

Botanic name : *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L) Willd.

Common name: Crowfoot grass

Family: Poaceae (Gramineae)

Habitat: Terrestrial.

Distribution: Native to Africa (Egypt) and widely distributed throughout the tropics, subtropics, and warm temperate regions of the World. It was introduced by accident to the Americas. It usually occurs in disturbed areas (roadsides, fallows, and waste lands), especially on sandy soils (beaches). It is one of the most drought-resistant grasses as it can quickly grow and seed during the wet season. Introduced in India and becomes invasive in Gangetic plains and parts of Himalayas

Description: slender to moderately robust, spreading annual herb, with wiry stems, that bend and root at the lower nodes, with tips, leaves are typically grass-like, with blades and sheaths that are without hair. Leaf margins have long, stiff hairs, flowers arise in 1-7 spikes, at the tip of stems.; Seed head resembles a crow's foot, hence the common name.

Phytochemicals: Terpenoids, alkaloids, saponins, tannins, flavonoids, steroids, fixed oils and phenols

Medicinal/Economic uses : Mainly used as a fodder. In Manipur, India, juice of fresh plants is prescribed in fevers. Decoction of the plant is given in small pox.