

***Alstonia scholaris* (L.) R.Br.**

Family: Apocynaceae

Bengali/tribal name: Chhatim

English name: Devil Tree, Blackboard Tree

Alstonia scholaris, commonly known as the devil's tree or dita tree, is a medicinal plant with a long history of use in traditional medicine, particularly in Ayurvedic and traditional Chinese medicine. Here are some of its well-documented medicinal properties:



1. **Antimalarial:** *Alstonia scholaris* has been used traditionally to treat malaria. Studies have shown that extracts from the bark of the tree possess antimalarial properties.
2. **Antimicrobial:** The plant has demonstrated significant antimicrobial activity against a variety of pathogens, including bacteria and fungi. This makes it useful in treating infections.
3. **Anti-inflammatory:** The plant exhibits anti-inflammatory properties, which can help in reducing inflammation and treating related conditions like arthritis and rheumatism.
4. **Antipyretic:** *Alstonia scholaris* is known for its fever-reducing (antipyretic) properties. It is often used in traditional medicine to bring down fevers.
5. **Respiratory health:** The bark of the tree is used to treat respiratory ailments such as asthma, bronchitis, and cough. It is believed to help in clearing the respiratory tract and alleviating symptoms.
6. **Digestive health:** *Alstonia scholaris* is used to treat various digestive issues, including dyspepsia, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. It helps in improving digestion and alleviating gastrointestinal problems.
7. **Immunomodulatory:** Extracts from the plant have shown potential in modulating the immune system, making it useful in enhancing overall immunity and potentially in treating autoimmune conditions.
8. **Anti-ulcer:** The plant has demonstrated gastroprotective effects and is used in the treatment of gastric ulcers. It helps in reducing ulceration and promoting healing of the stomach lining.

9. **Wound healing:** *Alstonia scholaris* is used in traditional medicine to promote wound healing. Its extracts are applied to cuts, wounds, and skin infections to facilitate healing and prevent infection.
10. **Cancer treatment:** Some studies suggest that *Alstonia scholaris* has potential anticancer properties. Compounds from the plant have shown cytotoxic effects against certain cancer cell lines, indicating its potential in cancer therapy.

While these medicinal properties are promising, it is essential to use *Alstonia scholaris* under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional, especially since some compounds in the plant can be toxic if not used properly. More clinical studies are needed to fully understand its efficacy and safety in modern medicine.