

Botanic name : *Roylea elegans* Wall.-- Pl. Asiat. Rar. (Wallich). 1: 57, t. 74. 1830 (IK)

Common name : Ashy Roylea

Family : Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Indian Himalayas from Kashmir to Nepal at 1200-3700m, msl. Becoming threatened due to grazing, forest degradation, road construction and other infrastructural development without sustainable conservation

Description : Aromatic herb; stems erect, 4-angled; leaves simple, dark green with lemon like odor and bitter taste, ovate, toothed to almost lobed, hairy upper and lower surface, acute at apex; flowers pinkish-white, arranged in a spike, bracteates; bracts linear-subulate; sepals sub-equal, elegant, oblong-elliptic, narrowed at base, persistent and sparsely enlarging in fruits; corolla white to pinkish-white, 2-lipped, upper lip enlarged, hairy, lower lobes 3, median marginally larger; stamens 4, didynamous, epipetalous; carpels 2, stigma bifid; fruits nutlets-cerise, flat at the tip

Phytochemicals: Polyphenolic compounds, flavonoids, phytosterols, beta-amyrin, betulin, calyone, l-arabinose, oleic acid, palmitic acid, moronic acid

Medicinal/Economic uses : Hepatoprotective, antioxidant, febrifuge, antilepileptic. Crushed leaves are given to infants against jaundice (India)