

37230 Tumeric, Curcuma

Curcuma domestica derives from the family of ginger plants (Zingiberaceae) and is found in India, China, Java, Turkey and Africa.

The root of curcuma domestica contains a yellow dye. The contents, curcumin, demethoxy curcumin and bisdemethoxy curcumin are three diaryloyl-methane dyes. All three dyes together are called curcumin.

Curcumin is not very lightfast. Cotton, wool and silk may be dyed with curcuma without prior mordanting. Curcuma is insoluble in water, but soluble in ether and alcohol. Due to these properties, it is also being used in making lacquers.