

Botanic name : *Pouzolzia indica* (L.) Gaud.

Common name : Graceful Pauzol's Bush, Borali bokua (Assam, India)

Family : Urticaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Southern China, Indian subcontinent, Myanmar through southeast Asia to Australia and Polynesia

Description : Perennial erect or ascending herb, rarely prostrate, growing 12 - 40 cm tall from a rootstock that is often tuberous. Leaves are opposite or rarely alternate, lanceshaped-rhomboid ovate, stipulate; stipules broadly ovate, acuminate, ciliate. Flowers are pale green arranged in lax axillary clusters, covered with hairs, females stalkless while male with 2 mm stalk. Sepal cup is 4-lobed & gibbous in male. Stamens 4. Fruit achenes, ovate, covered by ribbed sepal cup.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, flavones, flavonoids, tannin, triterpenes, coumarins, scopoletin, carotene, carotenoids, apigenin, alpha amyryl, ascorbic, tartaric, malic and pectic acids, gum, minerals and their salts

Medicinal/Economic uses : Effective against boils, fevers, toothaches, dysentery, acne, ascariis, and urinary problems (juice of the plant), cuts and wounds (plant paste), snake (Russel Viper) venom and indigestion (juice of the roots). The leaves are used as a vulnerary, but more especially as a cicatrizant for gangrenous ulcers. Plant phamacological preparations can also act as anthelmintic, antiproliferative (against NB4, HT93A), antioxidant, antifungal, antibacterial, galactagogue, hypoglycemic. In Thailand, used as remedy for the ailments in female infertility, cancer, and inflammation and as emmenagogue and insecticide. Tender leaves and young shoots - cooked and used as a vegetable. A useful cordage fibre is obtained from the bark.