

Botanic name : *Xanthium strumarium* L.

Family: Asteraceae (Compositae)

Common name: Common cocklebur

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to India but also present in North America, Brazil, China, Malaysia, often in invasive form in North Africa, south Africa, USA

Description: It is an annual herb with a short, stout, hairy stem, turn maroon to black when mature, with an elliptic or egg shaped fruit clusters growing nestled around the stem. with an elliptic or egg shaped frerrestriait clusters growing nestled around the stem, large and broad leaves, light and bright green in color in an alternate pattern with irregular lobes and relatively inconspicuous teeth, Flower heads occur in racemes in leaf axils or at the end of branches, white or green, numerous, male upper most, female ovoid, covered with hooked bristles, Fruit is obovoid, enclosed in the hardened involucre, with 2 hooked beaks and hooked bristles.

Phytochemicals: Caffeic acid, Xanthiazone, and Xanthiazone-(2-O-caffeoyl)-b-D-glucopyranoside

Medicinal/Economic uses: The whole plant, specially root and fruit, is used as medicine. According to Ayurveda, the plant is cooling, laxative, fattening, anthelmintic, alexiteric, tonic, digestive, antipyretic, and improves appetite, voice, complexion, and memory. It cures leucoderma, biliousness, poisonous bites of insects, epilepsy, salivation and fever.