



***Plumbago zeylanica* L.**

Family: Plumbaginaceae

Common names: Leadwort, Chitrak



Description:

Plumbago zeylanica is widespread and is possibly indigenous to South-east Asia. In Himachal, it is found growing sporadically near field borders, often in shrubberies. It is a rambbling, subscandent perennial herb or under shrub with woody, striate stem. Leaves are ovate, glabrous and the flowers are white in colour in elongated spikes, Capsules are oblong, pointed, covered with mucilage and are contained in viscid, glandular, persistent calyx tube. The roots are 6-20 mm in diameter and seldom branched. Roots are considered poisonous.

Utilization:

It is used in the treatment of dyspepsia, piles, diarrhoea and skin diseases. The root paste is applied in order to open abscesses. A tincture of the root bark is anti periodic and the alcoholic and aqueous extracts of roots showed anti- bacterial activity and has been observed to be a very powerful aphicide. The root is externally used in leucoderma and elephantiasis (Chauhan, 1999).

Part	Uses
Root extracts	Anti- bacterial activity
Root	Leucoderma, Elephantiasis

References:

Chauhan N.S; (1999) Medicinal and aromatic plants of Himachal Pradesh. Indus publishing company. ISBN 81-7387-098-5.