

**Revised Monograph Appeared in HPI Vol. VIII**

**ACALYPHA INDICA**

(Acal. ind.)

**Botanical name** : *Acalypha indica* Linn.

**Family**: Euphorbiaceae

**Synonyms** : *Acalypha spicata* Forsk, *Acalypha cilliata* Wall, *Acalypha canescen* Wall.

**Common names** : *Hindi*: Khokali; *English*: Indian nettle.

**Description** : An annual Indian weed, growing 30 to 90 cm in height; leaves 4 to 8 cm in length, ovate, petiole gradually narrowing, dentate margin, having smooth hairs and light green in colour; flowers and fruits small, finely indented. The root vertical, woody somewhat tortuous and of a pale buff colour. Its flowers and bears fruit throughout the year. It contains alkaloid, acalyphine, resin, tannin and volatile oil. It also contains a cyanogenetic glycoside.

**Microscopical** : Leaf: a transverse section shows, a layer of upper epidermal cells next to which there one layer of palisade cells. The spongy parenchyma consists of 4 to 6 layers of loosely arranged parenchymatous cells beneath which there is lower epidermis. The hairs are present especially on the veins, mid ribs and petioles on the under surface and they are mostly unicellular with spiny projections on the walls. The mid rib region shows, a prominent ventral bulge composed of thick-walled collenchymatous cells. The vascular bundle lies in the centre and shows a compact crescent shaped mass.

**Stem**: Hairs present. Epidermis consists of isodiametric cells. Cortex of 6 to 8 layers with collenchymatous patches altering with parenchymatous tissue, containing some dark cell contents. Laticiferous cells and laticiferous vessels are present in cortex and pith. Rosette crystals are present in the pith especially.

**Root**: Transverse section characterised by the presence of deep pale buff coloured wood and comparatively small cortex including cork. Many cortical cells contain starch and rosette crystals of calcium oxalate. The bulk wood mainly made up of tracheids, vessels and wood fibres. Medullary rays are composed of 1 to 2 rows of cells, containing starch. Fibres with irregular margins and broad or tapering ends. Tracheids have both pitted and scalariform thickening on their walls.

**Habitat** : Throughout the plains of India. It is a common weed in gardens and waste places.

**History and authority** : Allen's Encyclop. Mat. Med. Vol. I, 3. Drugs of Hindoostan, S. C. Ghose. Hering's Guid. Symp. Vol. I, 34.

**Part used** : Whole plant.

**Preparation** : (a) Mother Tincture  $\phi$  Drug strength 1/10  
Acalypha Indica, moist magma containing  
solids 100 g and plant moisture 300 ml 400 g  
Purified Water 100 ml  
Strong Alcohol 635 ml  
to make one thousand millilitres of the Mother Tincture.

(b) Potencies: 2x with *dilute alcohol*. 3x and higher with *Dispensing Alcohol*.