

Caralluma umbellata

Systematic classification

<i>Family :</i>	Dog poison family (Apocynaceae)
<i>Subfamily :</i>	Silk plants (Asclepiadoideae)
<i>Tribe :</i>	Ceropegieae
<i>Sub tribus :</i>	Stapeliinae
<i>Genre :</i>	<i>Caralluma</i>
<i>species :</i>	<i>Caralluma umbellata</i>



Description:

Umbelled *Caralluma* is an erect succulent herb with stems and branches angled, with watery latex. Leaves are borne along the angles, falling off, leaving scars. Leaves are asymmetric, long-pointed, with narrowed base. Flowers foul smell, borne in terminal umbel, purple with cross stripes. Fruit is a cylindrical seedpod, green, with small dark spot, hooked at apex, paired. Seed are flattened, broadly margined, with silky white hairs. Umbelled *Caralluma* is found in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Flowering: March-April.

Medicinal uses: *C. umbellata* has been used as a traditional medicinal plant for treating stomach disorders and abdominal pains. Very few attempts were made to evaluate its pharmacological efficacy. Recent scientific reports have suggested that this plant has hepatoprotective, antinociceptive and anti-inflammatory properties, however other traditional claims and possible pharmacological benefits of *C. umbellata* were not been explored.