

Vinca Rosea (*Catharanthus roseus*)

Distribution

Catharanthus roseus is an important medicinal plant. It is commonly known as Madagascar periwinkle, or sadabahar. It is widely distributed in India, China, Indonesia, Phillipines, Madagascar, South Africa, USA and Australia. It is found in rainforest of south eastern and eastern Madagascar in tropical and subtropical areas of world.

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| Kingdom | Plantae |
| Phylum | Angiosperms |
| Class | Asterids |
| Order | Gentianales |
| Family | apocynaceae |
| Genus | Catharanthus |
| Species | <i>C. roseus</i> |

Plant Description

C. roseus is evergreen small shrub whose shoot length has been reported to be upto 1m. Leaves of the plant are oval to oblong in shape which are 2.5-9 cm long and 1-3.5 cm broad, glossy green in colour with pale midrib and short petiole which are arranged in opposite pair. The plant also exhibits self pollination. As indicated by its common name sadabahar the plant is known to flower throughout the year.

Phytochemicals

| Parts of plant | Biochemical compounds |
|----------------|---|
| Leaf | Catharanthine, vinblastine, vincristine, leurosine ,lochnerine, vindoline |
| Stem | Leurosine, lochnerine, catharanthine, vindoline |
| Root | Catharanthine , vindoline, leurosine, reserpine, alstonine |
| Flower | Catharanthine, vindoline, leurosine , lochnerine, tricin |

Medicinal and Therapeutic Uses

| Alkaloid | Role |
|---------------|--|
| Vinblastine | Helpful in treatment of number of types of cancer |
| Vincristine | Also treat various cancer like acute myloid leukemia, hodgkin's disease, neuroblastoma and small lung cancer |
| Catharanthine | Catharanthine is precursor pf anti-tumor drugs |
| Reserpine | Use for the control of high blood pressure , controlling heart rate |

