

## Scientists decode genome of ‘miracle plant’

### News

Scientists from the University of Kerala have decoded the genetic make-up of Arogyapacha (*Trichopus zeylanicus*), a highly potent medicinal plant endemic to the Agasthya hills.

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- The project was undertaken in the State Inter University Centre of Excellence in Bioinformatics at the Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala.
- Besides, the raw sequence data and genome assembly have been deposited in the US-based public database maintained by the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).
- This ‘miracle plant’ is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue.
  - The Kanis, numbering about 16,000, live in the lush tropical forests of the Western Ghats.
- Studies have also proved its varied spectrum of pharmacological properties such as **anti-oxidant, aphrodisiac, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-tumour, anti-ulcer, anti-hyperlipidemic, hepatoprotective and anti-diabetic.**

### Arogyapacha

- Arogyapacha is a small herbaceous plant, endemic and found in Western ghats of Kerala
- "Arogya pacha", literally meaning "the green that gives strength".
- Tribal people use it as a stimulant and to keep stamina for a long time.
- Regular intake of fruits reduces stress and anxiety.
- Tribal people believe that regular consumption of fruit can prevent ageing and also enhance immunity.