

# Woodfordia fruticosa (L.) Kur

**Synonyms** : *Woodfordia floribunda* Salisb.

**Family** : Lythraceae

**Parts Used** : Flower

## Vernacular Names

English : Fire- flame

Malayalam : Thathiri

Hindi : Davi

Sanskrit : Dhataki

Bengali : Davai

Gujarathi : Dhawani

Kannada : Bela

Tamil : Dhattari

Telugu : Dhataki



**Distribution and habitat:** Found throughout India

**Botany:** Much branched beautiful shrub, 1-4 m high, rarely upto 7 m, branches spreading; bark cinnamon-brown.

• **Leaves** : Lanceolate, oblong lanceolate or ovate- lanceolate, sessile, softly pubescent above, hoary beneath.

• **Flowers** : Numerous, bright red, in dense, axillary, paniculate cymose clusters. Capsules ellipsoid, membranous.

• **Seeds** : Brown, minute, numerous, smooth, ovate or obovoid.

**Properties:** Antibiotic, abortifacient.

**Chemical constituents:** Malvidin pentose, glucosides, tannin, ursolic acid, kaempferol -3-glucoside, D-mannitol; pectin, protein, riboflavin, aspartic acid, citric acid, ellagic acid, mallic acid, isoquercetin, punicalagin, punicic acid, Asiatic acid, maslinic acid, octacosanol, Woodfordin D, Oenothien A, betulic acid, pyridine, 1-(2-piperdiny) -2-propane, methyl isopelleterine, polystachoside, myricetin-3-galactoside.

**Uses:** Flowers used in skin diseases, burning sensation, bilious fever, hepatopathy, verminosis, erysipelas, haemorrhages. They are also highly valued as a stimulant in pregnancy.

**Formulations:** They are an important ingredient in *Aristams* and *Asavams* as they aid in fermentation.

## Agrotechnology

**Soil:** Rocky as well as clayey soil. It prefers dry areas.

**Propagation:** rooted cuttings and seeds. Germination in sand was found to be better than in brick powder and soil. The seed stored at normal room temperature showed a decline in viability from initially 96% to 1.25 % in 12 months.

**Planting:** Spacing of 4m x 4m is adopted.

Flowering starts 2 years after planting.

