

# *Cerebra odollam Gaertn.*

**Synonyms** : *Cerebra manghas* Linn.

**Family** : Apocynaceae

**Parts Used** : Fruit , Leaf, Bark, Milky juice

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Odallum tree, Dog-bane

Malayalam : Othalam

Hindi : Dabur

Sanskrit : Auddalakah, Svanamarah

Bengali : Sukanu

Kannada : Gonkadura

Tamil : Udalai, Katalma, Kattarali, Kattuma



**Distribution and Habitat:** Throughout India

**Botany:** A moderate sized evergreen maritime tree with acrid milky poisonous juice, glabrous, branchlets whorled, marked with leaf scars.

• **Leaves:** Bright green closely set at the ends of branches, 12.5-25 x 3.82-6.3 cm, lanceolate or oblanceolate, glabrous, tapering sharply to the base, nerves many and connected by an intramarginal vein. Petioles 2-3.8 cm long.

• **Flowers:** Large white with a yellow throat, in terminal cymes. Peduncles 5-15 cm long. Calyx glabrous, corolla tube 1.3-2 cm long. Ovary of two distinct carpels united by a single style.

• **Fruits:** Large, green, drupes with fibrous pericarp, 5-10 cm long. Seeds usually solitary.

**Properties:** Bark, leaves and milky juice are purgative and emetic.

**Uses:** It is used in ring worm infestation, vata, skin diseases in children

## **Chemical constituents:**

• Root- $\beta$ -sitosterol. Root bark and stem bark yield gentiobiosyl thevetoside, glucosyl thevetoside and thevetosides of tanghinigenine

• Leaf- succinic acid, nicotiflorin, rutin, clitorin

• Seed - cerbertin, cerbertatin, thevetin

**Propagation:** Seeds

