

Botanic name : *Tridax procumbens* L. -- Sp. Pl. 2: 900. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Coat buttons, Tridax daisy

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : originated in Central America but spread across the tropics and subtropics

Description : Perennial herb with firm taproot; stems cylindrical, often purplish, decumbent trailing, sparsely and patently long- and white-pubescent; leaves opposite, oblong-ovate, herbaceous or somewhat succulent; pinnately nerved, midrib strongly prominent below, both sides sparsely and patently long white-hirsute; flower heads terminal and axillary, erect-patently long-peduncled, rather sparsely long-hirsute; three-seriate, base attenuate; outer bracts smallest, foliaceous, green; inner ones membranous, usually purplish-margined; receptacle slightly convex, paleate; paleas linear, subpersistent; arranged in capitulum with ray and disc florets; ray flowers 5-6, female; corolla 8-9 mm long with greenish-yellow limb, 3-4 lobed, pale yellow or white; ovary long, white, hairy. Disc flowers numerous, dense, erect, inner flowers numerous, dense, erect, inner ones longest; corolla 6-7.5 mm long, bright yellow, lobes 5; ovary with long white hairs; anthers cuneate, yellow with apical valve; style arms long, acute, pilose. Achenes cypsela -angular, dark brown to black, densely white long-hairy, stiff, feathered, unequal bristles.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, Flavonoid- procumbenetin, catechins, apigenin, naringenin, luteolin, kaempferol, epicatechin, baicalin, flavones, daidzein, etc; also contains benzoic acid derivatives, alkyl esters, steroids, tannins, saponins, coumarins, anthocyanins, phenols, emodins, phytosterols (sitosterol, stigmasterol), pentacyclic triterpenes, fatty acids, hydroxycinnamates-caffeic acids and polysaccharides

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antioxidant, anticancer, anticoagulant, antidiabetic (Oleanolic acid), cytotoxic; pharma-cological properties include analgesic, anti-anemic, anti-arthritic anti-diabetic, antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antipyretic, antiseptic, haemostatic, parasiticide, hepatoprotective, hypocholesterolemic and weight reducing properties. Also used to treat liver disorder, heartburn, blood pressure disorder, and gastritis. Leaves are used as a hair restorative. Traditionally, the herb has been in use in India for wound healing and as an anticoagulant, antifungal, and insect repellent. The juice extracted from the leaves is directly applied on wounds. Its leaf extracts were used for infectious skin diseases in folk medicines. Effective against acid reflux, bleeding nose, and blisters. Leaves are cooked and eaten as vegetable, and are also used as fodders.