

Anthopogon

Local Name: Sunpati

English Name: Anthopogon

Scientific Name: *Rhododendron anthopogon* D. Don

Family: Ericaceae

Introduction:

Evergreen aromatic dwarf shrub about 0.6 to 1 m high. Stem many branches, with brown scales. Leaves petioled, elliptic to ovate, obtuse to mucronate, upper surface slightly scaly, lower surface densely scaly. Flowers white, pink, light yellow, sometimes red. Fruit a capsule, ovoid, enclosed in the persistent calyx.

Availability:

Distributed from 3300 to 5100 m, common in north facing, open and cool stony slope, rocks, shrub lands and forest.

Harvesting Time:

October to November.

Part used in Trade:

Leaves and young petiole

Description of traded part:

Leaves are green brown, dry, scented, lower surface is rusted or covered by golden scaly hairs. Dried yellow flower also unusually mixed with leaves and petioles. Petiole is yellow white, less scented.

Uses:

Leaves and flower are used to cure respiratory diseases like common cold, cough, Asthma, bronchitis, etc. Essential oil processed from its leaves (Anthopogon oil) is used in the production of expensive cosmetic materials like perfume, powder etc. Marc or extract left over after processing leaves are also used in the production of incense.

Conservation Status:

Abundant available in high Himalayan region, therefore its status is not threatened. Harvesting of Anthopogon is also low pressurized in the high Himalayan areas.

