

Botanic name : *Eupatorium odoratum* L.

Family: Asteraceae (Compositae)

Common name: Christmas bush

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to North America, from Florida and Texas to Mexico and the Caribbean, and has been introduced to tropical Asia, West Africa, and parts of Australia. This plant is enlisted as worst invasive flora in India (IUCN-ISDB).

Description: Aromatic shrub; covered in fine grey hairs; stems rounded; leaves give off a pungent, aromatic odour when crushed. The leaves are opposite, triangular to elliptical blades ovate to diamond shaped, cuncate, with yellow dots below; flowers pale mauve or violet, tubular flowers are in panicles of 10 to 35 flowers that form at the ends of branches.

Phytochemicals: Tannins, sterols, coumarin, quinones, cardiacglycosides, terpenoids, steroids, phenols, polyphenol oxidase

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antibacterial, insecticidal; used as a traditional medicine in India, Indonesia. The young leaves are crushed, and the resulting liquid can be used to treat skin wounds.