

## Sweet Indrajao

**Common name:** Sweet Indrajao, Pala indigo plant, Dyers's oleander

**Botanical name:** *Wrightia tinctoria*; **Family:** Apocynaceae; **Name in Tamil:** Paalai



**Field identification:** Small deciduous tree, up to 6 m, greyish brown bark. Leaves simple, opposite, lance-shaped, 15 cm, on short stalks. Flowers in clusters, white, 3 cm, tubular with 5 twisty petals; stamens form a cone with distinctive lacy threads. Fruits fusiform, slender, beaked follicles tapering at both ends with short stalk. Seeds flat with tufts of hair at each end. **Location on campus:** Scattered through out campus. E.g. Mary Varghese campus, East End Road, Gault Library. **References:** (i) Krishen P. (2006) Trees of Delhi: A field guide. Dorling Kindersley, New Delhi. p137 (ii) Flowers of India. <http://www.flowersofindia.net>