

TABERNAEMONTANA DIVARICATA (Linn.) R. Br.

PANDAKAKING-TSINA

Nerium divaricatum Linn
Tabernaemontana coronaria Willd.

Common names: *Rosa de hielo* (Sp.); *pandakaking-Tsina* (Tag.); *East Indian rose-bay*, *wax-flower plant*, *Ceylon jasmine* (Engl.).

Pandakaking-Tsina is cultivated in Manila and large towns in the Philippines for its flowers. Its original home is unknown, but it is now cultivated in most tropical countries. It is of recent introduction in the Philippines.

This is an erect, smooth, much-branched shrub 2 to 3 meters in height, with abundant, milky sap. The leaves are opposite, those of each pair unequal, glossy, elliptic-ovate to elliptic-oblong, 6 to 15 centimeters long, and pointed at both ends. The flowers are usually double, white, fragrant, and borne singly or in pairs on peduncles at the axils of the leaves. The corolla-tube is about 2 centimeters long and the limb is spreading, about 5 centimeters in diameter, and yellow at the center.

According to Nadkarni, the root contains resin, extractive matter, and a bitter alkaloid. The milky juice contains caoutchouc and resin.

Nadkarni says that in India, the root is a local anodyne. The root or the root-bark is chewed for the relief of toothache. The root-bark is anthelmintic. The root, rubbed with water into a thin paste, acts as a vermicide; the same, mixed with lime-juice, is applied to remove opacities of the cornea and other eye-diseases. The milky juice of the leaves is dropped into the eye to cure ophthalmia; it is also a cooling application to irritable surfaces, and relieves wounds by preventing inflammation. Ridley says that a decoction of the leaves is given for coughs.

Dymock, Warden, and Hooper quote Rheedee, who says that the milky juice, mixed with oil, is rubbed into the head to cure pain in the eyes.

Nadkarni adds that the juice of the flowers mixed with oil is used to relieve the burning sensation of sore eyes, and that it is used in skin diseases.