

Buddleja asiatica



Family: Buddlejaceae

Local/common names:
Dog tail, Neemda (Hindi),
Agiachita (Assam), Bhati,
Dhaura (Kumaun) and
Bana (Shimla)

Trade name: Data not
available

Profile:

Buddleja, often spelt *Buddleia*, is now placed in a family of its own, though in the past it was placed in Loganiaceae. The plant was named after the English botanist Reverend Adam Buddle. This shrub is 2-3 tall with dull green leaves and flowers borne in dense spikes. The plant is used as an abortifacient and to cure dermatosis and other skin diseases. It is found to be effective in the treatment of inflammation and malaria. The plant is used as a poison and an intoxicant also. The dried and powdered root is used in the preparation of fermented liquor. The flowers, which are produced in the winter, have a strong aroma like freesias. It propagates naturally by wind-borne seeds.

Habitat and ecology: The plant commonly inhabits moist pastures, forests, roadsides and wastelands. It also occurs in woodlands in areas with moderate shade. It is found in Eastern Asia from India to the Philippines. In India, it has been found in Sikkim at an altitude of 2200-2300 m.

Morphology: The shrub is 2-3 m tall, with serrulate, alternate leaves that are whitish and pubescent beneath. The flowers are borne in dense terminal panicles (10-50 cm long) and can be white, pink or yellow in colour. The fruit is a small capsule (1-2 cm long).

Distinguishing features: The plant has dull green leaves with winged seeds.

Life cycle: It is in leaf all year and flowers from January-April.

Uses: The plant is used in traditional Chinese medicine as an anti-inflammatory drug. The dried and powdered root is used in the preparation of fermented liquor. The plant has been used as an abortifacient and also in the treatment of skin conditions. The wood is moderately hard and is used for making walking sticks.

Market rate: Data not available