

Vitex negundo L.



Habit: Shrub

Description: *Vitex* species shrubs or trees rarely woody lianas. Stem and branches obtusely quadrangular. Leaves opposite, digitately palmately compound with 3-8 foliolate, rarely unifoliate, often aromatic or foetid, petiolate, exstipulate. Inflorescence axillary or terminal dichasial cymes, lax diffuse panicles or corymbs, sessile or pedunculate, bracts narrow, linear around the size of the calyx. Flowers bisexual, zygomorphic, hypogynous, calyx cupular or campanulate, 5 toothed rarely 3 to 6 or subentire, corolla hypocrateriform, 5 lobed, white, blue or purple, corolla tube straight or curved, usually villous inside and pubescent outside, stamens 4, didynamous, inserted above the middle of the tube, exerted, filaments filiform, anthers oblong or elliptic, ovary bicarpellary, 2-4 celled, 1 ovule in each locule, hairy, style filiform, stigma bi-lobed, lobes equal, Fruit drupaceous, endocarp hard, 4 seeded, seeds oblong or obovoid, nonendospermous.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Tracheophytes
Class	Angiosperms
Order	Lamiales
Family	Lamiaceae
Genus	<i>Vitex</i>
Species	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.

Uses: These bioactive compounds exhibit anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antidiabetic, anticancer, antimicrobial. VN is typically known for its role in the modulation of cellular events like apoptosis, cell cycle, motility of sperms, polycystic ovary disease, and menstrual cycle.

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI