

## ***Datura stramonium* L.**

Family: Solanaceae

Bengali/tribal name: Dhutro

English name: Thorn apple

*Datura stramonium*, commonly known as Jimson weed, Thorn apple, or Devil's snare, has been historically used in traditional medicine for various purposes. However, it's important to note that all parts of this plant contain potentially toxic alkaloids, including scopolamine, hyoscyamine, and atropine, and should be used with extreme caution or under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional.

Here are some of its traditional medicinal uses:



1. **Analgesic Properties:** Despite its toxicity, *Datura stramonium* has been used in some cultures for its analgesic properties. In certain traditional medicine systems, extracts or poultices made from the leaves or seeds of *Datura stramonium* have been applied topically to alleviate pain associated with conditions such as rheumatism, arthritis, and neuralgia.
2. **Respiratory Conditions:** In some traditional practices, *Datura stramonium* has been used to relieve respiratory issues such as asthma, bronchitis, and coughs. Inhalation of smoke from burning *Datura stramonium* seeds or leaves has been employed to alleviate respiratory symptoms, although this practice is highly dangerous and not recommended due to the plant's toxicity.
3. **Antispasmodic Properties:** *Datura stramonium* has been used traditionally as an antispasmodic agent to relax smooth muscles. It has been employed to alleviate muscle spasms, cramps, and gastrointestinal discomfort. However, due to its toxicity and potential adverse effects, it is not used in modern medicine for this purpose.
4. **Sedative and Anxiolytic Effects:** In some cultures, *Datura stramonium* has been used as a sedative or tranquilizer. It may induce a state of calmness or relaxation and alleviate symptoms of anxiety or

nervousness. However, the use of *Datura stramonium* for its psychoactive effects is highly dangerous and can lead to severe toxicity and hallucinations.

5. **Topical Treatments:** In traditional medicine, *Datura stramonium* has been used topically to treat certain skin conditions, including wounds, boils, and abscesses. However, its use in this manner is limited due to its potential toxicity and the availability of safer alternatives.
6. **Anti-inflammatory Effects:** Some traditional medicine systems have employed *Datura stramonium* for its purported anti-inflammatory properties. It may have been used to reduce inflammation associated with conditions such as arthritis, insect bites, and skin irritations. However, its use for this purpose is not recommended due to its high toxicity and potential adverse effects.

Due to the significant risks associated with the use of *Datura stramonium*, including hallucinations, delirium, paralysis, and even death, it is not recommended for medicinal use. If you encounter *Datura stramonium* or suspect exposure, it is essential to seek immediate medical attention.