Gunja	
Hindi Name	Guñjā, Rattī
English Name	Rosary Pea/ Indian Liquorice root
Scientific Name & Family	*Abrus precatorius* L.; Family – Fabaceae
Part Used	Seeds (śodhit), Roots
Main Synonyms	Raktikā, Kākanantikā
External Morphology	Slender perennial climber; pinnate leaves with numerous small oblong leaflets; flowers pale violet to pink in axillary racemes; pods oblong containing bright red seeds with a black spot
Rasapanchaka & Dosha-Karma	Guna: Laghu, Ruksha, Tikṣṇa; Rasa: Tikta, Kashaya; Vipāka: Kaṭu; Vīrya: Uṣṇa; Doṣa-karma: Kapha-Vāta Śāmaka
Active Phytoconstituents	Abrin (toxic protein), flavonoids, glycyrrhizin-like compounds
Pharmacological Actions	Keśya, lekhana, kuṣṭhaghna, śothahara, vājīkaraṇa
Important Formulations	Guñjā Taila, Guñjā Lepa, Gunjabhadra ras
Dose	Seed powder (śodhit): 125–250 mg; external use – as required
To be Noted	Highly toxic in raw form due to abrin; śodhana is mandatory before any therapeutic use; mainly employed in external applications and in very minute internal doses under expert supervision

References:

1. Dravyaguna Vigyan, P.V. Sharma Part. II
2. A textbook of Dravyaguna Vigyan, Prakash L. Hegde Vol. II

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