

Wrightia antidysenterica

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
Order:	Gentianales
Family:	Apocynaceae
Genus:	<i>Wrightia</i>
	<i>W.</i>
Species:	<i>antidysenterica</i>



Botanical Name: *Wrightia antidysenterica* (synonym: *Holarrhena pubescens*)

Common Name: Snowflake, Milky Way, Arctic Snow, Winter Cherry Tree, Sweet Indrajao, Pudpitchaya, Hyamaraca

Plant type: A perennial ornamental small tree or shrub, native to Sri Lanka.

Light: Prefers bright light or full sun; Can tolerate partial shade but will result in less flowers.

Moisture: Regular watering and moderately.

Soil: Well-drained loamy soil.

Features: *Wrightia antidysenterica* is a small and compact semi-deciduous shrub, reaching 1.2-2 meters in height, with a spread of about 1.5 meter. A moderate grower with several short and divaricate branches that turn chocolate brown as it ages, and adorned with dark green, ovate and acuminate leaves (2.5-6cm long) that are oppositely arranged. And, pure white tubular 5-petaled flowers with yellow centers appear in corymb-like cymes at the end of branches. The Snowflake or Milky Way as commonly known, is a beautiful shrub that will be studded with showy 2.5-3.5cm star-shaped flowers all year round. There is a related species, *Wrightia tinctoria*, whose blooms look quite identical.

Usage: *Wrightia antidysenterica* will be most ideal as a container specimen for patio or houseplant. Excellent too for planting on ground in limited garden space and will brighten any garden corner with those starry white blooms that resemble snow flakes or little stars from afar. Besides, in India, it is considered a medicinal plant. The bark has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties, and is used as an adulterant for the well known drug, *Holarrhena antidysenterica*. The juice from its bark is used for the relief of mouth sores and its leaves are used for the treatment of several skin disorders, psoriasis and other non-specific dermatitis.