

## ***Calotropis gigantea* (L.) W.T.Aiton**

Family: Apocynaceae

Bengali/tribal name: Akanda

English name: Giant Milkweed, Crown Flower,  
Ivory Plant

*Calotropis gigantea*, also known as giant milkweed or crown flower, is a plant that has been extensively used in traditional medicine across various cultures due to its wide range of medicinal properties. Here are some of its reported medicinal uses:



1. **Anti-inflammatory Properties:** *Calotropis gigantea* contains bioactive compounds that exhibit potent anti-inflammatory effects. It has been traditionally used to alleviate inflammation associated with conditions such as arthritis, rheumatism, and skin irritations. The plant's anti-inflammatory properties may help reduce pain and swelling.
2. **Antimicrobial and Antiparasitic Effects:** *Calotropis gigantea* exhibits significant antimicrobial and antiparasitic properties. Its extracts have been used to treat various bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections. It may help combat skin infections, gastrointestinal infections, and parasitic infestations such as intestinal worms.
3. **Wound Healing:** *Calotropis gigantea* extracts have been applied topically to promote wound healing. Its antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and wound-contraction properties help prevent infection, reduce inflammation, and accelerate the healing process when applied to wounds, cuts, burns, and ulcers.
4. **Anticancer Potential:** Some studies suggest that *Calotropis gigantea* may have anticancer properties. Its bioactive compounds have demonstrated cytotoxic effects on cancer cells in laboratory studies. *Calotropis gigantea* extracts may help inhibit the growth of cancer cells and induce apoptosis (programmed cell death), making it a potential candidate for cancer therapy.

5. **Cardiovascular Support:** *Calotropis gigantea* is believed to have cardio-protective effects. It may help regulate blood pressure, improve circulation, and reduce the risk of heart disease. Its vasodilatory properties may help dilate blood vessels, thereby promoting cardiovascular health.
6. **Respiratory Health:** In some traditional medicine systems, *Calotropis gigantea* is used to treat respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, and coughs. It is believed to have expectorant properties that help loosen mucus and facilitate its expulsion from the respiratory tract, thereby easing breathing difficulties.
7. **Analgesic Effects:** *Calotropis gigantea* has been used traditionally as a pain reliever. It may help alleviate various types of pain, including headaches, muscle pain, and joint pain, due to its analgesic properties.
8. **Fever Reduction:** *Calotropis gigantea* has been traditionally used to reduce fever. It may help lower body temperature and alleviate fever symptoms associated with infections and inflammatory conditions.
9. **Gastrointestinal Health:** *Calotropis gigantea* has been used to support digestive health and treat gastrointestinal disorders such as indigestion, bloating, and diarrhea. It may help regulate bowel movements and alleviate gastrointestinal discomfort.
10. **Antioxidant Activity:** *Calotropis gigantea* is rich in antioxidants, including flavonoids and phenolic compounds. These antioxidants help neutralize harmful free radicals in the body, protect cells from oxidative damage, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

While *Calotropis gigantea* offers numerous potential health benefits, it's essential to use it under the guidance of a qualified healthcare practitioner, especially if you have any underlying health conditions or are taking medications. Certain parts of the plant, particularly the latex, can be toxic if ingested in large quantities and may cause adverse effects. As with any herbal remedy, individual responses may vary, and it's advisable to consult with a healthcare professional before incorporating *Calotropis gigantea* into your healthcare regimen.