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Coscinium fenestratum

[Synonyms : *Coscinium wallichianum*]

COLUMBO WOOD is a climbing shrub (vine). Native to eastern India it has minute, green flowers.

It is also known as Ceylon calumba-root, *Daru haridra* (Sanskrit), False calumba-root, *Haldigarch* (Bengali), *Jhar-i-haldi* (Hindi), *Kunyit-kunyit* (Malay), *Manu pasupu* (Telugu), *Maramanjali* (Malayalam and Tamil), *Maramanjali* (Kannada and Tamil), *Venivel* (Marathi), and *Weni-wel* (Singhalese).

Fenestratum means ‘windowed’ with reference to the shiny leaf surface.

Some of the Malaysian tribes have used the vine to make poison for their darts.

The stems yield a yellow dye which has been used with or as an alternative for turmeric (*Curcuma longa*).

Medicinally, the root and wood are used locally as a bitter tonic, and the wood is also considered to be an effective local cure for tetanus. The root is used to treat stomach upsets, and dysentery too and is used externally on ulcers and wounds. A decoction of the stem is taken as an antidote for snake bites and a decoction of the bark is prescribed for fevers.