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# HOME Garden

## **Rain Lilies**



#### Angel Grass

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Murdannia Loriformis or Rolla Rao et Kammathy, a plant native to Asia is also known by the name 'Beijing grass' in Chinese, 'Angel grass' in English, 'Rumput Siti Khadijah' in Malay and 'Ya Pak King' in Thai. It is a perennial herb belonging to the monocotyledonous group, typically reaching a height of around 10 cm. The basal leaves are simple, featuring linear blades that are alternate and smooth. While remains the main stem underdeveloped, numerous fertile stems emerge from the rosette, ranging from diffuse to ascending and measuring 15-50 cm. These stems are either smooth or slightly hairy on one side, with rare instances of dense hair coverage.

The basal leaves have linear blades, measuring 5-15 cm in length and 6-9 mm

## BEIJING @ ANGEL GRASS

By Wan Noorli Razali

width. Terminal flowers form in an inflorescence that is densely panicle. Involucral bracts, smaller than the leaves, are leaflike, with extremely small distal ones measuring less than 10 mm and a peduncle of about 2.5 Pedicels are slightly curved, cm. and translucent bracts are around 4 mm. Sepals ovate-elliptic, herbaceous, and are approximately 3 mm in size. Petals exhibit a blue or bluish-violet hue, with an obovateorbicular shape.

The capsule is ovoid, globose, and trigonous, measuring about 3–4 mm. Seeds, typically two per valve, are yellow-brown, radiate, striate, and intricately marked with fine white reticulations. Rhizomes are notably absent, and the roots are fibrous, ranging from glabrous to tomentose, with a diameter of approximately 0.5–1 mm. The flowering season spans from May to October.

This plant has gained attention in recent years for its potential medicinal properties. One aspect of current research on Murdannia Loriformis focuses on its chemical constituents. Various studies have identified and analyzed the bioactive compounds present in the plant, including alkaloids, flavonoids, and other secondary metabolites. Understanding the chemical composition is crucial for unlocking the therapeutic potential of this botanical species.

Research has also delved into the pharmacological activities of Murdannia Loriformis, exploring its potential as a source of bioactive compounds with medicinal properties. Studies have investigated its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anti-cancer, and antimicrobial activities. Furthermore, researchers have been exploring its impact on various physiological processes, such as immune modulation and neuroprotection. A few studies conducted support the use of the plant in traditional medicine for inflammatory ailments. The most significant study revealed its chemo-preventive effects in cancer patients.

Despite the promising findings, challenges exist in the research on Murdannia Loriformis. Issues such as standardization of extracts, dosage determination, and clinical trials need to be addressed to translate laboratory discoveries into practical applications. Future research should focus on filling these gaps and conducting well-designed clinical trials to validate the plant's therapeutic efficacy.

References

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