

Duranta erecta L.

Syn.- *Duranta repens* L.

Family: Verbenaceae

Bengali/tribal name: Duranta, Kanta mehendi

English name: Golden dewdrop, pigeon berry

Duranta repens, also known as golden dewdrop, pigeon berry, or skyflower, is primarily known for its ornamental value due to its attractive flowers and berries. However, it has been used in traditional medicine in various cultures. Here are some of the medicinal uses associated with *Duranta repens*:



1. **Antimicrobial Properties:** *Duranta repens* has shown potential antimicrobial properties. Extracts from the plant have been used to treat infections caused by bacteria and fungi, making it useful in managing skin infections and other microbial conditions.
2. **Anti-inflammatory:** The plant contains compounds that exhibit anti-inflammatory effects. It can be used to reduce inflammation and pain, making it potentially useful for conditions such as arthritis and other inflammatory disorders.
3. **Antioxidant Activity:** *Duranta repens* is believed to have antioxidant properties, which help in neutralizing free radicals and protecting cells from oxidative stress. This can contribute to overall health and may help prevent chronic diseases.
4. **Wound Healing:** Traditional uses of *Duranta repens* include its application to wounds and cuts to promote healing. The plant's extracts are believed to aid in faster recovery and reduce the risk of infection.
5. **Antipyretic:** In some traditional medicine practices, *Duranta repens* is used to reduce fever. Its extracts are believed to have fever-reducing properties, making it useful in treating febrile conditions.

6. **Digestive Health:** The plant has been used to treat digestive issues such as diarrhoea and dysentery. It is believed to have properties that help in regulating bowel movements and improving overall digestive health.
7. **Antidiabetic:** Some studies suggest that *Duranta repens* may have potential antidiabetic properties. Extracts from the plant have shown effects in lowering blood sugar levels, making it potentially useful for managing diabetes.
8. **Respiratory Health:** Traditional uses include treating respiratory ailments such as coughs and colds. The plant's extracts are believed to help in alleviating symptoms and promoting respiratory health.
9. **Analgesic:** *Duranta repens* has been used for its pain-relieving properties. It can be used to treat various types of pain, including headaches and muscle pain.

While these medicinal uses are promising, it is important to note that scientific research on *Duranta repens* is limited, and more studies are needed to fully understand its efficacy and safety. Additionally, the plant's berries are toxic if ingested, so caution should be exercised when using it, especially around children and pets. As with any medicinal plant, it is advisable to consult with a healthcare professional before using *Duranta repens* for therapeutic purposes.