

# The Review on Insulin Plant: A Plant of Ayurvedic used (Costus Igneus Plant)

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## ABSTRACT

Costus Igneus (insulin plant) traditionally used medicinal herb which is native to southeast Asia. The plant has been recently introduced into India and it is grown as an ornamental plant in South India. India's insulin plant contains various phytochemicals such as steroid, alkaloid, flavonoid, terpenes, glycoside and saponins. Its leaves are used as a dietary supplement in the treatment of diabetes mellitus. The catchphrase of the plant is: "a leaf a day keeps diabetes away". Various pharmacological activities include anti-diabetic effect, antiproliferative potential, antimicrobial activity, anti-urolithiatic property, anti-inflammatory potential, its effect on learning and memory, antioxidant activity, neuroprotective role, hypolipidemic activity etc. The present review article attempts to explore various medicinal properties of Costus Igneus (insulin plant) for research purposes and its suitable formulation development in future for the welfare of mankind.

**Keywords:** costus igneus, pioglitazone, insulin plant, phytoconstituents, Ayurvedic use, pharmacological activities marketed products.

## INTRODUCTION

Costus belongs to the family Costaceae, commonly known as the insulin plant in India because its leaves build up insulin in the human body since oral hypoglycaemic agents possess various side effects. There is a growing demand for herbal remedies for the treatment of diabetes mellitus. Many plants are prepared as used in folklore and traditional systems of diabetes mellitus. Investigation on new oral hypoglycaemic compounds from medicinal plants will set a milestone for the development of pharmaceutical entities or as a dietary adjuvant to existing therapies in the future. The insulin plant is one such traditional plant which is getting global acceptance now days and is now widely used as an Ayurvedic medicine. Consumption of leaves is believed to lower blood glucose levels, and diabetes who consume the leaves of this plant said to have a fall in their blood glucose levels and diabetics who consumed the leaves of this plant said to have a fall in their blood glucose levels. The insulin plant is native to Southeast Asia, especially on the Greater Sunda Islands in Indonesia. It is relatively a new entrant to India and is being grown as an ornamental plant in Kerala in the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Diabetes is traditionally treated by chewing the plant leaves for a period of one month to get a controlled blood glucose level.



**Cultivation and propagation:** in siddha medicine, it is known as kostum. It is being cultivated in Kashmir and the Himalayan region for its root, it is related to the ginger and was originally part of the family Zingiberaceae. But now the costus species and their kin have been reclassified into their own family, Costaceae. The species reproduces vegetatively by rhizome and birds disperse seeds when they feed on the fruits. Costus products are sometimes called Costus igneus and are edible in nature. The flower petals are quite sweet and nutritious. It's a lower grower and makes a great ground cover. The long red flower spikes of Costus pulverulentus are unique to the family and they are sure to create interest in the garden. The plant grows very quickly. And the propagation is by stem cutting. It needs sunshine but it also grows in slightly shady areas. It is cultivated in India for its use in traditional medicine and elsewhere as an ornamental.

**Morphology:** it is an upright, perennial shrub and is about two feet tall. Long branches are falling over the ground. Leaves are simple, alternate, oblong, twenty-five cm in length with several parallel thick veins. Soft, cylindrical, fleshy, pale brown rhizome is present. Strong tap root is also present which is wider at the top, sub-cylindrical in shape with light brown to pale, dark brown colour. At the top of the branches, orange flowers are present. Fruits are very small, green in colour.

**Growth and Propagation:** it grows under full sun or partial shade. It needs fertile soil with heavy moisture and is often planted near water. Propagation occurs by the division of the clumps, cuttings, or by separating the offsets that form below the flower heads. It is cultivated in the coastal area, Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

**Bio-Active Compound (Anti-Diabetic):** Costus igneus contains various phytochemicals like flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids and it was traditionally used in India to control diabetes and in experimental diabetic rats. Chemicals such as bio-components are present in various plant parts like leaves, stem, rhizomes, etc.

**In Leaves:** carbohydrates, triterpenoids, proteins, alkaloids, tannins, saponins, and flavonoids, etc. are present in leaves. Besides these, steroids and carbohydrates like roseoside, fatty acids like hexadecanoic acid, 9,12-octadecanoic acid, tetradecanoic acid, ethyl oleate, oleic acid, squalene are also present in leaves.

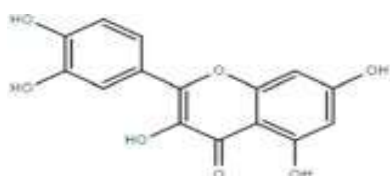
**In Stem:** Terpenoid compound lupeol and steroid compound stigmasterol are present in the stem.

**In Rhizome:** Quercetin, diosgenin, a steroidal sapogenin etc. are available in rhizome.

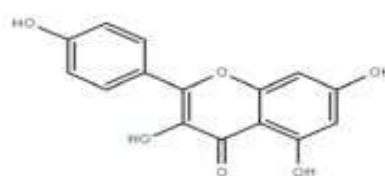
**In Root:** Terpenoid, alkaloids, Tannins, etc. are available in the root portion.

### Identification of plant

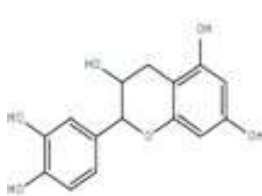
**Chemical structure :**



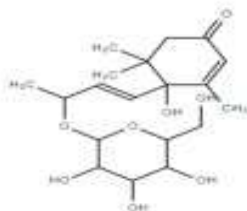
(a) Quercetin



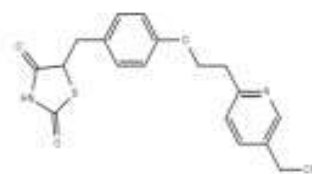
(b) Kaempferol



@ (c) Epicatechin



(d) Roseoside



(e) Pioglitazone

**Drug profile** : quercetin 117-39-5/ meletin.

**Category** : antioxidant, hypoglycaemic.

**Monoisotopic mass** : 302.0426565 g/mol.

**Molecular Formula** : C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

**IUPAC Name**: 2-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3,5,7-trihydroxychromen-4-one

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