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*Ipomoea turpethum*

[Synonyms : *Convolvulus turpethum*, *Ipomoea diplocalyx*, *Merremia turpethum*, *Operculina turpethum*]

**TURPETH ROOT** is a perennial twining vine. Native to tropical Asia and northern Australia, it has white, pinkish or yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Bilialutigadde* (Kannada), *Ching chaw* (Thai), *Dudh kalmi* (Bengali), False jalap, Indian jalap, *Nashatar* (Gujarati), *Nishottara* (Marathi), *Nisot* (Punjabi), *Nisoth* (Hindi), *Rochani* (Malayalam), *Sivadai* (Tamil), *Tellatagadda* (Telugu), *Trastawalu* (Singhalese), *Tripata* (Sanskrit), *Turbad* (Urdu), Turbith, Turpeth, and Turpethum.

Medicinally, in the East the roots and bark have been used for hundreds of years as a purgative (an alternative to jalap, *Ipomoea purga*). They have also been used to treat scorpion stings and snake bites.