



Regional Plant Resource Centre
An autonomous organization under the Department of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha, India

PLANT OF THE WEEK

9th week
19-1-2015

Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. – Sarpagandha

Botanical Name

Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Benth. ex Kurz.

Synonyms

Ophioxylon serpentinum L.

Family

Apocynaceae



Rauvolfia serpentina (Sarpagandha)

A traditionally reputed medicinal plant

Local Name

English : Indian Snakeroot

Hindi : Sarpagandha

Oriya : Sarpagandha, Patal Garuda

Telegu : Patal garud

Kannada : Chhedabag

Habitat

Widely scattered, mostly found in moist deciduous forests.

Distribution

India, Tropical Himalaya, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Bangladesh.

Flowering & Fruiting time:

May-December

Conservation Status

Endangered

Description

Habit :- It is an erect perennial shrub with a long, irregularly, nodular, yellowish root stock.

Leaf :- Leaves are whorled, rarely opposite, with glands, axillary buds, narrowly elliptic, apex acute to acuminate & surface glabrous, bright green and shining above.

Flower :- Inflorescence solitary; flowers are small, white with pink tube, in terminal, peduncle, calyx and corolla red or reddish, corolla white, long hairy inside distal half. Stamens inserted at middle of corolla tube.

Fruit :- Drupe ellipsoid, black in colour when ripped, endocarp a little rugose.



Uses

The bark, root and leaves are used against snakebite and scorpion poisoning in traditional medicine and also used for high blood pressure, insomnia, anxiety and disorders of the cerebral epilepsy.

Root :- The root is considered as an antidote to snake venom and scorpion sting. It is widely used for bitter, acrid, laxative, anthelmintic, thermogenic and diuretic and possess powerful sedative properties. It is highly reputed for hypertension and is useful in strangury, fever, wounds, colic, insomnia, epilepsy, giddiness, dyspepsia and vitiated conditioned of severe cold. The decoction of the root is used to increase uterine contractions.

Leaf :- The juice of the leaves are used as remedy for the removal of opacities of the cornea and also tender leaves are used for stomach pain.

Source

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