

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Andrographis paniculata*

[Synonyms : *Justicia paniculata*]

**GREEN CHIRETTA** is an annual. Native to India and Sri Lanka it has small white-streaked, purplish-red flowers.

It is also known as Andrographis, Andrographis herb, Bhunimba (Sanskrit), *Bidara* (Javanese), Chirata, Creat, Halviva, *Kalmegh* (Bengali), *Kariyatu* (Gujarati), *Ki-orai* (Sundanese), *Kirata* (Sanskrit), *Kirayat* (Hindi), *Nelabevu* (Kannada), *Nelavemu* (Tamil and Telugu), *Nelavepu* (Malayalam), and *Oli-kiryata* (Marathi).

*Paniculata* means ‘pyramidal flower clusters’.

Medicinally, green chiretta provides a household tonic (known as ‘Alui’) that is much used in India, particularly for treating fevers, diabetes, dysentery and diarrhoea. The roots and leaves are also employed as a remedy for stomach upsets and intestinal worms. In Java (now an Indonesian island) it has been used to treat insect stings and snake bites.