

**Botanic name:** *Vernonia solidaginifolia* Bojer ex DC.-- Prodr. [A. P. de Candolle] 5: 30. 1836 [1-10 Oct 1836] (IK). Information needed

**Common name:** Bitter herb

**Family:** Asteraceae (Compositae)

**Habitat:** Terrestrial

**Distribution:** Native to temperate Eurasia, parts of Europe; introduced in Indian Himalayas as invasive species

**Description:** An annual erect herb; leaves linear lanceolate, thinly hair below; corymbose cymes (homogamous capitulum), pedunculate, flower bluish yellow, bisexual, sessile, anthers syngenesious; fruit achene (cypsela)

**Phytochemicals:** Unusual terpenoid, sesquiterpenes, steroidal alcohol, triterpene compounds like beta-amyrin acetate, diterpenoid lactone, lupeol acetate and the sterols-beta-sitosterol, stigmasterol and alpha-spinasterol

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Anticancerous. The whole plant is used against snakebite and insect sting treatment, dyspepsia, influenza, dysentery, malaria and respiratory infections. Used as antidotes and in treating diseases like haemorrhoids, stomach troubles, pulmonary troubles, fever; also used to prevent arthritis, inflammation, dropsy, tonsillitis, insomnia, and piles.