

Adhatoda vasica

Scientific classification

Kingdom : *Plantae*
Order : *Lamiales*
Family : *Acanthaceae*
Genus : *Adhatoda*
Species : *A.vasica*



Adhatoda vasica

DESCRIPTION:

Adhatoda vasica is a **shrub** with lance-shaped leaves 10 to 15 centimeters in length by four wide. They are oppositely arranged, smooth-edged, and borne on short. When dry they are of a dull brownish-green colour. They are bitter-tasting. When a leaf is cleared with **chloral hydrate** and examined microscopically the oval **stomata** can be seen. They are surrounded by two crescent-shaped cells at right angles to the **ostiole**. The epidermis bears simple one- to three-celled warty hairs, and small glandular hairs. **Cystoliths** occur beneath the epidermis of the underside of the blade.

MEDICINAL USES:

Adhatodavasica is useful in treating bronchitis, tuberculosis and other lung and bronchiole disorders. A decoction of the leaves of **Vasaka** may be used to help with cough and other symptoms of colds. The soothing action helps irritation in the throat and the expectorant will help loosen phlegm deposits in the airway.