

# Golden Gift of Nature Calotropis Gigantea

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**Abstract-** *Calotropis gigantea* (Crown flower) commonly called as ‘Madar’ is a milkweed available in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The plant is belonging to Apocynaceae family which includes latex bearing plant. It is an important medicinal plant and widely used in Ayurveda for management of various health hazards. Traditional Indian medicine (ayurveda) is becoming increasingly popular, with many chronic conditions responding to it well. Most patients begin to take conventional medications as soon as their diagnoses are made, so Ayurveda treatments are usually undergone alongside and/or after conventional medical approaches. A detailed knowledge of the action of food, spices, and medicinal plants is needed in order to understand their potential influence fully. While societal use of ayurvedic plants and Indian spices is commonplace, without ill effect, the use of more concentrated products made from single plants, often in the form of teas or tablets, is of more concern.

**Keywords:** *Calotropis gaigantea*,

## INTRODUCTION

The plants have remedial properties or apply valuable pharmacological effects on the animal body are generally designated as “Medicinal Plants”. It has now been set up that the plants which normally synthesis and collect some optional metabolites, similar to alkaloids, glycosides, tannins, volatiles oils and contain minerals and nutrients, have restorative properties.<sup>1</sup>

In antiquated ayurvedic medication the plant *Calotropis gigantea* is known as "Sweta Arka" and *Caotropis procera* as "Raktha Arka".<sup>2</sup> Here we study about *Calotropis Gigantea*. *Calotropis gigantea* Linn is flowering plants belong to *Asclepidaceae* family. It is also known as Akada, Aak, Mandar, Aakh etc<sup>3</sup>.

## AXANOMY<sup>4</sup>

Table 1: Taxonomical classification of *Calotropis gigantea* Linn.

Kingdom	Plantae
Order	Gentianales

Family	Apocynaceae
Subfamily	Asclepiadaceae
Genus	<i>Calotropis</i>
Species	<i>C.gigantea</i>

## ERNACULAR NAMES<sup>5 E</sup>

Table 2: Vernacular names of *Calotropis gigantea* Linn.

Common names	Giant Milkweed, Crown Flower, Swallow Wort.
Hindi	Safed aak, Aak, Alarkh, Madar, Sveta Arka, Akanda, Bara Akand.
Gujarati	Aakando
English	Crown flower, giant Indian milkweed, Bowstring hemp, crownplant, madar Malaysia: Remiga, rembega, kemengu
Indonesia	Bidhuri (Sundanese, Madurese), sidaguri (Javanese), rubik (Aceh).
Philippines	Kapal-kapal (Tagalog).
Thailand	Po thuean, paan thuean (northern), rak(central)
French	Faux arbre de soie, mercure vegetal



Nearly 10, 000 plants used for medicinal purposes in the Indian subcontinent, only 1200 to 1500 have been incorporated into the official ayurvedic pharmacopeia in more than 3000 years. All plants must be studied thoroughly before becoming part of the ayurvedic pharmacopeia.(4)

Arka (*Calotropis gigantea*) an important drug of Ayurveda is known in this country from the earliest time. It is mentioned by the earliest Hindu writers and the ancient name of the plant which occurs in the Vedic literature was Arka alluding to the form of leaves, which was used in the sacrificial rites. There are two common species of *Calotropis*, viz. *Calotropis gigantea* (Linn.) R.Br. and *Calotropis procera* (Ait.) R.Br described by the Sanskrit writers. [6] *C. gigantea* is a common wasteland weed and commonly known as giant milkweed. This plant is a native of Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka. *C. gigantea* is frequently available in India and used for several medication purposes in traditional medicinal system. (7)

#### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

*Calotropis* species are drought-resistant, relatively salt and drought-tolerant. Air pollination generally takes place and also with the animals. Such species easily take place as a weed to the roadside, lagoon edge and in overgrazed native pastures. It also grows easily in sandy soil in areas of low rainfall. *Calotropis* species are inhabited to India, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.(7,8)

#### TRADITIONAL USES

*Calotropis* species is used for the treatment of bronchitis, pain, asthma, leprosy, ulcers, piles, spleen, tumors, liver, abdomen and dyspepsia; it is also used frequently for cold, fever, diarrhea, rheumatism, indigestion, eczema and jaundice. Different parts of the plant were used for the treatment of several diseases such as stem for skin disease, intestinal worms, leprosy, leucoderma; the roots are used for the treatment of leprosy, asthma, cough, elephantiasis, rheumatism and diarrhea; latex and leaves are used for swelling and joint pain; oil massage can be used for paralyzed part; juice of *Calotropis* was used for purgation.(9)

Natural antioxidants are safer and also possess antiviral, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, antimutagenic and anti-tumour properties. Phenols, flavonoids, alkaloids and tannins are the most commonly found polyphenolic compounds in plant extracts. The

presence of many phytochemicals such as flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, steroids, saponins, terpenes have been isolated in different parts of *C. gigantea* especially in the leaves.

It has different medicinal properties. Different parts of this plant have ability to cure various diseases and disorders like asthma, cold, epilepsy, fever, indigestion, leprosy, piles, skin diseases etc., and exhibiting activities that are anti-inflammatory, anthelmintic, anticancer and antitumor; as observed in various polyherbal preparation. In future it has important plant .

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