

# MEDICINAL PLANTS OF LAKSHADWEEP

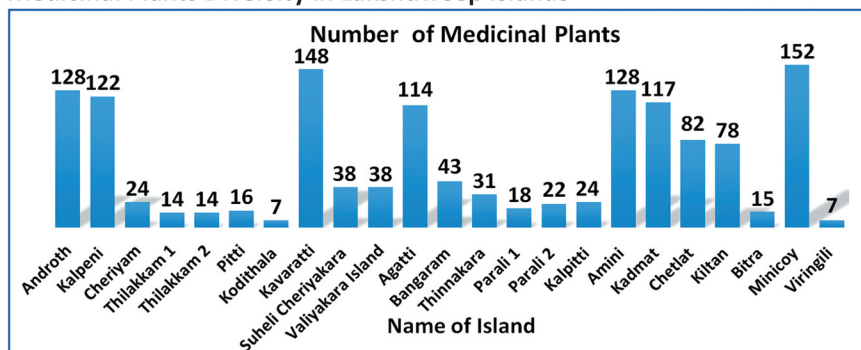


**Lakshadweep Medicinal Plants Board (LMPB)**  
Department of Environment & Forest, Kavaratti 682 555  
UT of Lakshadweep

Islands constitute unique ecosystems often comprising of many habitat-specific and endemic organisms that are found nowhere else on the Earth. These habitats contribute in different forms for the livelihood, economy, well-being and cultural identity of millions of people around the globe. At the same time, islands are ecologically fragile and extremely vulnerable to global warming, sea level rise and other natural disasters.

The Lakshadweep archipelago, along with Maldives and Chagos in the Indian Ocean together form a vast submarine mountain range, the Chagos-Laccadive Plateau. This plateau comprises the most extensive coral reef and atoll community in the Indian Ocean as well as the largest atoll system in the world. Lakshadweep is rich in marine biodiversity and also island biodiversity which are distributed in diverse habitats. Apart from coral reefs and seaweeds these islands have many habitat-specific species and medicinal plants. The Islanders use a wide variety of plants for their daily needs and also as an immediate remedy for various ailments.

### Medicinal Plants Diversity in Lakshadweep Islands



As per the latest study, conducted in the year 2018 by a team of scientists from Kerala Forest Research Institute, in Lakshadweep islands, there are 211 species of medicinal plants, which is about 45 percent of total vascular plants recorded from the area. These medicinal plants include seventy-seven species used in various traditional medicines, sixteen species, which also have nutraceutical importance and more than 35 species which have high market potential. The traditional healers of Island also possess rich knowledge about raw drug distribution in the isalands and also healing values of medicinal plants. Among the islands in Lakshadweep, Minicoy island is comparatively rich in terms of medicinal plant diversity.

A well-designed, visitors-friendly medicinal plants garden is established at Kavaratti, which hosts more than 200 medicinal plants which belong to different habitats in the island and use catagories. The herbal garden includes plants unique to Lakshadweep also from the mainland. This garden serves as an awareness centre and live germplasm of medicinal plants.





***Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Wettst.**

Local names: Brahmi (M), Bhrami gas (MH)

English names: Bacopa, Thyme leaved gratiola

Ailments: Epilepsy, Mental illness, Asthma

***Barringtonia asiatica* (L.) Kurz**  
 Local names: Attuchangala (J), Kinbi (MH)  
 English name: Fish poison tree  
 Ailments: Wound, Ulcer, Diarrhoea

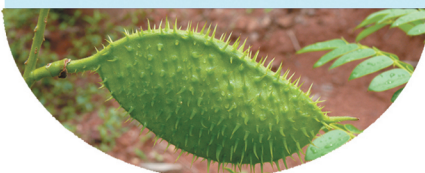


***Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) Roxb.**

Local names: Karakka (J), Vagula gas (MH)

English names: Bonduc nut, Fever nut

Ailments: Stomach ache



***Calophyllum inophyllum* L.**

Local names: Punna (M), Finna (J), Funna gas (MH)

English names: Alexandrian laurel, Indian laurel

Ailments: Ulcer, Wound, Dysentery



***Guettarda speciosa* L.**

Local names: Chammal (J), Uni gas (MH)

English names: Sea randa, Zebra wood

Ailments: Hair growth, Aborifacient

***Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn.**  
 Local names: Kattumulla (J), Dun'gethi (MH)  
 English names: Garden quinine, Sorcerers bush  
 Ailments: Tumor, Leprosy, Malaria fever



***Hernandia nymphaeifolia* (J-Presl) Kubitzki**  
 Local names: Fatti (M), Mas kandhu (MH)  
 English name: Lantern tree  
 Ailments: Headaches in children



***Morinda citrifolia* L.**

Local names: Molokka (M), Kadupala(J), Ahi (MH)

English names: Great Morinda, Indian mulberry

Ailments: Wound itches, Diabetes

**Ochrosia oppositifolia** (Lam.) K. Schum  
Local names: Kandala (J), Bhun'buri (MH)  
English names: Cork wood tree,  
Twin-Apple

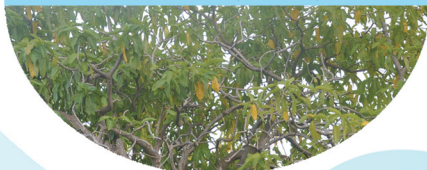


**Pemphis acidula** J.R.Forst. & G.Forst.  
Local names: Cheruthalam (J), Kuredhi (MH)  
English names: Coastal iron wood  
Ailments: Haemorrhage control after childbirth



**Scaevola taccada** (Gaertn.) Roxb.  
Local names: Badraksham (M), Kanni (J)  
English names: Beach plum, Fan flower  
Ailments: Antidiabetic, Muscle relaxant

**Pisonia grandis** R. Br.  
Local names: Adacham (J), Lossfaigus (MH)  
English names: Grand devil's-claws  
Ailments: Dysentery



**Tournefortia argentea** L. f.  
Local names: Thamara (J), Boashi (MH)  
English name: Tree heliotrope  
Ailments: Wound, Liver and blood problems



**Tacca leontopetaloides** (L.) Kuntze  
Local name: Ithilla (J), Hiththala (MH)  
English names: Polynesian Arrowroot  
Ailments: Diarrhea, Dysentery

### About LMPB

The Lakshadweep Medicinal Plants Board (LMPB) is a Government organisation under the Department of Environment & Forest, Lakshadweep Administration whose mission is to coordinate matters relating to medicinal plant cultivation, conservation, promotion, research and development in Lakshadweep Islands.

### CONTACT US

**Member Secretary**  
**Lakshadweep Medicinal Plants Board (LMPB)**  
**Department of Environment & Forest**  
**Kavaratti 682 555, UT of Lakshadweep**  
**Email: [Impbkavaratti@gmail.com](mailto:Impbkavaratti@gmail.com)**  
**Phone: 04896 262598**

