

ABRUS

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Abrus precatorius
FAMILY	:-	Fabaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	
HINDI NAME	:-	Gunja



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

The plant is a legume. The plant is native to Indonesia and grows in tropical and subtropical areas of the world where it has been introduced. It has a tendency to become weedy and invasive where it has been introduced.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

Abrus precatorius, is a legume with long, pinnate-leafleted leaves.

PARTS USED:-

The seed.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

The plant is also used in some traditional medicine to treat scratches and sores, and wounds caused by dogs, cats, and mice, and is also used with other ingredients to treat leucoderma. The leaves are used for their anti-suppurative properties. They are ground with lime and applied on acne sores, boils, and abscesses. The plant is also traditionally used to treat tetanus, and to prevent rabies. Various African tribes use powdered seeds as oral contraceptives (Watt & Breyer, 1962). Boiled seeds of *Abrus precatorius* are eaten in certain parts of India (Rajaram & Janardhanan, 1992). The seeds were also used to treat diabetes and chronic nephritis.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

The toxin present in *Abrus precatorius* is a close relative to ricin called abrin. It is a dimer consisting of two protein subunits, termed A and B. abrine (N-methyl- L-tryptophan), glycyrrhizin and a lipolytic enzyme. The roots, stems, and leaves also contain glycyrrhizin.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Abrus precatorius is adaptable to most soils, but prefers a tropical climate with reasonably high rainfall and a sunny position.

Propagation is by scarified seed sown in spring. *Abrus precatorius* seeds germinate more successfully if scarified. The seeds are covered with very hot water and soaked overnight or until they swell. Pick out those that didn't swell and repeat the process with them. The swollen seeds are immediately sown in seedling mix, covering with two to three times their thickness. Overwater or too much dryness should be checked and provide good drainage and bright light to the plant. The plant should germinate within a few weeks with pretreatment or erratically without.