

Justicia gendarussa



Habit: Shrub

Description: *J. gendarussa* is an erect, branched shrub which belongs to the family of Acanthaceae. It is a dicotyledonous plant that can reach heights up to 1.5 m. Its leaves are lanceolate, 4–14 cm long and 1-2.5 cm wide. The color of the leaves can be white, green or grey and hairy on both sides. They are bitter, acrid and thermogenic. The rather small flowers grow as 4–12 cm long spikes at the end of branches or in leaf axils. The color of the flowers is white or pink with purple spots. The flowers are hermaphrodite and the bark has a dark purple.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Tracheophytes
Class	Angiosperms
Order	Lamiales
Family	Acanthaceae
Genus	Justicia
Species	<i>Justicia gendarussa</i> Burm.f.

Uses: Treatment of inflammatory disorders, asthma, hepatic injuries, pathogenic infection and also shows antiproliferative activity against various cancer cell lines.

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI