

Foragers of Common Herb *Justicia simplex*

Justicia simplex is a Creeping and ascending herb belonging to the family Acanthaceae. Commonly found on bunds of cultivated fields, irrigation canals, along road-cuts and in open places. Flowering in all seasons. Leaves subsessile, 1-4x 0.5-1.8 cm, ovate-linear, with cystoliths (intracellular calcified bodies) irregularly oriented. Spikes many-flowered, bracts broad, scarious along margin; bracteoles similar but narrower. Calyx lobes 4, bracteoles-like, strongly nerved; nerves and margin hairy. Corolla 0.6 cm long, usually pink, sometimes white. The plant is distributed in E. Africa, India and Malaysia.



Fig. 1. *Apis cerana indica* & *Apis dorsata* foraging on *Justicia simplex*



Fig. 2. Spotted Small Flat and Chestnut Bob foraging on *Justicia simplex*



Fig. 3. Blue Pansy & Pea Blue butterfly foraging on *Justicia simplex*

The following species are found to be foraging on *Justicia simplex*.

Sl. No.	Insects	
	Hymenoptera	Lepidoptera
1	<i>Apis cerana indica</i>	Common Grass Yellow (<i>Eurema hecabe</i>)
2	<i>Apis dorsata</i>	Blue Pansy (<i>Junonia orithya</i>)
3	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Common Crow (<i>Euploea core</i>)
4		Common Emigrant (<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>)
5		Common Banded Awl (<i>Hasora chromus</i>)
6		Restricted Demon (<i>Notocrypta curvifascia</i>)
7		Chestnut Bob (<i>Lambrix salsala</i>)
8		Dark Palm Dart (<i>Telicota ancilla</i>)
9		Common Small Flat (<i>Sarangesa dasabara</i>)

Reference:

Saldanha, J.C. and Nicolson, H.D. 1976. Flora of Hassan District, Karnataka, India. Amerind Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., and Cecil J. Saldanha. Pp. 83.

Photographs and Text

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