Botanical Name: *Ricinus communis* (Linn.)

Ricinus communis

Synonym: Castor oil tree

Kingdom: Plantae

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Malpighiales

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Genus: *Ricinus*

Sindhi Name: Haran

Urdu Name: Arand, Arandae, Murpad, Harnoli, Murghpad, Bed Anjeer.

Description of *Ricinus communis*:

An erect, single-stemmed or much-branched shrubby or treelike somewhat glaucous herb upto 5 m, rarely taller. Stems hollow, becoming woody at the base. Young shoots often pruinose. Petioles 5-20 cm long; petiolar glands variously-shaped. Leaf-blades commonly 7-9-lobed, the median lobe usually 10-20 cm long and 2-5 cm wide, sometimes larger, the lateral lobes progressively smaller; lobes lanceolate, acutely acuminate, coarsely glandular-serrate or -biserrate, lateral nerves c. 10-20 pairs, running to the margins, dark green above, paler beneath. Stipular sheath ovate, c. 1-2 cm long, leaving a circular scar when fallen. Inflorescence 10-25 cm long; bracts c. 1 cm long, the bracteoles smaller. Male flowers; pedicels c. 1 cm long; calyx-lobes elliptic-ovate, 6-8 x 3-4 mm, acute, yellowish-green; stamens 7 mm long, anthers 0.5 mm. long, pale yellow. Female flowers: pedicels 3-5 mm. long, extending to 2 cm or more in fruit; sepals lanceolate, 5 mm long, acuminate, purplish; ovary trilobate-subglobose, 2 x 2 mm; styles 3-7 mm long. Fruit trilobate, 1-1.8 x 1-1.5 cm, smooth or sparingly to densely covered with narrowly cylindric bristle-tipped fleshy processes 3-5 mm long. Seeds 7-12 x 5-8 x 4-6 mm, shiny, greyish, silvery or beige generally streaked and flecked with brown; caruncle depressed-conic, 1-2 x 2-3 mm.

Flowering Period: Almost throughout year.

Lectotype: In both Indies, Africa and Southern Europe', Hart. Cliff., 450 (BM!).

Distribution: (As for the genus).

Widely planted up to 4000'/1220 in. in the Sub-Himalayan tract and in the plains, and naturalized near villages.The oil from the seed has many uses - as an illuminant, in medicine as a purgative, in tanning as a leather-preservative, and in industry as a lubricant, especially for

delicate machinery; the oil-cake is used for fertilizer and fuel. The Castor Oil Plant exhibits considerable variation in fruit and seed characters, but although attempts have been made to formally categorize the variants, these do not appear to be of much value taxonomically, and not followed here.

Medicinal Uses of *Ricinus communis* in Sindh:

Leaves are used as pain killer against bone strike and are also used against bronchial pneumonia.

1. Method of use internal inury in bons and bronchial pneumonia:

Take 20-30 mL hair oil and 5-8g of add haldi in or you may vary the amount according to inury size heat them together for 3-5 minutes and also heat the leaves of the plant separately for 30 seconds. First aplly the the moderaltely hot oil on the affetcted area and massage that for 5 minutes apply the leaves on it and tide with cotton clothes and repeat the practice in the morning and before sleep and same method could be used for brochial pneumonia.

Previous studies on *Ricinus communis*:

It has ben reported that root extract of *Ricinus communis*

Possess Anti-inflammatory and free radical scavenging activity.