

- **Severity of concerns:** Concerns that are present most of the day, every day, might indicate greater severity. One also needs to look for signs of risk. This would include increased thoughts of dying, and not wanting to be alive.
- **Motivation for self-care:** Due to mental health concerns, one may not be able to access motivation to change or engage in self-care.

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Notes:

1. These responses were first published on the Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC) website.
2. Source of the image used in the background of the article title: <https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/quarantine-for-old-people-gm1219512973-356745103>.

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**Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC)** is a group of more than 500 Indian scientists, engineers, technologists, doctors, public health researchers, science communicators, journalists and students who voluntarily came together in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This group can be contacted at [indscicov@gmail.com](mailto:indscicov@gmail.com).



# WILL CONSUMING DATURA PREVENT SARS-CoV-2 INFECTION?

SNIPPETS

The *Datura stramonium* shrub is widely distributed in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The fact that it has spherical, prickly fruit (and is, therefore, also known as thorn apple) that resembles SARS-CoV-2 with its spike protein is only a coincidence. There is no evidence to suggest that the plant or any of its parts have antiviral properties.

Parts of the Datura plant are rich in compounds (known as tropane alkaloids) that are used as medication for

motion sickness, and low blood pressure (caused by a slow heart rate). But these compounds have many adverse effects. Not only are they hallucinogenic (causing people to hear or see things that are not real), they can cause disorientation, and a rapid, irregular heartbeat (which can be fatal). In fact, consuming these compounds, parts of the Datura plant, or the plant as a whole without the advice of a doctor can be fatal.

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Notes:

1. This response was first published on the Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC) website.
2. Source of the image used in the background of the article title: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/99758165@N06/18652364948>. Credits: NY State IPM Program at Cornell University. License: CC-BY.

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