

Plumbago zeylanica L



Habit: A perennial shrub with ascending branchlets, upto 1m.

Morphology: Erect subshrubs, sometimes scandent; stem striate. Leaves 3-7 x 1.7-3.2 cm, ovate or elliptic-ovate, base shortly and abruptly attenuated into a short petiole, apex acute or subacute, somewhat glaucous beneath; petiole c. 1 cm long, amplexicaul at base and often auriculate. Flowers white, in elongate, terminal, often panicled racemes; rachis with sessile glands; bracteoles ovate, acuminate. Calyx 8-12 mm long, narrowly tubular, densely covered with stalked glands; lobes small. Corolla 1-1.6 cm across; tube c. 1.5 cm long; lobes obovate-oblong. Stamens 5; filaments c. 1.5 cm long. Ovary ellipsoid, 1-locular; stigma 5-fid. Capsule oblong, acute with 5 furrows.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Angiospermae
Class	Eudicots
Order	Caryophyllales
Family	Plumbaginaceae
Genus	Plumbago
Species	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L

Uses: Early folk medicine used the crushed plant internally and externally as an abortifacient. In Ayurveda, *P. zeylanica* is known as chitrak, meaning "the spotted one". It is used with other herbs to lessen its intense pungency

Reference: Indianbiodiversity.org