

Botanic name: *Fumaria parviflora* Sm. -- Fl. Graec. Prodr. 2(1): 50. 1813 (IK)

Common name: Pittapapra, Shahatra, Pitpapra

Family: Papaveraceae

Distribution: Native to Europe; commonly found over the greater parts of India as a winter season weed, mostly in paddy field

Habitat: Terrestrial; mainly in cold regions.

Description: An annual, much branched, diffusely spreading herb with watery latex.; leaves glaucous, segments linear or oblong linear, pointed at the tip, short; flowers small, rose to purple in colour, borne in sessile racemes of 15-20 flowers; sepals absent or minute (about 0.5 mm long), triangular-ovate acuminate and whitish; corolla small, white; upper petal with narrow wings, inner petals with a purple or greenish tip; fruits 2 mm long and slightly broader, sub round-obovate, very obtuse or sub truncate; seeds are dark brown

Phytochemicals: Adlunidiciceine, cochaurine, coptisine, cryptopine, adlumine, biscuculline, fumaridine, fumariline, lahoramine, , furmaramine, fumaramidine, lahorine, parfumdine, parfumine, parviflorine, narceimine etc. (Reference: Illustrated Dravyaguna Vijnana, Vol. II, by Dr JLN Shastry)

Medicinal/Economic uses: Plant is bitter in taste, cooling and expectorant. It increases 'Vata', removes indigestion, biliousness, fever, burning of the body, fatigue, urinary discharges, vomiting, thirst, enriches the blood and is useful in leprosy. The leaves are bitter and cooling; cure bilious fever, blood diseases and allay thirst. The dried plant is regarded as efficacious in low fever, and is also used as anahelminthic, diuretic, diaphoretic and to purify the blood in skin diseases.