

Calotropis gigantea

Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Order	: Gentianales
Family	: Apocynaceae
Subfamily	: Asclepiadoideae
Tribe	: Asclepiadeae
Genus	: <i>Calotropis</i>
Species	: <i>C. gigantea</i>



C. gigantea

DESCRIPTION: *Calotropis gigantea* and *C. procera* are the two most common species in the genus. *Calotropis gigantea* grows to a height of 8 to 10 ft (2.4 to 3.0 m) while *C. procera* grows to about 3 to 6 ft (0.91 to 1.83 m). The leaves are sessile and sub-sessile, opposite, ovate, cordate at the base. The flowers are about 1.5 to 2 in (3.8 to 5.1 cm) in size, with umbellate lateral cymes and are colored white to pink and are fragrant in case of *C. procera* while the flowers of *C. gigantea* are without any fragrance and are white to purple colored, but in rarer cases are also light green-yellow or white. The seeds are compressed, broadly ovoid, with a tufted micropylar coma of long silky hair.

MEDICINAL USES:

People use the bark and root bark for medicine. Despite serious safety concerns, calotropis is used for digestive disorders including diarrhea, constipation and stomach ulcers; for painful conditions including toothache, cramps, and joint pain; and for parasitic infections including elephantiasis and worms.