

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: β -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.

