

Botanic name : *Hypoestes triflora* Roem. & Schult. -- Syst. Veg., ed. 15 bis [Roemer & Schultes] 1: 141. 1817 [Jan-Jun 1817] (IK)

Common name : Pink Ribbon Bush

Family : Acanthaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, African countries

Description : Annual decumbent herb, 1 m tall, much branched; stems 4-angled, sulcate, strigose; petiolate; petiole 1-3 cm, pubescent; leaf ovate, ovate-elliptic, or oblong, both surfaces sparsely pubescent, secondary veins 4-7 on each side of mid vein, acuminate at apex, cuneate at base, minutely crenate to denticulate at margin. Cymes pedunculate in leaf axils and/or in axils of subleaflike bracts distally or in a terminal cluster; outer pair of bracteoles elliptic to obovate to oblanceolate, abaxially pilose, rounded to acute at apex, cuneate at base; inner pair of bracteoles linear-lanceolate to oblanceolate, smaller, acute at apex, connate at base. Calyx 5-lobed almost to base; lobes linear-lanceolate. Corolla white to pink with maroon markings, outside pubescent; tube basally cylindrical; lip in lower position lanceolate, apex slightly 2-lobed; lip in upper position oblong; ovary pubescent; style glabrous; stigma unequally 2-lobed; fruit-capsule, pubescent

Phytochemicals: Phenolic glycosides, irridoides, alkaloids and diterpenes, allantoin, beta-sitosterol, daucosterol, octadecanoic acid, xanthoxylin,

Medicinal/Economic uses : Hepatoprotective (frequently used in Rwandese native medicine to treat hepatic diseases), anti-anaemic and anti-cancer. Also used to treat heart palpitations, amoebic dysentery and gastralgia, snakebites, food poisoning, and also to strengthen the immune system in people affected by HIV/AIDS.