

Azima tetracantha Lam



Habit: Shrub

Morphology: Rambling shrubs; spine axillary, usually 4, straight, to 2.5 cm, grooved, branchlets tetragonous, pubescent. Leaves opposite, 3 x 2 cm, ovate, mucronate, base obtuse, margin thickened, coriaceous, nerves 3 pairs near the base; petiole to 5 mm. Spike axillary and terminal, to 10 cm long; flowers clustered, white, unisexual; bracts 2 x 1 mm, ovate, mucronate, pubescent; calyx 1 mm, campanulate, bilobed, pubescent; petals 4, 2 x 1 mm, oblong; stamens 4, free, alternating with petals, filaments 1 mm, anthers 1 mm, pistillode absent.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Angiospermae
Class	Magnoliopsida
Order	Brassicales
Family	Salvadoraceae
Genus	<i>Azima</i>
Species	<i>Azima tetracantha</i> Lam

Uses: The sap of the plant is applied directly to treat toothache and bleeding gums after tooth extraction and also as a disinfectant. The roots are used in the treatment of rheumatism, dropsy and stomach disorders. The pounded roots are applied directly to snakebites, whilst an infusion is also taken orally as a treatment for them. The root bark is used in the treatment of rheumatism. The leaves are stimulant. They are eaten with food as a treatment for rheumatism. The leaf juice is used in the treatment of asthma and coughs caused by phthisis. The pickled leaves are used as an appetizer and against colds. An infusion of the leaves is used to treat venereal diseases. The crushed leaves are applied directly to painful teeth, whilst the leaf juice is applied to the ears to treat earaches. The juice of the berries is applied directly into the ear to treat earache.

Reference: www.flowersofindia.net