

Rauvolfia tetraphylla

Rauvolfia tetraphylla is a plant in the family Apocynaceae, growing as a bush or small tree. It is commonly known as the be still tree^[2] or devil-pepper. The plant is native to Mexico, Central America, West Indies, and northern South America. It has been cultivated widely as both an ornamental and for use in traditional medicine.^[citation needed] It is now naturalized throughout the tropics including Australasia, Indochina, and India.

Rauvolfia tetraphylla fruits are called devil-peppers and hold an important position in the Indian traditional system of medicine.^[citation needed] The plant has various significances and it is widely used by South Indian tribes.

Asima Chatterjee initiated chemical investigation of alkaloids in *Rauvolfia tetraphylla* then known as *Rauwolfia canescens*. Indole alkaloids including serpentine, reserpine, serpentinine, and other *Rauwolfia* alkaloids were identified in phytochemical study.^[citation needed]

