

An overview of Datura inoxia, a Plant with Medicinal Values

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ABSTRACT

Datura inoxia is a shrub that grows annually up to two meter high. The stems of the plant are semi woody and the plant dies in dry environmental conditions in the ground annually. The leaves are alternate and all parts are having foul smell. Datura inoxia is commonly known as safed datura or downy thorn apple or sacred datura. Datura belongs to Kingdom-Plantae, Phylum-Magnoliophyta, Class-Magnoliopsida, Order-Solanales and Family- Solanaceae. Datura inoxia was originated in the Southwest America and Mexico. It is grown for commercial use in India, Central America, North Africa and England. Datura is used to cure respiratory ailments like asthma due to atropine in it. Dried leaves and flowering tops of Datura are known for antispasmodic and narcotic properties. It cures elephantiasis, eye diseases, insanity, rheumatism and ear ache. Datura inoxia is used as antispasmodic, hallucinogenic, anodyne, narcotic and hypnotic etc. It is also used in the treatment of diarrhea, ulcers, scabies, piles, fever with catarrh, baldness with skin diseases and malaria. Traditionally it is used in the treatment of poisonous insect bite and rabid dog bites. Among the several alkaloids found in Datura plant, the most active was scopolamine.