

Botanic name : *Ipomoea learii* Paxton -- Magazine of Botany 6 1839 (APNI)

[syn. *Ipomoea indica* (Burm.) Merr]

Common name : Blue Morning glory

Family : Convolvulaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial climber

Distribution : Native to Central America; distributed in West tropical Africa, Indian Himalayas, now pan tropical

Description : Perennial prostrate or twining herbaceous climber up to 15 m tall but scrambling over low vegetation or creeping over ground; stems hairy retrorse in young with a white milky sap; leaves lush green, leathery, cordate or 3-lobed, alternately arranged, acute at apices, hairy; flowers funnel shaped, tubular, with a flared top, opening in the morning and closing by mid-afternoon, reddish-pinkish purple arranged in clusters in leaf axils, bracts parallel sided 10-20 mm long, stamens - Included, both filaments and anther lobes white; fruits globular, papery capsules

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids-ergot type, ergoline, indolizidine, nortropane; phenolic compounds, diterpene, isocoumarin and benzenoids flavonoids, coumarins norisoprenoids, and antocyanosides, glycolipids, lignan and triterpenes, glycoside called ipolearoside

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antimicrobial, antiviral (against Herpes Simplex-1), antifungal (*Microsporum canis* and *Epidermophyton floccosum*), analgesic, spasmolytic, spasmogenic, hypotensive, psychotomimetic and anticancer (ipolearoside against Walker carcinosarcoma 256 in rats) and in healing broken bones (Hawaii). Sap obtained from the crushed leaves is drunk to relieve dysentery and applied to on sores, wrapped with leaves. Plants are hallucinogenic; in Central America, people have been using the plant along with other spp of *Ipomoea* to achieve a state of mind for divination during religious ceremonies and magical healing practices. Leaves reportedly is used as pig food. Seeds are strongly purgative. Ornamental in many countries; leaves as soap to wash clothes