malabarica (L.) R. Br.
Tamil Name: Peimiradi
Sanskrit Name: Mahadronah, Vaikunthah
English Name: Malabar catmint

Description and Habit

Habitat: It is found from Indo-Malaysia to Australia particularly in countries with tropical and subtropical climates. Distribution: In India it is distributed in Assam, Bihar, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Habit: Perennial, semi-shrubby herb. Stem: about 2 m high, much branched from base, sub quadrangular, thickened, densely lanate. Leaf: Simple, leaf Arrangement is Opposite-decussate; Shape is Oblanceolate, 3.6-16 x 1.3-7 cm, Serrate margin, long petioles 0.7-3.5 cm. Flower: Flowering throughout the year. In terminal and axillary spikes, purple colour 34.5 cm long. Fruit: A small nutlet, found throughout the year.

Parts used:

The leaves and flowers

Medicinal uses:

A. malabarica is used as a folkloric medicine to treat amentia, anorexia, fever, and swellings. Concentrated liquor resulting from boiling/heating of the plant is beneficial in rheumatic joints. The fresh juice of the leaves is also given to children in colic, dyspepsia, and fever due to teething. In some urban areas of Indian territory, A. malabarica is used as an antidote for the treatment of snake-bite. Aqueous and other solvent extracts of the plant is reported to possess anti-cancer, anti-allergic, anti-anaphylactic, anti-bacterial, anti-
inflammatory, anti-septic, anti-plasmodial, anti-carcinogenic, anti-edemic, anti-nociceptive, antifertility and anti-planmodial activity etc. Interestingly, the mosquito and ticks repellent properties of A. Malabarica extracts are also demonstrated in the literature. The plant also yields a yellow-brownish essential oil, which is used externally as an embrocation in rheumatic arthritis.

**Conclusion:**

Anisomeles malabarica, the versatile medicinal plant is the unique source of various types of compounds having diverse chemical structures. A. malabarica has numerous therapeutic utilities in folk medicine. Ethnobotanically, the leaves of this plant are used against convulsions, for dyspepsia in intermittent fevers, colic, boils, tetanus, inflammation, cough, cold, stomach ache, itches and in uterine affections.