

Botanic name : *Colebrookea oppositifolia* Sm.

Common name : Indian Squirrel Tail

Family : Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Indian Sub-continent; sporadically found in NE India, South India, Eastern India at 250-1700m, msl. Habitat destruction, low germinability, and sensitivity to warming are some of the common threats to its existence

Description : Perennial branched shrub with 1-3 m in length; stems 4-angled at young; leaves light green, opposite, ovate-lanceolate, crowded at branch ends, finely serrate at margins, acute at apex; flowers numerous, small, often gynodioecious, clustered in a panicles of upright spikes, looking hairy like squirrel's tail; Calyx 1-2 mm in flower; teeth prominently plumose in fruit; corolla 2 mm long, equally 4-lobed; stamens 4, exserted in male flowers, included in female flowers, filaments glabrous; style bifid at tip; fruits nutlets long, obovoid, not trigonous, densely pilose

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, flavonoids, polyphenols, tannins, saponins, sterols, glycoside, oils

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antimicrobial, antifungal, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, cardioprotective and anti-inflammatory. In India, the leaves have been used in the treatment of wounds and bruises. Also used to cure epilepsy, fever, headache, urinary problems, dermatitis, nose bleeds, bleeding, bloody coughs and dysentery. Leaves can also be made into a poultice to treat dysentery. Root extracts can be used as a remedy against epilepsy while the decoction of the roots is used to treat individuals with peptic ulcers. Plants are also used as fodder and fuel.