

Botanic Name: *Solanum nigrum* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 186. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name: Black nightshade, Kakmachhi (Bengali), Nitnani (SamVeda)

Family: Solanaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to Eurasia; distributed in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and American continent. High seed germination and allelopathic effects on native flora drives its invasive potential

Description: Perennial undershrub; stem branches lax, ovate to lanceolate leaves, wavy margins; flowers white, small, arranged in extraaxillary raceme; calyx connate below; corolla white, connate below; stamens 5, alternipetalous; styles hairy, ovary obliquely placed; fruit with persistent calyx, berry

Medicinal/Economic uses: Anti-inflammatory, antihepatic, anti-diarrheal, antipyretic, antioxidant, anti-hyperlipidemic, blood purifier, diuretic, narcotic, diaphoretic, anodyne, expectorant alternative. The herb is useful in measles, cardiac pain, liver and spleen enlargement, dropsy, arthritis, chronic fever, ulcer, jaundice, asthma, cough, earache, piles, leucoderma, gouts, itching, eczema, stomachache, and sleep disorder. The gum is used for the treatment of bronchitis, inflammation, heavy female discharge and wounds.