

**Botanic name :** *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia* Viv.

**Common name :** Tex-mex Tobacco, curled-leaved tobacco, Ban Tamak (Bengali)

**Family :** Solanaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native to west Indies & Mexico; naturalized/introduced in tropics, sub-tropics, often in invasive form

**Description :** An annual erect viscid-pubescent branched semi-shrub; leaves radical and cauline. sessile, variable in size & shape such as elliptic-oblong/lanceolate/entire/wavy, cuneate to decurrent. Flowers whitish to pinkish, arranged in a panicles lax, pedicillate: Pedicel glandular-pubescent. Calyx 7-9 mm long, nervose; lobes linear-lanceolate. Corolla tube with five lobes, total 3.5-4.0 cm long, limb 10 mm broad; acute. Anthers shorter than filaments. Fruit capsule 8-10 mm long, in the persistent calyx. Seeds subglobose to angular, minutely rugose-reticulate, brown.

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids, tannins, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, polyphenolics, terpenoids

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Diuretic, expectorant, antispasmodic, antibacterial (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Pseudomonas* spp ), antiradical; widely used in the treatment of ailments like rheumatism, piles, skin disorder, swelling. Dried leaves are used in the treatment of nausea and travel sickness. Leaf juice for skin diseases. Veterinary medicine, ground leaves as germicide for animal wounds. [CRC World Dictionary of MEDICINAL AND POISONOUS PLANTS]. Plant methanoic extract has been used as folk medicine for treatment of oxidative damage in liver of chicks. In Assam, India, the Karbi tribes use plant rinds & crushed leaves as leech repellent and leaf paste as repellent against poison. Inhabitants at Imphal valley of Manipur, India use leaf in toothache and as insecticide.