

## **ASYSTASIA GANGETICA (Linn.) T. Anders.**

## **ASISTASIA**

*Asystasia coromandelina* Nees  
*Justicia gangetica* Linn.

Common name: *Asistasia* (Tag.).

Asistasia is found in thickets near towns at a low altitude, often being cultivated in Manila and Los Baños. It is grown from seeds in Isabela. The plant also occurs in tropical Africa, Asia, and Malaya.

This is a procumbent herb, growing up to 1 meter or more in height. The leaves are ovate, 2.5 to 3 centimeters wide; the tip is pointed and the base rounded or suddenly narrowed. The flowers are borne in lax racemes 5 to 12 centimeters in length. The sepals are linear-lanceolate, about 5 millimeters long, and hairy on the back. The corolla is hairy, and 2.5 to 3 centimeters long, with an inflated and yellow tube; the limb is pink or pale purple, usually dull or lurid, and sometimes yellow altogether. The capsule is cylindric-compressed, about 2.5 centimeters long, and hairy. The seeds are smooth, much compressed, ovoid, angular, wrinkled or subtubercular, and less than 5 millimeters in diameter.

Wehmer records that the plant contains traces of toxic alkaloid.

In the Philippines the leaves and flowers are eaten as a pot herb. They also be used as an intestinal astringent.

According to Dalziel, in the Gold Coast the plant is commonly used as a women's medicine; a decoction is taken internally and also mixed with peppers and administered as an enema during the later months of pregnancy to lighten the pains of childbirth.

Chopra reports that the juice of the plant is given for swellings; as a vermifuge, and for rheumatism.