

Botanic name : *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia* Viv. -- Elench. Pl. (Viviani) 26. 1802 [2-6 Jul 1802] (IK)

Common name : Tex-mex tobacco, Ban Tamak (Bengali)

Family : Solanaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Mexico, parts of the Caribbean, and western and southern South America Pantropics, often in invasive form in parts of South Asia including India

Description : An erect, annual, viscid-hairy herb with lax branching; stems solid, round, densely hairy; leaves linear-lanceolate, basal leaves ovate to oblanceolate, simple, alternate, wavy at margin, acute at apex, cuneate to decurrent at base, exstipulate; flowers pinkish-white, long, tubular, ebracteate, bisexual, arranged in a lax raceme, axillary; sepals 5, connate, nervose; corolla tubular; anthers 5, adnate with corolla tube below, shorter than filaments, ± oblong; carpels 2, placentation axile, ovary obliquely placed; fruits capsule ovoid, ± included in the persistent calyx; seeds subglobose to angular, minutely rugose-reticulate, brown.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, tannins, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, polyphenolics, terpenoids

Medicinal/Economic uses : Diuretic, expectorant, antispasmodic, antibacterial (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Pseudomonas* spp), antiradical; widely used in the treatment of ailments like rheumatism, piles, skin disorder, swelling. Dried leaves are used in the treatment of nausea and travel sickness. Leaf juice for skin diseases. Veterinary medicine, ground leaves as germicide for animal wounds. [CRC World Dictionary of MEDICINAL AND POISONOUS PLANTS]. Plant methanoic extract has been used as folk medicine for treatment of oxidative damage in liver of chicks. In Assam, India, the Karbi tribes use plant rinds & crushed leaves as leech repellent and leaf paste as repellent against poison. Inhabitants at Imphal valley of Manipur, India use leaf in toothache and as insecticide.