

Rauvolfia serpentine

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Gentianales

Family: Apocynaceae

Genus: *Rauvolfia*

Species: *R. serpentina*



Rauvolfia serpentina

Description:

Sarpagandha are glabrous undershrub's, un-branched or with few branches, up to 1 m. high. Leaves are whorled, 3 at each node, simple, elliptic lanceolate, acuminate, entire; up to 17 cm. long and 5.5 cm. broad, dark green and shining above, pale beneath; petiole up to 1 cm. long. Inflorescence a terminal umbelliform cyme, often appearing as lateral due to the growth of the shoot. Flowers hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, short pedicelled, bracteate. Calyx 5-lobed, bright scarlet; segments 2 mm. long.

MEDICINAL USES:

The root is purgative, anthelmintic, a sedative and hypotensive and is an antidote for snake — and insect-bite; now mostly used in hypertension.