

*Cucumis maderaspatanus*

*Cucumis maderaspatanus* is a species of plant in the Cucurbitaceae family, commonly known as the cucumber or gourd family.



Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms
Order: Cucurbitales
Family: Cucurbitaceae
Genus: Cucumis
Species: C. maderaspatanus

**Common Names**

- Tamil: Musumusukai
- Hindi: Paripushkara
- Telugu: Nugudosa
- Kannada: Chitrati
- Malayalam: Chitrati

**Characteristic Features**

- Growth Habit: *Cucumis maderaspatanus* is a climbing or trailing herb.
- Leaves: The leaves are simple, alternate, and palmately lobed, with a rough texture.
- Flowers: The plant produces small yellow flowers, which are unisexual with male and female flowers on the same plant (monoecious).
- Fruits: The fruits are small, typically around 13 cm in diameter, spherical or ovoid, and turn yellow or orange when ripe.
- Seeds: The seeds are small, flat, and brownish.
- Habitat: It is commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions, often growing in disturbed areas, along roadsides, and in fields.

**Medicinal Uses**

- This plant is sudorific, anti-flatulence, laxative.
- The seeds are diaphoretic.
- The plants are considered hypolipidemic, hypotensive, hypoglycaemic, hepatoprotective, immunomodulatory, antiulcer, antimicrobial, local anaesthetic and anxiolytic.

**Traditional Uses**

- A decoction of young shoots and leaves is used as an aperient, especially for children, and is also taken to treat vertigo and biliousness.
  - The sap is given to small children in the treatment of amoebiasis.
  - The leaf-sap is used as a wound-dressing.
  - A poultice of the leaves is used in the treatment of burns. The dried, powdered leaves are dusted over scabies.
  - The ash of the plant is mixed in castor oil and rubbed over scarifications and the temples to relieve for headache.
- The seeds are chewed to cause perspiration. The fruit is used as a vermifuge. The root is chewed to relieve facial neuralgia, toothache. A decoction is used in the treatment of flatulence.

