

## GRIN Taxonomy for Plants

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### Taxon: *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal

Genus: [Withania](#)

Family: [Solanaceae](#) subfamily: [Solanoideae](#) tribe: [Physaleae](#) subtribe: [Withaninae](#).

Nomen number: 102407

Place of publication: A. L. P. P. de Candolle, Prodr. 13(1):453. 1852

Name verified on: 07-Nov-1985 by ARS Systematic Botanists. Last updated: 30-Aug-1999

No species priority site assigned.

**NO ACCESSIONS IN [NPGS](#) UNDER THIS NAME.**

### Common names:

- **winter-cherry** (Source: [F.Zamb](#)) – English
- **ashwagandha** (Source: [Herbs Commerce ed2](#)) – unknown

### Economic importance:

- **Medicines:** folklore (fide [New Crops](#); [PI Book](#); [CRC MedHerbs ed2](#); [Herbs Commerce ed2](#))

**More:**

- View [phytochemical](#) or [ethnobotanical](#) data from Duke's [Phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Databases](#)

### Distributional range:

**Native:**

- **AFRICA**  
*Macaronesia:* **Cape Verde; Spain - Canary Islands**  
*Northern Africa:* **Algeria; Egypt; Libya; Morocco; Tunisia**  
*Northeast Tropical Africa:* **Chad; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Somalia; Sudan**

East Tropical Africa: **Kenya; Tanzania; Uganda**

West Tropical Africa: **Liberia; Mali; Nigeria**

South Tropical Africa: **Angola; Malawi; Mozambique; Zambia; Zimbabwe**

Southern Africa: **Botswana; Lesotho; Namibia; South Africa - Cape Province, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Transvaal; Swaziland**

Western Indian Ocean: **Mauritius**

• **ASIA-TEMPERATE**

Arabian Peninsula: **Arabia**

Western Asia: **Afghanistan; Iran** [s.]; **Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Lebanon; Syria; Turkey**

• **ASIA-TROPICAL**

Indian Subcontinent: **India; Pakistan; Sri Lanka**

• **EUROPE**

Southeastern Europe: **Greece** [incl. Crete]; **Italy - Sardinia, Sicily**

Southwestern Europe: **Spain** [incl. Balears]

**Naturalized:**

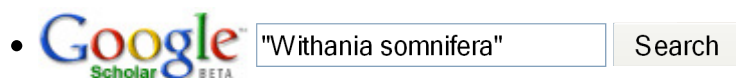
- naturalized elsewhere

**References:**

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- **Tutin, T. G. et al., eds.** 1964–1980. *Flora europaea*. (F Eur)
- **Zohary, M. & N. Feinbrun-Dothan.** 1966–. *Flora palaestina*. (F Palest)

**More:**

- [Search AGRICOLA article citation database for citations referencing \*Withania somnifera\*.](#)
- [Search NCBI's Entrez search engine for PubMed citations referencing \*Withania somnifera\*.](#)

**Synonyms:**

- (≡) [Physalis somnifera](#) L. (basionym)

**Check other databases for *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal:**

- [Flora Europaea](#): Database of European Plants (ESFEDS)
- [SIBIS](#): South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) Integrated Biodiversity System
- [On-line Flora of Zimbabwe](#)
- [Mansfeld](#): Mansfeld's World Database of Agricultural and Horticultural Crops
- [ePIC](#): Electronic Plant Information Centre of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- [AGRICOLA](#): [Article Citation Database](#) or [NAL Catalog](#) of USDA's National Agricultural Library
- [Entrez](#): NCBI's search engine for PubMed citations, GenBank sequences, etc.

**Check other databases for images:**

- [PlantSystematics.org](#)
- [Google Images](#) Note: Be advised that their identity may be inaccurate. Proper identification of a plant may require specialized taxonomic knowledge or comparison with properly documented herbarium material.

[Jump to Solanaceae Genomics Network](#)

[Abbreviations & symbols in GRIN Taxonomy](#)

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| [USDA](#) | [ARS](#) | [GRIN](#) | [NPGS](#) | [New Search](#) |

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Cite as:

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program.

*Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN)* [Online Database].

National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.

URL: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?102407> (12 April 2010)

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