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Andrographis paniculata

[Synonyms : *Andrographis paniculata* var. *glandulosa*, *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 *Andorogurafizu paniikuraata* (Japanese), *Andrografis* (Russian), *Andrographis*, *Andrographis herb*, *Bhuinimb* (Hindi, Sanskrit), *Bhunimba* (Sanskrit), *Bidara* (Javanese), *Chirata*, *Chiretta*, *Chirayta*, *Chuan xin lian* (Chinese), *Creat*, *Fa thalai chon* (Thai), *Halviva*, *Indian chiretta*, *Kalmegh* (Bengali, Hindi), *Kariyatu* (Gujarati), *Ki-orai* (Sundanese), *King of bitters*, *Kirata* (Sanskrit), *Kirayat* (Hindi), *Kiriyata* (Gujarati), *Kiriyatta* (Malayalam), *Kiryat* (Hindi), *Mahateet* (Sanskrit), *Mahatikta* (Sanskrit), *Mahatit* (Hindi), *Nelabevu* (Kannada), *Nelabevu gida* (Kannada), *Nelavemu* (Tamil, Telugu), *Nelavepu* (Malayalam), *Nilavempui* (Tamil), *Nilaveppu* (Malayalam), *Olen Kirayat* (Marathi), *Olikiriyat* (Gujarati), *Oli-kiryata* (Marathi), *Senshinren* (Japanese), and *Si fang lian* (Chinese).

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.