

Botanic name : *Eupatorium adenophorum* Spreng. -- Syst. Veg., ed. 16 [Sprengel] 3: 420. 1826 [Jan-Mar 1826] (IK)[syn. *Agertania adenophora* (Spreng.) R.M. King & H. Rob.]

Common name : Catweed, Croftonweed

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Central America but becomes invasive in Indian Himalayas at an altitude of 800–2050 m, msl., and other South Asian and SE Asian countries, Africa and Oceania region. A strongly invasive as the terpenes in *E. adenophorum* comprise a class of important inhibitors which have allelopathic activity on native flora. It is responsible for considerable economic and environmental losses in many countries and no effective measures have been found to control it fully. Must be considered as a high risk species. More read: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/23243>

Description : An erect, bushy, leafy, many-stemmed herb, growing to 2 m tall. It commonly occurs in disturbed areas; stems purplish, cylindrical, branched stems are densely covered in sticky glandular hairs when young; leaves simple, opposite, soft, thin, shaped like a triangle or rhombus, with a toothed edge and conspicuous veins, dark green on the upper surface, lighter underneath, and may be slightly hairy; 4-12cm long, 3-9cm wide; Flowers comprise 50 to 70 white, tubular florets about 3.5 mm long; grouped into heads 5-6 mm diameter within a row of green bracts and arranged in flat clusters up to 10 cm across at the end of the branches, small white flower-heads capitula consist of several tiny flowers tubular florets surrounded by two rows of greenish bracts (an involucre) 3-5 mm long. These flower-heads (5-8 mm across) are borne in large numbers and arranged in clusters at the tips of the branches in terminal corymbose inflorescences); fruits cypselae; seeds dark brown to black, slender, angular; topped by a pappus of 5 to 10 fine white hairs.

Phytochemicals: Germacrene, tannins, saponins, steroids, essential oil (10H β -9-oxo-agerophorone, 10H α -9-oxo-agerophorone and 9-oxo-10, 11-dehydro-agerophorone), chlorogenic acid, sesquiterpenes. Rich in cadenine derivatives and flavonoids such as α -cadinnine, naphthalene, 2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-7-methyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-6-ol, salvigenin, eupifriedelinol, β amirin, lupeol, stigmasterol, taraxasterol, isohexacosane, n-hexacosanoic acid and stigmastadienone

Medicinal/Economic uses : Anti-inflammatory, anticoagulant (Uttarakhand, India), astringent, analgesic, antibacterial, antifungal, acaricidal activity, nematode activity as well as activity against other pests, and immunomodulatory. The plant is reportedly effective against itching, menstrual disorder, measles, skin diseases, wounds, uterine bleeding, blood dysentery, diarrhea, and stomach pain. Local folks in Darjeeling Himalayas (India) use the herb as remedial purposes against oral and skin sores. Oils extracted from the leaves are found effective to control the soil borne pathogen *Pythium myriotylum* which causes soft rot of ginger (China). Plant biomass is being used in mushroom cultivation in many Asian countries. Good quality green manure and mulch