

# *Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R.Br.

**Family** : Apocynaceae  
**Group** : Anti-dandruff/Hair growth promoters  
**Parts Used** : Leaf, Seed, Bark

## Vernacular Names

English : Pala indigo  
Malayalam : Dantappala  
Hindi : Dudhi  
Sanskrit : Svetakutajah  
Bengali : Indragalu  
Kannada : Kirikodasige  
Tamil : Tantampalai  
Telugu : Jeddapala



**Distribution and habitat:** Throughout India.

**Botany:** A small deciduous tree, upto 10 m in height with pale grey, smooth, thin bark abounding in yellow milky juice with opposite divaricate branches.

- **Leaves** : Simple, opposite, elliptic - ovate or obovate-oblong, acuminate, glabrous, main nerves 6-12 pairs.
- **Flowers** : White fragrant, in lax terminal cymes.
- **Fruits** : Follicle in pairs, pendulous, cylindrical, tips adhering at first. Seeds linear, pointed at the apex with a deciduous coma.

## Properties:

- The leaves are acrid, thermogenic, anodyne and hypertensive.
- The bark and seeds are bitter, astringent, acrid, thermogenic, carminative, digestive, stomachic, constipative, depurative, anthelmintic, aphrodisiac and febrifuge.

**Chemical constituents:**  $\beta$ -amyrin

## Uses:

- They are useful in vitiated conditions of *pitta* and *kapha* dyspepsia, flatulence, colic, diarrhoea, leprosy, psoriasis, hemorrhoids, dipsia, helminthiasis, fever, burning sensation and dropsy.
- The latex of the bark and unripe fruits are used by hill tribes for coagulating and solidifying milk.
- Oil preparation of the leaf offers wonderful cure for psoriasis.

**Formulations:** *Svetakutaja*

## Agrotechnology

**Climate and soil:** The tree is well distributed in Western Ghats, Deccan, parts of Gujarat and Konkan areas.

**Propagation:** Seeds. Overnight soaking in water is preferred.

**Planting:** 2-3 week old seedlings are transplanted at a spacing of 5 m x 5 m. Maintain height of 2-3 m by pruning.

**Irrigation:** Irrigate the plants regularly till it establishes.

