



***Rauvolfia serpentina* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz**

Family: Apocynaceae

Common names: Chanderbhaga, Sarpghandha



Description:

Rauvolfia serpentina is widely distributed in sub- Himalayan track from Punjab Eastward to Nepal. It is an erect, evergreen, perennial under shrub. Tap roots are tuberous, soft sometime irregularly nodular. Bark is pale brown, corky with irregular longitudinal fissures. Leaves are in whorls of three, large, elliptic- lanceolate or obovate, acute or acuminate. Flowers are white or pinkish, in many flowered cyme. Fruit is drupe, purplish black in colour.

Utilization:

This plant is used to cure various disorders. Local people of Eastern Ghats and India use this plant against snakebite (Day and De, 2011). A compound which it contains called reserpine, was used in an attempt to treat high blood pressure and mental disorders. Root extract is valued for the treatment of intestinal disorders, particularly diarrhoea and dysentery (Fabricant and Fransworth, 2001).

Part	Uses
Reserpine compound	antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antiproliferative, antidiuretic
leaves	applied to the eyes as a remedy for corneal opacity

References:

Dey A and De J.N; (2011) Ethnobotanical aspects of *Rauvolfia serpentina* (L). Benth. ex Kurz. in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Journal of Medicinal Plants Research Vol. 5(2), pp. 144-150.
Fabricant, D. S., & Farnsworth, N. R; (2001) The value of plants used in traditional medicine for drug discovery. Environmental health perspectives, 109 (Suppl 1), 69.