

11. *ACTINIDIA POLYGAMA* (Sieb. and Zucc.) Planch. (ACTINIDIACEAE) Cat Powder, Silver Vine

In China the twigs and young leaves of this ornamental vine have been used for centuries to tranquilize cats in zoos. This led to adding the powder to saki to increase its euphoriogenic capacity.⁵⁴ A tea "Polygamol", a preparation made from the galled fruits, is sold in the orient as a cardiotonic and diuretic.¹⁶ Leaves and salted fruits are eaten by the Japanese.³⁶ Considered tonic in Japan.³² The dried fruit decoction is frequently used for colic and rheumatism. According to Perry only the galled fruits are used.¹⁶

Powdered twigs contain actinidine, which depresses the limbic system leading to sedation,⁵⁴ and metatabilacetone.⁵⁴ Fruits contain matatabic acid.¹⁶

Toxicity — Emboden lists this among his "narcotic" species, as a tranquilizer with mild hallucinogenic effects.⁵⁴