

Botanic name : *Heliotropium curassavicum* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 130. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Seashore Heliotrope, salt heliotrope, monkey tail, quail plant

Family : Boraginaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to much of the Americas, from Canada to Argentina, found on other continents including Indian sub-continent as an introduced species

Description : An annual to perennial, prostrate to ascending, subsucculent herb with stems up to 50cm or more long; leaves simple, linear-lanceolate, alternate, pubescent, acute to acuminate at apex, decurrent at base along the petiole, flowers small, white; calyx green, stamens 5, inserted into the corolla tube, included, styles terminal; fruits dry nutlets

Phytochemicals: Tannins, alkaloids, Indicine-N-Oxide

Medicinal/Economic uses : Anticancer, antitumor, febrifuge (leaves); useful in ulcers, urticaria, wounds, gonorrhoea, ringworm, rheumatism, and localized inflammation. The dried roots are ground to powder and applied to sores and wounds. A decoction of the plant is taken as a remedy for leucorrhoea, and as a substitute for *Heliotropium indicum*. Crushed leaves are warmed and employed in swelling. Two drops of leaf juice is found effective against eye-conjunctivitis. Edible- Leaves - raw in salads or cooked as a potherb. A tea is made from the dried leaves. The ashes of the plant are used as a salt substitute