

Justicia adhatoda L.



Habit: Herb

Description: *Justicia adhatoda* is a shrub with 10-20 lance-shaped leaves 8-9 centimeters in length by four wide. They are oppositely arranged, smooth-edged, and borne on short . When dry they are of a dull brownish-green colour. They are bitter-tasting. When a leaf is cleared with chloral hydrate and examined microscopically the oval stomata can be seen. They are surrounded by two crescent-shaped cells at right angles to the ostiole. The epidermis bears simple one- to three-celled warty hairs, and small glandular hairs. Cystoliths occur beneath the epidermis of the underside of the blade. The trunk has many long opposite ascending branches, where the bark is yellowish in color. Flowers are usually white and the inflorescence shows large, dense, axillary spikes. Fruits are pubescent, and are with club-shaped capsules.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Tracheophytes
Class	Angiosperms
Order	Lamiales
Family	Acanthaceae
Genus	Justicia
Species	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.

Uses: The leaves, roots, flowers, and bark of this plant have been used in the treatments of cough, colds, asthma, to liquefy sputum, as a bronchodilator, bronchial catarrh, bronchitis, and tuberculosis.

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI