

## Taxonomy of the Controversial Ayurvedic Drug '*Pittapapada*'

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*'Pittapapada' is an Ayurvedic drug used as febrifuge by local people from Pune and neighbouring districts. The drug is controversial as six different species, viz. Glossocardia bosvallea (L.f.) DC., Justicia procumbens L., Haplanthus verticillaris Nees, Oldenlandia corymbosa L., Peristrophe bicalyculata Nees and Rungia repens (L.) Nees are in use as 'Pittapapada'. Present study covers taxonomical status of these six taxa, their vernacular names and precise uses. For easy identification of the market drug samples, an artificial key is devised on the basis and exomorphic characters of leaves.*

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