

TAMIL NADU

State Flower: Kalappaikkizhangu, Kandhal, Kannuvelli (Tamil).

Botanical Name: *Gloriosa superba* L.

Family: Colchicaceae (Liliaceae).

Common Names: Bishalanguli, Ulatchandal (Bengali); Climbing Lily, Creeping Lily, Fire Lily, Flame Lily, Gloriosa Lily, Glory Lily, Tiger Claw (English); Dudhiovachnag, Varhvardi (Gujarathi); Karihari, Languli (Hindi); Agnisikhe, Karadikanninagadde, Kolikuttuma, Siva-raktaballi, Siva-saktiballi (Kannada); Kandhal, Kannupottippovu, Kithonni, Malaattamara, Menthonni (Malayalam); Indai, Kallavi, Khadyanag, Nagkaria (Marathi); Garbhoghhatono, Meheriaphulo, Ognisikha, Panjangulia (Odiya); Agnimukhi, Agnisikha, Ailni, Garbhaghatini, Kalikari, Langalika, Visalya (Sanskrit); Adavinabhi, Agnisikha, Ganjeri, Kalappa-gadda, Nabhi, Pottidumpa (Telugu); Kanol, Kulhar, Meherio-phulo (Urdu).

Etymology: *Gloriosa* -us means 'glorious', referring to beautiful flowers, and *superba* means great profusion of magnificent/arrogant flowers.



***Gloriosa superba* L.**

Description: A tendril climber grows up to 8 m long, rhizomatous; rhizomes tuberous, cylindric, simple or forked, white. Leaves simple, alternate, sessile or subsessile, linear or ovate to lanceolate, 7 - 20 × 1.5 - 5 cm, bright green; leaf-

tip is modified into a tendril that coils around nearby supports to get a grip. Flowers

solitary or subcorymbose, showy. Petals 6, elongate and wrinkled at margins, and gradually arch backward, greenish to yellow when young, orange to scarlet or crimson when mature. Stamens are extremely prominent and spread outward in graceful curves. Fruits septicidal capsules, linear to oblong; seeds many, rounded or subglobose.

Flowering & Fruiting: Generally from July to March.

Range of Distribution: The plant is native to tropical Africa and Asia. In India, it is commonly distributed in semi-evergreen, moist and dry deciduous and evergreen forests, and also in open places of tropical parts of India. It is also grown in gardens for their ornamental flowers.

Economic Importance: The tubers are poisonous, containing many alkaloids, chiefly colchicine. The powdery substance extracted from tubers is economically valuable for making drugs.

Medicinal Uses: Drugs manufactured from the powdery substance extracted from tubers are useful in treating inflammations, ulcers, parasitic skin diseases, leprosy, helminthiasis, gonorrhoea, and snake and scorpion bites. It is also useful for promoting labour pains and expulsion of the placentas. The tuber is given to cattle for the expulsion of worms. The leaf juice is used for killing the lice in the hair. The tuber extract shows antibiotic activity against **Staphylococcus aureus** bacteria.

Note: The plant can be propagated by seeds or cuttings of rhizomes.

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