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Rheum australe

[Synonyms : *Rheum emodi*, *Rheum potaninii*]

INDIAN RHUBARB is a perennial. Native to central Asia it has minute purplish-red flowers. It is also known as *Banglare-vanchini* (Bengali), *Gamnirevanchiui* (Gujarati), Himalayan rhubarb, *Nattirevalchini* (Tamil), *Natturevalchini* (Tamil and Telugu), *Ravandchini* (Hindi), Red-veined pie plant, *Revatchini* (Sanskrit), and *Rewardchini* (Punjabi).

Australe means ‘southern, or of or from the Southern hemisphere’.

Medicinally, the roots are used (particularly as a laxative, a purgative and a tonic). They have also been employed to help heal fractures.