

Trichosanthes

See text

Anguina Mill.
Cucumeroides Gaertn.
Eopepon Naudin
Involucraria Ser.
Platygonia Naudin

Trichosanthes is a genus of tropical and subtropical vines. They belong to the cucumber family (Cucurbitaceae), and are closely related to Gymnopetalum. Hodgsonia, formerly included here, is usually considered a well-distinct genus nowadays.

The shoots, tendrils, and leaves of some or possibly all species may be eaten as greens, and at least two species (serpent gourd, *T. cucumerina*, and pointed gourd, *T. dioica*) are grown commercially for their fleshy fruits used as vegetables, most popular in South Asia and Southeast Asia. At least two species (*T. kirilowii* and *T. rosthornii*) are grown for use in traditional Chinese medicine, where they are called the name gualou (Chinese: 瓜蒌; pinyin: guālóu). Trichosanthes is also known as a medicinal as well as poisonous plant in India.[1] The herb has shown an ability to reduce chest congestion by breaking down phlegm and aiding in its removal from the lungs.[2][unreliable source?]

In addition, several hybrids are known in this genus.

Formerly placed in Trichosanthes were for example *Kedrostis foetidissima* and *Linnaeosicyos amara*.

