

Botanic name : *Lantana camara* L. -- Sp. Pl. 2: 627. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Chhotra, big-sage (Malaysia), wild-sage, red-sage, white-sage (Caribbean), tickberry (South Africa)

Family : Verbenaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to tropical America; widespread in pantropics; aggressively invasive inhibiting native floral growth and development due to its high allelopathic potential on native species, forest range and crop plants; considered one of the 100 worst invasive species in the world incurring huge financial, social and environmental loss every year. In addition to this, it increases the risk of fire, is poisonous to livestock and is a host for numerous pests and diseases. *L. camara* is difficult to control. In Australia, India and South Africa aggressive measures to eradicate *L. camara* over the last two centuries have been largely unsuccessful, and the invasion trajectory has continued upwards despite control measures (CABI-ISC, retrieved on 31/12/17). More read- <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/29771>

Description : A small perennial shrub which can grow to around 2 m tall and form dense thickets and recurved spinous hair on stems and branches; leaves serrated, ovate to ovate-lanceolate; flowers in many ecotypic color- yellow, whitish and pink, later turning orange then red, arranged in a condensed spike; Fruit is a round, fleshy, 2 seeded drupe, about 5 mm wide, green turning purple then blue-black

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, polyphenols, tannins, saponins, terpenoids, phlobetanins, coumarin

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antifungal, anti proliferative and antimicrobial. Also used for the treatment of cancers, chicken pox, measles, asthma, ulcers, swellings, eczema, tumors, high blood pressure, bilious fevers, catarrhal infections, tetanus, rheumatism, malaria and atoxy of abdominal viscera. Extracts from the leaves exhibit antimicrobial, insecticidal and nematocidal activity and also contain verbascoside, which possesses antimicrobial, immunosuppressive and antitumor activities. Biofuels, Fuelwood. Initially introduced by British in Indian Botanic Garden as an ornamental which escaped from garden and now is widespread as invasive and alien taxa.