

Barleria prionitis

Classification

Kingdom : Plantae

Clade : Angiosperms

Order : Lamiales

Family : Acanthaceae

Genus : *Barleria*

Species : *B. prionitis*



Barleria prionitis

DESCRIPTION:

Barleria prionitis is a shrub in the family Acanthaceae, native to Island and Mainland Southeast Asia, China, the Indian Subcontinent, An erect, perennial, prickly shrub, usually single-stemmed, growing to about 1.5 meters in height. The leaves are up to 100 mm long and 40 mm wide, and ellipsoid is a small, erect, spiny shrub, up to 1.8 m tall with spines in lower leaf axils, branched. The base of the leaves is protected by three to five sharp spines. The yellow-orange tubular flowers with several long protruding stamens. Flowers clustered in axils of upper leaves and/or bracts; bracts linear-oblong, 1.2-2.2 × 0.2-0.8 cm, margin ciliate, apex abruptly acuminate; bracteoles linear-lanceolate, to 1.4 × 0.2 cm, spine-tipped. Seed capsule is oval-shaped with a sharp pointed beak. It contains two fairly large, flat seeds, covered with matted hairs. Roots are central tap type, with lateral roots branching in all directions. ..

MEDICINAL USES:

The whole plant or its specific parts (leaf, stem, root, bark and flower) has been utilized for treatment of toothache, catarrhal affections, whooping cough, inflammations, glandular swellings, urinary infection, jaundice, fever, gastrointestinal disorders and as diuretic and tonic.

It is used to treat fever, respiratory diseases, toothache, joint pains. A mouthwash made from root tissue is used to relieve toothache and treat bleeding gums. The leaves are used to healing of wounds and to relieve joint pains. Extracts of the plant are incorporated into herbal cosmetics and hair products to cure skin and scalp problems.