

***Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G.Don**

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Apocynaceae

Genus: *Catharanthus* G.Don

Species: *Catharanthus roseus* (L.)
G.Don



Popular names: Sadabahar, Nayantara, Ainskati, Madagascar periwinkle

Nature: Herb

Flowering time: March to September

Fruiting time: October to April

Plant distribution: It is native to the Indian Ocean Island of Madagascar. It is now common in many tropical and subtropical regions worldwide, including the Southern United states.

Economic importance:

1. Used in diabetes.
2. Infusion of leaves used in menorrhagia.

3. Juice applied for relief of pain due to wasp stings.
4. Roots contain three alkaloids of Rauvolfia group: ajmalicine, serpentine, and reserpine.
5. These possess hypotensive, sedative and tranquillizing properties.
6. An extract from the plant has growth inhibitory effect in certain human tumors.
7. Anticancer drugs Vinblastine and Vincristine have been isolated from this plant.

Plant description: It is an ever blooming pubescent herb grown all over India as an ornamental.

Root- A much branched tap root; **Stem-** Erect, cylindrical, branched, solid, pubescent, herbaceous.

Leaf- Exstipulate, petiolate, opposite, simple, entire, oblong, rounded and mucronate at apex, glaucous above, venation unicostate reticulate.

Inflorescence- Axillary cymose clusters.

Flower- Ebracteate, pedicellate, complete, actinomorphic, bisexual, hypogynous, cyclic, petamerous, rosy-purple; **Calyx-** 5, gamosepalous, campanulate, valvate, green; **Corolla-** 5, gamopetalous, tubular slender and cylindrical, twisted, inferior; **Stamens** 5, epipetalous, alternipetalous, inserted about the middle of the corolla tube, filaments small, anthers bitheous, dorsifixed, dehiscence longitudinal, introse; **Carpels-** Bicarpellary, ovary free, styles united, unilocular, placentation parietal, ovules many in each carpel, style long and filliform, stigma annular, apex covered with hairs.

Fruit- Etaerio of two follicles.

Some close –Up pictures of plant parts

