

# *Cryptolepis buchananii* Roem & Schult.

Fam. Asclepiadaceae

<b>Ayurvedic name</b>	Krishna sariva
<b>Hindi name</b>	Karanta
<b>English name</b>	Indian Sarsaparilla
<b>Trade name</b>	Shyاملata
<b>Parts used</b>	Roots, Mature Stem



*Cryptolepis buchananii*

## Morphological Characteristics

It is a large climbing shrub with glabrous, shining leaves. Stem is cylindrical; branches pale, glabrous, milky latex present, basal portion black and dotted. The external surface of the root is dark brown or blackish with few transverse cracks. Bark adheres closely to the wood and is odourless. Leaves are 7.5 – 12.5 cm X 3.8 – 6.3 cm in size, elliptic, oblong or oblong – lanceolate, apex retuse or acute, apiculate, green above and whitish beneath.

## Floral Characteristics

Flowers are pale greenish-yellow in short axillary paniced cymes and bracteate. Bracts are ovate-lanceolate with scarious margins. Calyx is lobed, ovate and acute; corolla is lobed, lobes 0.6 cm long and linear or linear-lanceolate. Fruit is a follicle, 2.5-10 cm long, stout, straight, terete and tapering. Seeds are 0.5 cm long in size, ovate-oblong, compressed and black in colour.

## Distribution

The plant is distributed all over tropical and sub-tropical regions in India.

## Climate and Soil

The crop prefers well-drained sandy-loam acidic soils with abundant organic matter (4.5 to





## Harvest Management

- **Crop Maturity and Harvesting:** The crop should be harvested in the month of August-September. But seed can be collected from plants older than three years.
- **Post-harvest Management:** After harvesting the branches should be sun dried till the moisture content is reduced to 10%. Only the dried materials are to be stored.
- **Chemical Constituents:** Stems possess alkaloids, b Buchananine identified as 6-O-nicotinoyl- $\alpha$  glucopyranose and 1, 3, 6-O-trinicotinoyl-L-glucopyranose.
- **Yield and Cost of Cultivation:** A good crop yields around 17.74 tonnes of dry herbage. Rs. 42,561/- is the estimated cost of cultivation for one hectare for 12 months crop duration.

## Therapeutic Uses

Root is demulcent, alterative, tonic and is useful in loss of appetite, fever and skin diseases. It is considered as a blood purifier and extensively used in skin diseases and leprosy. It is prescribed to children for rickets.



*Cryptolepis buchananii* in field

