

Clerodendrum calamitosum White Butterfly Bush

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Scientific Name: *Clerodendrum calamitosum* L. Family :Labiatae/Lamiaceae English name: white butterfly bush (Engl.)



Distribution: Philippines, India, Malaysia, Indonesia

Habitat: Grows naturally in thickets or secondary forests. It is also planted as an ornamental.

Description: Shrub growing to about 3 m tall. The leaves are simple, opposite, elliptic to oblong in shape, serrated along the margins, measuring about 3 - 15 cm long and 1.5 - 8 cm wide. The flowers are white, fragrant, and are borne in leaf axils in dense terminal inflorescences. The fruit is a globose drupe or berry about 7-8mm in diameter that turns dark purple to black when ripe.

Economic uses: The plants are grown in gardens in the Philippines because of their attractive and scented flowers.. In Java the leaves and roots are used to treat dysentery, snake bites, kidney stones, fever and gonorrhoea. The plant is valued for its anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties. In India, the leaves and branches are used to make organic pesticide.

Notes: *Clerodendrum* is derived from the Greek word “kleros”, which means chance or fate and it refers to the unknown and doubtful medicinal properties of the plant. Species *calamitosum* is a Latin name meaning ruin-ous or causing loss. For further information write to: madulid.d@gmail.com