



[Trichosanthes cucumerina](#) is a tropical or subtropical [vine](#) , raised for its strikingly long [fruit](#) , used as a [vegetable](#) , medicine, and, a lesser known use, crafting [didgeridoos](#) . Other names include **snake gourd** (*Trichosanthes cucumerina* var. *anguina*), **serpent gourd** , **chichinga**

, and

padwal

. It is known as

Chichinga/Chichinge

in

[Bengali](#)

,
potlakaaya

(పొట్లకాయ) in

[Telugu](#)

,
pathola

in

[Sinhala](#)

,
pudalankaai

(புடலங்காய்) in

[Tamil](#)

,
dhunduli

in

[Assamese](#)

,
paduvalakaayi

in

[Kannada](#)

and

padavalanga

(പാവാലംഗ) in

[Malayalam](#)

.

The narrow, soft-skinned fruit can reach 150 cm long. Its soft, bland, somewhat [mucilaginous](#) flesh is similar to that of the

[luffa](#)

and the

[calabash](#)

. It is most popular in the cuisine of

[South Asia](#)

and

[Southeast Asia](#)

. The

[shoots](#)

,

[tendrils](#)

, and

[leaves](#)

are also eaten as

[greens](#)

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