

**Botanic name** : *Jasminum sambac* (L.) Aiton-- Hort. Kew. [W. Aiton] 1: 8. 1789 (IK)

**Common name** : Arabian Jasmine, Mallikaa, Nava-Mallikaa (Ayurveda), Beli, Sampaguita (Indonesia)

**Family** : Oleaceae

**Habitat** : Terrestrial

**Distribution** : Bhutan, India, Bangladesh, China, SE Asia

**Description** : Perennial scandent or sub erect shrub; branchlets pubescent; leaves opposite or in whorls of three, entire margin, elliptic or broad elliptic to sub-orbicular, obtuse or acute at apex, glabrous, shining above; nerves prominent beneath; petiole short, pubescent; flowers fragrant, in few-flowered terminal cymes, white, pedicellate; bracteates; bracts linear, up to 6 mm long; calyx teeth 5-9, V-shaped, pubescent; corolla white, simple or double, lobes 5-9, oblong, acute or obtuse; fruit -berry simple or didymous, globose

**Phytochemicals**: Essential oil contains cis jasmone, linalool, cis-3-hexenyl acetate, benzyl acetate, benzyl alcohol, cis-3-hexenyl benzoate, methyl anthranilate, cis-3-hexenol, methyl salicylate, indole,  $\alpha$ -franasene, linalyl acetate,  $\alpha$ -cadinol and  $\beta$ -elemene; coumarins, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, phenolics, saponins, and steroids.

**Medicinal/Economic uses** : Analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anesthetic. Leaves are antiamoebic, astringent, febrifuge and galactofuge. Stems are used as an antipyretic and in the treatment of abscesses. Sambac oil is antidepressant, aphrodisiac, anesthetic, antispasmodic, antibacterial, analgesic, sedative, antiseptic, expectorant, anti-inflammatory, antinociceptive, carminative, uplifting, uterine tonic, cicatrisant, parturient, stimulating, lactifuge and antitumor. Flowers, leaves and the roots are widely used in Ayurvedic healing for treating ophthalmic problems, ulcer, headache, epilepsy, insanity, fever, impotency, wounds, leprosy, vomiting, gactorrhoea, itches and few other skin problems. In Philippines, this is the national flower and used as herbal remedy for fractures, fever, abdominal distention, diarrhea, swelling of the eyes and sprains. The flower can suppress puerperal lactation while whole plant is used to treat weakness of sight and affections of the mouth. In India, fresh juice of the ground flowers are used in treating sores, itching and wounds and the medicated root paste is used in treating labour pain in rural areas since centuries. Used against indolent and Brest tumour. In NE Bangladesh, Chakmas used leaves for menstrual disorders. Fragrant flowers are used in making ceremonial garlands, crowns and other decorations on special occasions and as offerings to God in India, Indonesia and Philippines and are worn as hair ornaments by Indian women especially after marriage for its natural aphrodisiac, euphoric and sensual properties. Infusion of young leaves are used for curing gallstones and the root infusion are ingested to cure diabetes mellitus in Borneo. Also been used for culinary purposes especially in making puddings, candies, teas, desserts, liqueurs and dairy products. In Chinese system of medicines, the plant is used in curing diarrhea and dysentery, conjunctivitis, skin ulcers, tumors and fever while the roots are reportedly effective against insomnia, severe pain, headache, and inflammation due to broken bones or dislocated joints. The dried Jasmine flowers are used in making herbal tea in China. Ornamental and one of the most expensive herbs in many countries for perfumery.