Review on *Dechachistia crotonifolia* Wight & Arn.

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**ABSTRACT**

Nature has been a source of medicinal agents for thousands of years and an impressive number of modern drugs were made which is identical from natural sources to treat many diseases. Higher plants, as sources of medicinal compounds, have continued to play a dominant role in the maintenance of human health since ancient times. Over 50% of all modern clinical drugs are of natural product origin and play an important role in drug development programs in the pharmaceutical industry. The investigations on medicinal plants were needed as the treatment will be safe to treat diseases and cost effective. The findings on *Dechachistia crotonifolia* are very much limited so an attempt was made to gather the profile of *Dechachistia crotonifolia*.

**Key Words:** *Dechachistia crotonifolia*, therapeutic use, plant profile.

**INTRODUCTION**

*Dechachistia crotonifolia* belongs to the family Malvaceae, which is a shrub, grows at a height of 2 m. This plant is widely grown in deciduous forests of Western Ghats and Deccan plateau, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala [1]. India is rich in medicinal plants which worth’s about millions. The wild grown plants are many with a wide range of pharmacological uses where the researches on such plants are needed to explore their uses to treat many diseases. An attempt was made to investigate on *Dechachistia crotonifolia* where the investigations on this particular plant were very much limited [2, 3].

**ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION**

*Dechachistia crotonifolia* is widely grown in deciduous forests of Western Ghats and Deccan plateau, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In Andhra Pradesh it is widely distributed around the regions of Tirumala [4].

**COMMON NAME [5]**

It is commonly known as Croton Leaf Mysore Mallow.

**VERNACULAR NAMES**

Telugu- Adavi gogu
Kannada-Kolle
Tamil- Selangamaram.

**PLANT PROFILE [6]**

**Botanical Name:** *Dechachistia crotonifolia* Wight & Arn.,

**Kingdom:** Plantae  
**Subkingdom:** Eucaryota  
**Phylum:** Tracheophyta  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Order:** Malvales  
**Family:** Malvaceae  
**Subfamily:** Malvoideae  
**Genus:** Decachistia  
**Species:** *Decachistia crotonifolia*

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT**

**Leaves:** Leaves alternate, ovate-lanceolate, cordate to rounded at base, serrate or slightly lobed, acute at apex, 3-4 x 1.5-8 cm, stellate-tomentose on both surfaces more so on nerves beneath; midnerv with a basal nectary; petioles to 5 cm long, terete, brown-stellate-tomentose; stipules linear-sululate, ca 1 cm long, stellate-tomentose [7].

**Flowers:** Flowers axillary, solitary or 3-6 in racemose clusters due to reduction of upper leaves; pedicels 3-15 mm long, densely stellate-pubescent. Epicalyx lobes linear, 5-10 x 1-1.5 mm, connate at base, pubescent.
Calyx campanulate, 5-lobed; lobes ovate, 6-8 x 2-3 cm, stellate-hairy on both sides. Corolla 5-6 cm across, yellow with a dark maroon centre. Petals 5, obovate, 3-4 x ca 2.5 cm, connate and adherent to staminal tube at base, densely stellate-pubescent outside, glabrous inside. Staminal column antheriferous throughout; tube ca 2 cm long; anthers purple. Ovary ovoid, ca 4 mm across, pubescent, 10-loculed; locules 1-ovuled; styles ca 2 cm long; stigma capitate, glandular-hairy, brown [8].

**Fruit:** Capsules globose-depressed, to 2 cm across, enclosed in calyx, densely stellate-pubescent, 10 valved; seeds reniform, ca 5 x 3 mm, glabrous, brownish black.

**Fig No. 1**

![Figure 1: Twig of Dechachistia crotonifolia](image)

**CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS**

The phytochemical investigations are limited but even though the same genus of different species are found rich in flavonoids content namely Dechachista parviflora kruz, native to Thailand consists of parviflorals A–F [9, 10].

**THERAPEUTIC USES**

**Flowers:** refrigerant" emollient and emmenagogue, aphrodisiac; decoction given in bronchial catarrh; infusion of petals is a refrigerant drink in fever, demulcent in cough.

**Leaves:** anodyne, arthritis, emollient and aperient; juice beneficial in gonorrhoea, antifertility, uterine and vaginal discharges.

**Root:** The root is valuable in coughs. Externally they are used in all kinds of inflammation.

**PHARMACOLOGY**

It is well accepted that the leaves and flowers of Dechachistia crotonifolia have various pharmacological properties. Dechachistia crotonifolia (Fam. Malvaceae) is a shrub available throughout India. Various parts of this plant, like leaves, flowers and roots, have been known to possess medicinal properties like aphrodisiac, menorrhagia, oral contraceptive, laxative, etc. A detailed literature review was made and it is identified as very limited investigations were made and it was found that the same genus of other species in Thailand reported to have a high flavonoidal content so it may be have several pharmacological uses like antifertility, antiinflammatory.

**REFERENCES**


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