

**Botanic name :** *Cestrum diurnum* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 191. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

**Common name :** Day Jasmine, Banhana (Bengali)

**Family :** Solanaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Tropical America (West Indies); now throughout tropics

**Description :** An erect evergreen perennial shrub, branches with white lenticels, young parts glandular; leaves dark green above, pale below, ovate-lanceolate, obtuse, glabrous; flowers white, scented in axillary cymes; inflorescence pedunculate bearing clusters of flowers, subtended by leaf-like bracts; calyx small, 5-lobed, ciliate; corolla tubular, lobes 5, reflexed; stamens 5, included; ovary 2-celled, style slender, stigma capitate; fruits berry, globose

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids, anthraquinones, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, phenolic compound, tannins and terpenoids, essential oils (palmitic acid, myristic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid), steroidal saponins- diurnoside,  $\beta$ -amyrin and  $\beta$ -sitosterol, ursolic acid

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Cytotoxic, thrombolytic, hypolipidemic, antibacterial, antifungal (inhibit spore germination and mycelia growth), and antioxidant. Leaves are source of vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, having calcinogenic potential. Plants are the potential source of bioactive compounds as mosquito larvicidal, insecticidal and piscicidal. Ornamental. Often used in house hold garden borders.