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Review on Malabar jasmine-*Jasminum malabaricum* Wight. (Oleaceae)

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Abstract

The flowering plant species *Jasminum malabaricum* belongs to the family Oleaceae and is indigenous to Sri Lanka and southern India. Commonly known as Malabar jasmine hence; it is found in Malabar areas of Kerala. This fragrant climber with white blooms is well-known for its anti-tumour and blood-purifying benefits in traditional medicine. The natural population of this species has decreased as a result of heavy exploitation. *Jasminum malabaricum* finds application in the cosmetic and detergent industries, as well as in the treatment of cataracts and as a blood purifier. It is well-known for its antibacterial, antioxidant, blood-purifying, and anticancer effects in traditional medicine. Additionally, crushed leaves of this plant are applied externally to wounds and used as a treatment for eye infections. This article aims to provide an updated review on ethnobotanical and phytopharmacological properties of *Jasminum malabaricum* and to stimulate new studies about this species.

Keywords: Jasminum malabaricum, Malabar jasmine, Oleaceae, traditional medicine

Introduction

Taxonomical Classification [19]

Kingdom: Plantae.
Phylum: Tracheophyta.
Class: Magnoliopsida.
Order: Lamiales.

Family: Oleaceae.
Genus: Jasminum.

• **Species:** Malabaricum Wight.

Synonym

Jasminum latifolium Grah. Non Roxb [15].

Common names [17, 19]

English: Malabar jasmine, wild jasmine.
 Malayalam: kadambavalli, kaatumulla [16].

Tamil: kotivakai.Marathi: kusar.

Kannada: Kadu mallige. Sanskrit: Mudgara.

Plant description

Growing up to 3-5 meters tall, it is a huge climber. A woody stem's thickness is 4 cm. Slender branches trail and spread out. Bushes with a scandalous appearance. Simple membranous leaves with an opposite arrangement measure 8-10 x 6-7.2 cm. They are elliptical in shape, with an abruptly acuminate apex and a truncate or subcordate base. The base of the leaf can be spherical or heart-shaped, and its lateral nerves are slender, with 8-9 pairs of them. The petiole is 1 cm long and jointed above the base. A profusion of fragrant white flowers can be found in numerous flowered, lax, trichotomously branched terminal cymes. Up to 50 blooms can be found in a single cyme, with branched cymes at the

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termination of branches and linear, subulate bracts measuring 6 to 8 mm in length and pedicels of the same. Lobes 5-7, subulate, pubescent, calyx 1.2 cm long. Petals are lance-shaped, 6-10 cm long, and spreading. White corolla with tube Lobes 6-10, sharp, lanceolate, or oblong, 2 cm long. Fruit ovoid, 1-1.2 x 0.8-1 cm, drying black, either alone or in pairs [18, 19].

Flowering and Fruiting

February - November [17].

Habitat

Grown in scrub jungles, deciduous woodlands, and semievergreen forests. It is utilized in worship and is often found planted close to temples [17, 19].

Distribution

Originating in southern India and Sri Lanka, it can be found in the Deccan, West Coast, Nilgiris, and Western Ghats of India. This one is extremely uncommon in India's northern regions [17, 19].

- Andhra Pradesh: Common on hills.
- **Kerala:** Districts like Kasargod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Palakkad.
- Maharashtra: All districts.
- Odisha: Common on hills.
- Tamil Nadu: Common on hills.

Medicinal use

In addition, *Jasminum malabaricum* has uses in the detergent and cosmetic sectors, as well as in the treatment of cataracts and as a blood purifier. It is well-known for its ethnomedical uses, which include blood purification, antioxidant, antibacterial, and anti-tumour effects ^[2, 18]. This species' natural population has decreased as a result of heavy exploitation. Because of these characteristics, callus culture research was done using Murashige and Skoog media with various BAP, NAA, and 2,4D combinations and concentrations. When utilized as explants for callus growth, the leaves and stem segments showed a marked response in the production of callus ^[6, 18].

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