

**Botanic name:** *Justicia simplex* D. Don -- Prodr. Fl. Nepal. 118. 1825 (IK)

**Common name:** Water willow, Jagotmodon (Bengali)

**Family:** Acanthaceae

**Habitat:** Terrestrial

**Distribution:** It grows in moist places. The specimen is found in India, Malaysia and also in Nepal.

**Description:** An erect perennial slender herb with rooting at the lower nodes; branches divaricate; leaves are ovate, variable, obtuse at apex; flowers small, pale-violet, pinkish-white arranged in terminal or axillary spikes; bracts and bracteoles are longer than the calyx; fruits-capsules, hairy, oblong with pointed apex

**Phychemicals:** Bitter and slightly toxic alkaloids (apigenin, kaempferitrin, vitexin, jusbetonin, vasicinone, allantoin, quininedoline), phytosterols (campesterol, stigmasterol, sitosterol-D-glucoside,  $\alpha$  &  $\beta$ - sitosterol, aromatic amines, tannins, terpenoids (iridoids, diterpenoids, and triterpenoids), flavonoids, coumarin (umbeliferone), justicisaponin

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Diuretic, stomachic, antibacterial, anti ulcer, anti-inflammatory, anti cancer, antinociceptive, expectorant, antifertility, macrophage regulator, antidiabetic, bronchodialator, anthelmintic, diaphoretic; removes indigestion, strengthens the lungs, stops vomiting, asthma, cough, rheumatism (plant infusion), flatulence; used in treatment of spleen biliousness, ophthalmia (leaf juice), fever and burning of the body. Also used in herbal tooth powder