

# *Centella asiatica* (Linn.) Urban

Syn. *Hydrocotyle asiatica* Linn.

Fam. Apiaceae

|                       |  |
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| <b>Ayurvedic name</b> | Mandookparni                                   |
| <b>Unani name</b>     | Khulakudi, Brahmi                              |
| <b>Hindi name</b>     | Brahmi   |
| <b>English name</b>   | Asiatic Pennywort, Indian Pennywort, Gotu Kola |
| <b>Trade name</b>     | Brahmi   |
| <b>Parts used</b>     | Whole Plant, Mainly Leaves                     |



*Centella asiatica*

## Morphological Characteristics

The plant is a small trailing herb. It is the only species of *Centella* found in India. Stem is glabrous, pink striated and rooting at nodes. Leaves are fleshy, orbicular to reniform and dentate. Petiole is long, smooth on upper surface and hairy below.

## Floral Characteristics

Flowers are pink and white in fascicled umbels. The fruits are oblong, dull brown, laterally compressed, pericarp hard, thickened and woody white.

## Distribution

The plant occurs in marshy places throughout the country in tropical and subtropical regions.

## Climate and Soil

Plant naturally grows over moist, fertile, loose, sandy loam and clayey soil. Thrives best in monsoon periods in well drained beds.

## Propagation Material

The plant is propagated by rooted suckers and seeds.





thankunside, centellose. Total triterpinoids are in leaves and they are approximately 1.0% of leaves.

- **Yield and Cost of Cultivation:** As a pure crop, 10-12 t/ha/years yield is obtained by 3 harvests in a year. After second year, the yield begins to decline, needing fresh planting. Rs. 40000/- is the cost of cultivation for one hectare.

### Therapeutic Uses

The whole plant has therapeutic values. It is used as nervine tonic, for improving memory and mental disorders. It is anti-leprosy, diuretic, stomachic and used in insomnia, asthma, abdominal disorders and fever. Decoction of the plant is given in the treatment of leprosy.



*Centella asiatica* in field

