

Botanic name : *Asteracantha longifolia* Nees.

Common Name : Kokilaaksha

Family : Acanthaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Tropical and subtropical region, origin in Indian subcontinent

Description : Robust, erect annual herb, stem sub-quadrangular with thickened nodes, leaves oblanceolate, flowers pale purple-blue, densely clustered in axils, fruits glabrous, capsule.

Phytochemicals: phytosterols, fatty acids, minerals, polyphenols, proanthocyanins, mucilage, alkaloids, enzymes, amino acids, carbohydrates, hydrocarbons, flavonoids, terpenoids, vitamins, and glycosides

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antioxidant, refrigerant, diuretic, analgesic, antitumor, antipyretic, anthelmintic, antidiabetic, also used as general tonic, in treating asthma, jaundice, liver ailments, cough, bladder stone, gonorrhoea, acid reflux, etc.