

**Botanic name :** *Osbeckia stellata* Buch.Ham, ex Ker Gawl.

**Common name:** Starry osbeckia

**Family:** Melastomataceae

**Habitat:** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native to India, found in Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, NE India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam. It is also present in Sillery Gaon village of Darjeeling.

**Description:** Herbs or shrublets, erect, Stems 4(or 6)-sided, Leaves opposite or 3 verticillate;; leaf blade oblong-lanceolate, Inflorescences terminal racemose or paniced cymose, Hypanthium usually purple to dark purple, 1-2.3 cm, with several rows of up to 2.5 mm setiform stellate trichomes on stalks. Petals 4, pink to purple, obovate, Capsule long urceolate, contracted at middle with rows of setiform stellate trichomes on stalks, ± glabrous in old specimens or basally setose.

**Phytochemicals:** Phenolics, tannin, alkaloids, flavonoids, coumarin, saponin, glycosides, steroids, anthraquinone

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Traditionally, a decoction of the roots is used as folk remedy for a variety of ailments, including diabetes mellitus. Paste of leaves have antioxidant activities.