

Botanic name : *Ipomoea purpurea* Roth -- Bot. Abh. 27. (IK)

Common name : Common or Tall Morning glory

Family : Convolvulaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial climber

Distribution : Native to Central America - Mexico to the West Indies.; distributed in Indian Himalayas; now pan tropical

Description : Annual climber up to 2.5 m tall; stems cylindrical, slender, pilose or hirsute brownish; leaves lush green, showy, cordate or 3-lobed; the lobes ovate oblanceolate, chartaceous, strigulose on both surfaces, acuminate at apex, cordiform at the base, entire or slightly sinuate at the margins, ciliate; alternately arranged, acute at apices, hairy; flowers trumpet shaped, large, opening in the morning and closing by dusk, richly purple arranged in clusters; peduncles longer than the petioles; bracteate; bracts subulate, not forming an involucre; Calyx of 5 subequal sepals, chartaceous, oblong lanceolate; stamens - Included, pink; stigmas pink, not exerted; fruits globular, papery capsules; seeds 4 per fruit, pyriform

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids-ergoline, indolizidine, nortropine; isocoumarin and benzenoids flavonoids, phenolic compounds, diterpene, coumarins, antocyanosides, glycolipids, lignan and triterpenes

Medicinal/Economic uses : Seeds are anthelmintic, diuretic, laxative, and used in the treatment of oedema, ascariasis, oliguria, constipation and mental disorder through its hallucinogenic property. Antimicrobial, antiviral (against Herpes Simplex-1), spasmolytic, spasmogenic, hypotensive, psychotomimetic and anticancer. In African-Brazilian rituals, seeds are crushed, mixed with water and taken before deity. Sap obtained from the crushed leaves is drunk to relieve dysentery and applied to on sores, wrapped with leaves. Plants are hallucinogenic; in Central America, people have been using the plant along with other spp of *Ipomoea* to achieve a state of mind for divination during religious ceremonies and magical healing practices. Plant infusions are employed as diuretic, to stop hemorrhage (Bolivia), and as purgative to treat syphilis (Africa). Ornamental in many countries but becomes invasive if not controlled.