

Curculigo orchioides Gaertn



Habit: Herb

Description: Roots of plant are straight, cylindrical, tuberous, 5–22 cm long, and 0.5–0.8 cm thick. The external surface is brownish, marked with loosely spaced, prominent, transverse wrinkles. Lateral roots are 5 cm or more in length, stout, fibrous, dull white in color, and spongy externally. The freshly cut surface of tuberous rootstock has a starch-white color within and is mucilaginous. Leaves are simple, sessile, crowded on the short stem with sheathing leaf bases, tapering into a short petiole, almost radical. They are 15–45 cm long and 1.2–2.5 cm broad, linear or linear–lanceolate, membranous, glabrous or sparsely soft haired. The leaf tip, when in contact with the soil, develops roots and produces adventitious buds.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Angiosperms
Class	Monocots
Order	Asparagales
Family	Hypoxidaceae
Genus	Curculigo
Species	<i>Curculigo orchioides</i> Gaertn

Uses: According to Ayurveda, root is heating, aphrodisiac, alternative, appetizer, fattening and useful in treatment of piles, biliousness, fatigue, blood related disorders etc. According to Unani system of medicine, root is carminative, tonic, aphrodisiac, antipyretic and useful in bronchitis, ophthalmia, indigestion, vomiting, diarrhea, lumbago, gonorrhoea, gleet, hydrophobia, joint pains etc.

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI