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Cymbopogon martinii

[Synonyms : *Andropogon martinii*, *Andropogon pachnodes*, *Andropogon schoenanthus* var. *martinii*, *Cymbopogon martini*, *Cymbopogon Cymbopogon martinianus*, *Gymnanthelia martinii*]

PALMA-ROSA is a grass. Native to central and northern India it has minute, reddish-brown flowers.

It is also known as Geranium grass, Ginger grass, *Indische geranium* (Dutch), *Mei gui cao* (Chinese), *Palmarosa* (German, Spanish), *Parumarooza* (Japanese), *Parumarosa gurasu* (Japanese), *Rosen Palmarosagras* (German), *Rosha* (Hindi, Sanskrit), Rosha grass, Rasha (English, Sanskrit), and Rasha grass.

The leaves yield geranium oil (by distillation). Gingergrass oil or Rosha oil, which is understood to be a poorer quality, is also obtained from this species.

According to some authorities this is the 'sweetcane' of 'sweet calamus' referred to in the *Christian Bible*.

Palma-rosa has been included as an ingredient in some insect repellent ointments.

Today it is used on a commercial scale by the cosmetics and toiletry industries to scent their products.

Medicinally, it has been used locally to treat some skin diseases.