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Pogostemon heyneanus

JAVA PATCHOULI is native to Malaysia and Indonesia (particularly Java). It has tiny purple-blotched, white flowers.

It is also known as *Dilem* (Javanese), Indian patchouli, Kollankola, *Javanisches Patchouli* (German), *Nilam bukit* (Malay), and Pucha-pat.

Oil of patchouli is extracted from dried leaves and branches.

Heyneanus commemorates a plant collector, Benjamin Heyn.

Locally the dried branches and leaves have been placed between clothing and linen to scent them as lavender (*Lavandula*) has been used in western Europe.

In the 19th Century in Britain java patchouli oil was a fashionable ingredient in sachets and pot pourris. Today it is an element of some of the heavier oriental perfumes and soaps.

Women of the Sakai, a group of Malaysian forest tribes, ornamented their ear-rings with pieces of Java patchouli and also wore it in garlands around their waists.

In India the plant is often grown as a garden plant.

Medicinally, the roots have been used in Malaysia internally to treat asthma, fluid retention and coughs, and externally for rheumatism. The leaves have been employed in the external treatment of fevers, headaches and boils. The powdered leaves have also been taken as a snuff in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to induce sneezing.