

# NEWSLETTER

## Knowledge of herbs – *Curcuma amada* Roxb.

Drug consists of the dried rhizome of *Curcuma amada* Roxb.; Fam. Zingiberaceae, the plant grows wild in parts of Bengal, Konkan and Tamil Nadu. It is also cultivated throughout India.



Other name:-

Beng.- Amada

Eng.- Mango-ginger

Hindi- Am haldi, Ama haldi

Kan.- Ambahalad

Mal. Mannayinci

Mar. Amba haladi

Tam. Mangai inji, Mankayyinci

Tel. Mamidiallam

Guj. Ambahalad

Scientific classification:-

Kingdom: Plantae

Order: Poales

Family: Cyperaceae

Genus: Cyperus

Species: *C. rotundus*

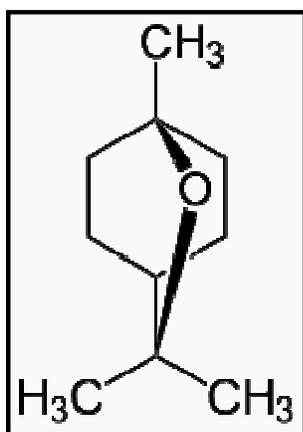
**Description:-**

A rhizomatous aromatic herb; buff coloured rhizome. Laterally flattened, longitudinally wrinkled, 2 to 6 cm long, 0.5 to 2 cm in diameter demarcated into nodal and inter nodal region, remnant of scaly leaves arranged circularly giving the appearance of growth rings; circular, punctate scars on the surface; roots long. Tapering, thread like, yellowish brown; fracture short often fibrous, raw mango-like odour and taste pungent.

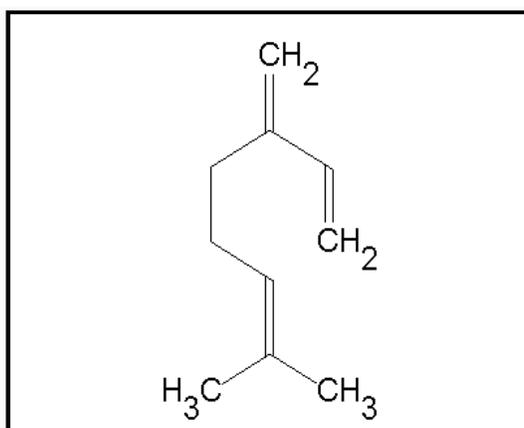
**Medicinal Uses:** Carminative, stomachic, appetizer, expectorant, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory. Specific in rheumatism and inflammation of liver; rheumatism; in contusions and sprains.

**Chemical constituents:**

Essential oil 1 % (1,8-cineole, myrcene), curcumene, pinene, camphor,  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - curcumene, turmerone and a phytosterol.



*1,8 - cineole*



*myrcene*

**Adulterants/Substitutes:**

C.amada is adulterated with C. zedoaria (Berg.) Rose has oval club shaped pieces of rhizome. The external surface is yellowish brown with ring like root scars, while the cut surface is deep orange in colour. The odour is camphoraceous and the taste is pungent.

**Safety aspects:**

The drug is traditionally considered to be safe in the dosage mentioned.

Reference:-

- 1) Dutta S, Tayal JN. Chemical examination of the essential oil derived from the rhizomes of *Curcuma amada* Roxb. Indian soap J 1941;7:200-205.
- 2) Jain Mk, Mishra RK. Chemical examination of *Curcuma amada* Roxb. Indian j Chem 1964; 2;39
- 4) Ghosh SB, Gupta S, Chandra AK. Antifungal activity in rhizomes of *Curcuma amada*. Indain J Exp Biol 1980; 18:174-176.

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