

Alstonia scholaris

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae

Order : Gentianales

Family : Apocynaceae

Genus : *Alstonia*

Species : *A. scholaris*



Alstonia scholaris

DESCRIPTION:

The upper side of the leaves are glossy, while the underside is greyish. Leaves occur in whorls of three to ten; petioles are 1–3 cm (0.39–1.18 in); the leathery leaves are narrowly obovate to very narrowly spatulate, base cuneate, apex usually rounded; lateral veins occur in 25 to 50 pairs, at 80–90° to midvein. Cymes are dense and pubescent; peduncle is 4–7 cm (1.6–2.8 in) long. Pedicels are usually as long as or shorter than calyx. The corolla is white and tube-like, 6–10 mm (0.24–0.39 in); lobes are broadly ovate or broadly obovate, 2–4.5 mm (0.079–0.177 in), overlapping to the left. The ovaries are distinct and pubescent. The follicles are distinct and linear. Flowers bloom in the month October. The flowers are very fragrant similar to the flower of *Cestrum nocturnum*. Seeds of *A. scholaris* are oblong, with ciliated margins, and ends with tufts of hairs 1.5–2 cm (0.59–0.79 in). The bark is almost odorless and very bitter, with abundant bitter and milky sap.

Uses

- *Alstonia scholaris* has many medicinal properties like antimicrobial, antiamoebic, antidiarrheal, antihypertensive, antimalarial, febrifuge, stimulant, hepatoprotective, immunomodulatory, anti-cancer, antiasthmatic, antioxidant, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-fertility, anti-diabetic etc. *Alstonia scholaris* used in the treatment of fevers, chronic diarrhea, dysentery, ulcers, rheumatic pains, cancer, malarial etc.
- The ripe fruits of the plant are used in syphilis and epilepsy. The milky juice of *Alstonia scholaris* has been applied to treat ulcers.
- The bark of the *Alstonia scholaris* is used in Ayurvedic medicine to treat fever, malaria, and troubles in digestion, tumors, ulcers, asthma,
- The leaves and the latex are applied externally to treat tumors. The bark and roots are boiled with rice and eaten by girls daily for several weeks to treat excessive vaginal discharge. The dried leaves of the *Alstonia scholaris* are used as an expectorant.