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Rauvolfia verticillata

[Synonyms : *Cerbera chinensis*, *Dissolaena verticillata*, *Ervatamia ophiorrhizoides*, *Ervatamia ventii*, *Hunteria sundana*, *Hunteria sundana* var. *minor*, *Ophioxylon belgaumense*, *Ophioxylon chinense*, *Ophioxylon chinensis*, *Ophioxylon densiflorum*, *Ophioxylon macrocarpum*, *Ophioxylon majus*, *Ophioxylon neilgheerense*, *Ophioxylon zeylanicum*, *Rauvolfia altodiscifera*, *Rauvolfia brevistyla*, *Rauvolfia cambodiana*, *Rauvolfia chinensis*, *Rauvolfia densiflora*, *Rauvolfia densiflora* var. *macrophylla*, *Rauvolfia latifrons*, *Rauvolfia loheri*, *Rauvolfia major*, *Rauvolfia membranacea*, *Rauvolfia obversa*, *Rauvolfia ophiorrhizoides*, *Rauvolfia perakensis*, *Rauvolfia serpentina* var. *gracilis*, *Rauvolfia superaxillaris*, *Rauvolfia taiwanensis*, *Rauvolfia verticillata* var. *hainanensis*, *Rauvolfia verticillata* var. *macrophylla*, *Rauvolfia verticillata* var. *oblanceolata*, *Rauvolfia verticillata* var. *officinalis*, *Rauvolfia verticillata* var. *verticillata*, *Rauvolfia yunnanensis*, *Tabernaemontana cylindrica*, *Tabernaemontana densiflora*, *Tabernaemontana microcarpa*, *Tabernaemontana ophiorrhizoides*, *Tabernaemontana subcapitata*, *Tabernaemontana wallichiana*]

DEVIL PEPPER is a shrub. Native from China through south eastern Asia, it has clusters of white flowers.

It is also known as Common devilpepper, *Luo fu mu* (Chinese), and *Si ye luo fu mu* (Chinese).

Warning – this plant has toxic qualities.

Verticillata means 'having whorls (round an axis)' with reference to the leaves.

Medicinally, the roots are used both as a sedative and to treat hypertension. The plant is also chosen in China for treating malaria, typhus and snake bites. While freshly picked leaves have not only been applied to snake bites to heal them but also to sore eyes and wounds.