

**Botanic name :** *Hydrolea zeylanica* Vahl-- Symb. Bot. (Vahl) ii. 46. 1791 (IK)

**Common name :** Cdeylon hydrolea, blue water leaf, water olive, Langali (Sanskrit), Isalangulia, Kasschra (Bengali)

**Family :** Hydrophyllaceae/Hydroleaceae

**Habitat :** Aquatic, prefers swampy or inundated localities

**Distribution :** Australia, India, China, Indonesia, Malayasia, Laos, Myanmar; Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Viet Nam; sensitive to water pollution, dry climate; although 'least concern' tagged by IUCN Red Data List, climate change is an impending threat to its existence

More read: Gupta, A.K. 2011. *Hydrolea zeylanica*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2011: e.T168935A6550745. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2011-1.RLTS.T168935A6550745.en>.

**Description :** An annual aquatic herb, ascending or prostrate, laxly branched; leaves simple, alternate, linear lanceolate, acute at apex, shortly petioled; flowers bright blue, numerous, arranged in solitary axillary raceme; sepals 5, hairy, green, oblong-linear, hairy, often persistent; petals deeply partite; stamens 5, inserted into the corolla throat, alternipetalous, anthers deeply sagitate at base; ovary superior, 2-celled, styles 2, widely divergent, stigma club-shaped, capitate; fruit capsule, ellipsoid, surrounded by the persistent calyx-lobes, contains numerous small seeds

**Phytochemicals:** flavanoids - kaempferol and quercetin (shoots)

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Antibiotic and the extract of entire plants is applied externally in cutaneous affections, antiseptic, against callus, poultice and sore. In southern Assam, India, leaves and twigs used for diabetes. In Ayurveda, leaf poultice used for ulcers. The leaves are beaten into pulp and applied as poultice as it is believed to have a cleansing and healing effect on neglected and callous ulcers. Plant parts are also hypoglycemic and anti protozoan. In NE Bangladesh, Chakma tribals use the herb to treat pain. In traditional Cambodia medicine, the leaves are used in treating intestinal disorder, while leaf macerate are used to treat ulcers for its soothing effects. The herb is also used as leafy vegetables.