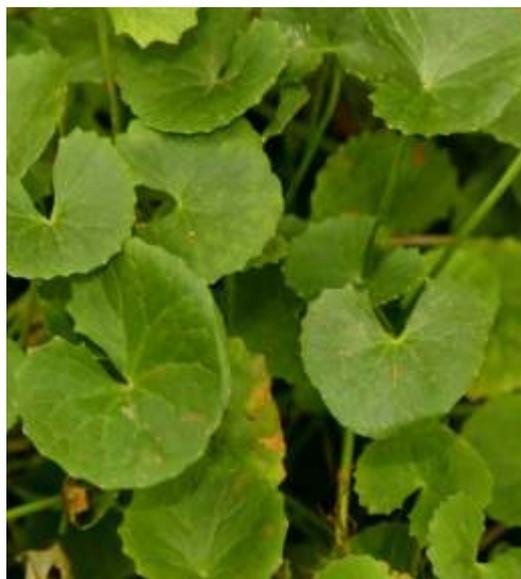


Centella asiatica (Linn.) Urban

Syn. *Hydrocotyle asiatica* Linn.

Fam. Apiaceae

Ayurvedic name	Mandookparni
Unani name	Khulakudi, Brahmi
Hindi name	Brahmi
English name	Asiatic Pennywort, Indian Pennywort, Gotu Kola
Trade name	Brahmi
Parts used	Whole Plant, Mainly Leaves



Centella asiatica

Morphological Characteristics

The plant is a small trailing herb. It is the only species of *Centella* found in India. Stem is glabrous, pink striated and rooting at nodes. Leaves are fleshy, orbicular to reniform and dentate. Petiole is long, smooth on upper surface and hairy below.

Floral Characteristics

Flowers are pink and white in fascicled umbels. The fruits are oblong, dull brown, laterally compressed, pericarp hard, thickened and woody white.

Distribution

The plant occurs in marshy places throughout the country in tropical and subtropical regions.

Climate and Soil

Plant naturally grows over moist, fertile, loose, sandy loam and clayey soil. Thrives best in monsoon periods in well drained beds.

Propagation Material

The plant is propagated by rooted suckers and seeds.



thankunside, centellose. Total triterpinoids are in leaves and they are approximately 1.0% of leaves.

- **Yield and Cost of Cultivation:** As a pure crop, 10-12 t/ha/years yield is obtained by 3 harvests in a year. After second year, the yield begins to decline, needing fresh planting. Rs. 40000/- is the cost of cultivation for one hectare.

Therapeutic Uses

The whole plant has therapeutic values. It is used as nervine tonic, for improving memory and mental disorders. It is anti-leprosy, diuretic, stomachic and used in insomnia, asthma, abdominal disorders and fever. Decoction of the plant is given in the treatment of leprosy.



Centella asiatica in field

