

“Dissemination of Education for Knowledge, Science and Culture”

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Botanical Name: *Nerium oleander* L.

Family: Apocynaceae.

Common Name: Nerium, Olender or Rosebay.

Origin: Northwest Africa and Iberian and Italian Peninsula eastward, Black sea region, Arabian Peninsula, Southern Asia, and Yunnan in southern parts of China.

General Characters:

- The leaves glossy and thick, with prominent mid-rib.
- Leaves lanceolate, arranged in pairs or whorls of 3 along woody stem.
- Flowers fragrant, bright red and showy.
- The cardiac glycosides in oleander affect the heart.
- These chemicals can slow heart rate down.
- Some of these chemicals might also kill cancer cells.
- Peoples use oleander for heart failure, cancer, epilepsy, and many other conditions, but there is no good scientific evidence to support these uses.

