



Herbal Garden (Muligai Vanam)



Elumbotti

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Botanical Name	:	<i>Ormocarpum sennoides</i> (Willd.) DC.
Tamil Name	:	Elumbotti; Kattumurungai
Sanskrit Name	:	Kanasashekara
English Name	:	South Indian Caterpillar Bush

1. Distribution and Habitat

Ormocarpum sennoides (Willd.) DC belongs to the family Fabaceae. It is a shrub with glutinous hairy shoots, up to 3m tall. It is distributed throughout tropical and Southern Africa, Madagascar, Southern Asia, Northern Australia and the Islands of the Pacific Ocean.



It is a widespread species and it occurs in the Eastern regions of the Indian sub-continent. It is seen commonly on slopes among rocks, poor gravelly soil on the hills. Leaves are alternate, simple, entire, petiolate, oblong, leaflets 9-17. Flower yellow, in axillary racemes, 3-5-flowered; flowering from December – January. Fruit – pod, longitudinally striate, prickly, warted; seeds oblong; fruiting January onwards.

2. Parts used

Leaf, root and bark.

3. Phyto-chemical constituents

Alkaloids, glycosides, carbohydrates, betacyanin, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, terpenoids, phenols, catechins, phytosterols, gums, resins, coumarins, carboxylic acid, aromatic and aliphatic amines.

4. Medicinal uses

This plant has been used as a source of medicine by humans from time immemorial. It is an efficient bone fracture healer popular only to a few local medical practitioners in Tamil Nadu and hence it got its name as “Elumbotti”. The Irula tribes used the bark and leaves of *O. sennoides* for fracture healing. The leaf is grinded along with egg into a paste and mixed with milk



and is applied once in a day until complete mending of bone (Rathakrishnan *et al.*, 2009). The leaves are eaten fresh or prepared into a medicated paste (lehiyam) and consumed. It is used in the cure of chest pain. The leaves are included in formulations used for setting bone fractures and for nervous pain. The decoction of the root is considered as a valuable remedy in rheumatic fever (Subodh Kapoor, 2002). Liniment made of powdered bark of this herb and gingili oil is recommended by the herbal healers as an external application in paralytic complaints and in the treatment of lumbago (Clements, 2012).

5. Conclusion

O. sennoides have a wide range of medicinal properties especially in healing fractures and mending bones. This plant also contains various bioactive compounds that can be used in the formulation of therapeutic drugs.

Photo link: <https://indiabiodiversity.org/observation/show/327197>

<https://techieoldfox.wordpress.com/2014/02/20/ormocarpum-cochinchinense/>

