

# *Nerium oleander* L.

**Family** : Apocynaceae  
**Group** : Cardio tonic  
**Parts Used** : Root , Leaf, Bark  
**Vernacular Names**  
English : Indian oleander  
Malayalam : Arali  
Hindi : Karuavira  
Sanskrit : Karavirah  
Tamil : Sivappuarali  
Telugu : Ganneru



**Distribution and habitat:** Found throughout India.

**Botany:** A large glabrous evergreen shrub with milky latex.

- **Leaves:** Three, shortly stalked 10-15 cm long, linear, dark green and shiny above.
- **Flowers:** Red, rose coloured or white, fragrant. Calyx lobes lanceolate. Corolla 3.8 cm diam, fragrant, lobes rounded. Filaments hairy, appendages of anthers twice as long as the cells.
- **Fruits:** follicles, at length separating. Seeds about 1.3 cm long, tipped with a coma of light brown hairs.

**Properties:** Cardio tonic, Neuro tonic, spasmolytic

**Chemical constituents:** Oleandrogenin, plumericine, neroside, lupeol acetate, campesterol and stigmasterol

**Uses:** Roots are used in cardiac asthma, strangury, ulcers and chronic stomachalgia, renal and vesical calculi. Root bark is used in ring worm. Leaves are used in scabies and hemorrhoids. Leaf juice is good for ophthalmia with copious lacrimation. Flowers used in purifying the air.

**Formulations:** *Karaviradya taila*, *Leghu-vis-garva-taila*

**Propagation:** Seeds and stem cuttings