

Madyantika

- **Botanical Name:** *Lawsonia inermis* Linn.
- **Family:** Lythraceae
- **Synonyms:** Mehndi, Henna, Mailanelu, Mendi
- **Vernacular Name:** Commonly known as "Mehndi" in Hindi, "Henna" in English, and "Mailanelu" in Malayalam.
- **Classification:** A perennial shrub belonging to the Lythraceae family.
- **Habitat:** Native to North Africa and Southwest Asia, but widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions, including India. It thrives in arid and semi-arid climates with well-drained soils.
- **Morphology:** A shrub that grows 2–8 meters tall. It has opposite, simple, elliptic-ovate leaves. The flowers are cream-colored, fragrant, and arranged in paniced racemes. The fruits are small, globose capsules containing pyramidal seeds.
- **Useful Parts:** Leaves, flowers, seeds, and bark.
- **Chemical Composition:** Contains lawsone (a natural dye), tannic acid, and essential oils. The leaves yield a coloring matter used for dyeing hair and skin. The flowers produce an aromatic oil.
- **Pharmacological Action:** Known for its antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, and cooling properties. It is used in treating skin diseases, wounds, and burns. It also has applications in managing fever, jaundice, and bleeding disorders.
- **Formulation:** Used in Ayurvedic preparations like Madayantyadi Churna and as a natural dye for hair and skin. It is also incorporated into herbal oils and ointments for skin health.

Rasa: Tikta, Kashya

Guna: Laghu , Ruksha

Virya: Sheeta

Vipaka: Katu