

Abrus precatorius L. (FABACEAE)

ACTIVITY DATA:	Plant Part	Weight	Locality	Coll. & No.	Date	Priority	Voucher
<u>Orig. Sample</u>							
PR-12,035 *	seed	1.00	Florida	M-1843	11/66	L	--
--	"	--	"	--	9/64	M	--
<u>Recollections</u>							
PR-22,731	"	5.00	"	M-3545	10/71		--
PR-24,136	"	"	"	M-3562	01/72		--
PR-45,713	"	2.25	Puerto Rico	SS-631	03/76		+

DISTRIBUTION

PANTROPICAL: U.S., Mexico, Central America, South America, Africa, India, southeast Asia, Pacific Islands, Australia.

HABIT AND ECOLOGY

Scandent shrub. Flowers in the summer. Cultivated or escape throughout the tropics. In U.S. it occurs in central and southern Florida along the coast to Texas.

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Pete Ensor reviewed the literature on this species for a requirement in a course on "Medicinal and Poisonous Plants" at the University of Maryland (1975). I have not been able to find a copy of his report. Pete's review included personal communication with Dr. C.R. Gunn, who is familiar with this plant and the literature. According to Quisumbing, it is native of tropical Asia and is quite common in the Philippines.

COMMON NAMES AND USES

Seeds are well known for their poisonous properties, but have been reportedly used for medicinal purposes. Seeds also have been used for making necklaces, rosaries, fancy bags and other ornamental articles.

REFERENCES

Probably in all references on poisonous plants and in all floras of tropical countries for which the Fabaceae has been treated. Quisumbing's "Medicinal Plants of the Philippines" presents a good summary on distribution, habit, ecology and uses.

Reference Sample: PR- 12,035

GENERAL SAMPLES

Collections				Samples				Extracts			
Coll.	V.S.	Locality	Date	PR-No.	Desc.	R.S.	Wt.	B-No.	Tumor	Priority	Date
--		India (U.P.)	3/70	*(1294)	sd.			672543			
--		Florida	7/60, 7- 9 /61	*(10B2)	ws-sb(old)			692063			
			9/64	*(10B1)	" (young)			692062			
				*(10B3)	sd (mature)			692064	KB	M	3/64
M-154 (Herbst)	--	Florida	9/61	1418	sd		1.00	630175			
		"		"	"			610175			
M-1000 (Dick Stone)	--	Florida	7/62	3664	rt-st-lf-fr			620043			
				"	"			670043			
M-1843 (Herbst)	--	Florida	11/66	12,035	sd	++	1.00	635801	PS	L	9/1/71
	--	Florida	1/52	*(2116)	st-lf-fr			020355			

Descr. Description of Sample

R.S. Reference Sample

V.S. Voucher Specimen

Wt. Weight

* Numbers in parenthesis are those other than PR-numbers.

+-- Specimen is filed here but identity has not been confirmed.

++ Specimen is filed here and identity has been confirmed.

-- Specimen was not seen,

Recollection that has confirmed.

RECOLLECTIONS

Collections				Samples				Extracts			
Coll.	V.S.	Locality	Date	PR-No.	Desc.	R.S.	Wt.	B-No.	Tumor	Priority	Date
M-3545	--	Florida	10/71	22,731	sd	--	5.00				Kingston
M-3562	--	Florida	01/72	24,136	sd	--	5.00				"
SS-631	++	Puerto Rico	3/76	45,713	sd	--	2.25				"

Descr. Description of Sample

R.S. Reference Sample

V.S. Voucher Specimen

Wt. Weight

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