

# *Alstonia scholaris* (Linn.) R. Br.

**Synonyms** : *Echites scholaris* L.

**Family** : Apocynaceae

**Parts Used** : Leaf, Bark, Milky exudate

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Devil tree

Malayalam : Ezhilampala

Hindi : Shaitan ka jat

Sanskrit : Saptaparnah

Assamese : Edakalapalai

Bengali : Chatwan

Gujarathi : Sathi, Satanna

Kannada : Janthalla

Tamil : Elilappalai

Telugu : Satwin, Saptaparni



**Distribution and habitat:** Throughout India especially Western Ghats.

**Botany:** A large, buttressed evergreen tree, 12-18 m height, bark yellow inside and exudes milky butter latex.

• **Leaves:** Simple 4-7 in a whorl, 3.8-6.3 cm, oblong-lanceolate or obovate, tapering at the base into a short petiole, petioles 6-13 mm long.

• **Flowers:** Greenish white or greenish yellow, in compact, umbellate cymes, fragrant. Calyx 2.5-3 mm long, pubescent; corolla tube 8 mm long.

• **Fruits:** Follicles, 30-60 cm long, in clusters, cylindric.

• **Seeds:** 8 mm long, flattened with long tuft of brown hairs at each end.

**Chemical constituents:** Alkaloids- Echitenine, Echitamine, Echitamidine, Ditamine, Picrinine, Picralinol,  $\psi$ -akuammigine,  $\psi$ -akuammicine.

**Uses:** Antimalarial, hypotensive, anthelmintic

• **Bark-** Diseases of heart and blood, catarrhal fever, laxative, abdominal disorders

• **Leaves-** Ulcer (tender leaves), beri- beri, liver congestion

• **Latex-** Ulcers, sores, tumours, rheumatic pain

**Formulations:** Saptachaladi taila

## **Agro technology**

**Climate and soil:** It prefers well drained soil and requires good amount of moisture in soil for growth. It is seen in almost all types of soils. The annual rainfall requirement of the plant is 2000 mm.

**Propagation:** Cuttings and seeds

**Manures and fertilizers:** 100 g N and 50 g each of P and K may be supplied to one year old seedling in July month. Addition of FYM or well decomposed cowdung must be done in October-November period.

