



Regional Plant Resource Centre
An autonomous organization under the Department of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha, India

PLANT OF THE WEEK

20th week
13-07-2015

Hygrophila auriculata (Schumach.) Heine

Botanical Name :

Hygrophila auriculata (Schumach.) Heine

Synonyms :

Asteracantha longifolia Nees
Hygrophila spinosa T.Anderson
Barleria auriculata Schumach.
Barleria longifolia L.
Barleria macracantha R.Br.

Family :

Acanthaceae

Local Name

English: Long leaved Barleria
Hindi : Talimakhana
Odiya : Koilekha
Telugu : Nerrugubbi
Bengali: Kulia khara



Koilekha

Hygrophila auriculata (Schumach.) Heine

Uses

Whole plant parts has diuretic properties and have been used to cure jaundice, rheumatism, urino-genital tract, dropsy and also used for cancers and tubercular fistula.

Leaves:- The decoction of the young leaves are taken orally for two consecutive weeks in empty stomach to treat anemia.

Seed: - Seed powder mixed with raw cow milk is taken in the morning for treating impotency. Dry seed powder mixed with milk and sugar is taken to cure spermatorrhoea. It also used for removal of gall stones as aphrodisiac.

Root: - It is used to diuretic, dropsy, rheumatism, cure jaundice and also have been used to kill abdominal insects.



Description

Robust herb or under-shrub upto 80 cm tall, sparsely sub-hispidly hairy stems and whorled spines at the nodes; spines 1.3 cm long, often 6 in a whorl.

Leaves sessile, pseudowhorl from the shortened axillary branchlets; leaves often 6 in a whorl, the two outer one often larger; oblong or linear oblong 5-15 x 1.3-2.5 cm, entire or minutely dentate, acute, sub-hispidly hairy.

Flowers purple blue, in axillary whorled fascicles, 8 at each node, 3-3.7 cm long, bracts lanceolate, bracteoles linear. Calyx 4-lobed, silky, posterior lobes 1.8 cm, lateral smaller, anterior 2 toothed. Corolla tube 1.2-1.5 cm, cylindric below, enlarged above; upper lip 2-lobed, the lower trilobed with 2 crested folds on the palatate. Stamens 4, didynamous, all fertile, anther oblong; Ovule oblong, 4-ovuled, Style filiform.

Capsule linear oblong, 7.5 mm long, shorter than calyx. 4-8 seeds on hard retinacula, flat and white hairy when wet. Seeds orbicular ca. 3 mm across.



Source

- Jain, S.K.(1991). *Dictionary of Indian folk medicine & ethno botany*. New Delhi, India. Deep publication. 108 pages.
- Panda A. & Misra M.K.(2011) Ethno-medicinal survey of some wetlands plants of South Orissa & their conservation. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*. Vol 10(2). pp-296-303.
- Bhowmik, S. & Dutta, B.K. (2012). Elemental analysis of some ethno medicinally important hydrophytes and marsh plants of India used in traditional medicine. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Biomedicine*. S1227-S1231.
- Saxena, H.O. & Brahmam, M. (1994). *The Flora of Orissa*, Vol. III, pp: 1352-1353
- www.iucnredlist.org
- www.wikipedia.org
- www.theplantlist.org

Habitat

It is native to India and commonly grows in most wetlands; fresh as well as brackish water.

Distribution

India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Malaysia, Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan & Tropical Africa.

In Odisha it is very common in coastal districts (Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Khordha).

Flowering & Fruiting time :

August - March

Conservation Status

Least Concern (IUCN)