

Botanic name : *Telanthera philoxeroides* Moq.-- Prodr. [A. P. de Candolle] 13(2): 362. 1849 [5 May 1849] (IK)- synonym *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Mart.) Griseb.

Common name : Alligator weed

Family : Amarathaceae

Habitat : Marshy and aquatic

Distribution : Native to South America and invasive to India and South Asian nations. One of the worst weeds in the world because it invades both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. In aquatic form, the plant has the potential to become a serious threat to rivers, waterways, wetlands and irrigation systems. The terrestrial form grows forming dense mats with a massive underground rhizomatous root system ([ISSG, 2016](#)). This weed is extremely difficult to control, is able to reproduce from plant fragments and grows in a wide range of climates and habitats, including terrestrial areas. In aquatic habitats it has deleterious effects on other plants and animals, water quality, aesthetics, vector populations, water flow, flooding and sedimentation. The weed is tagged as invasive in USA, Puerto Rico, France, Italy, India, Sri Lanka, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, causing immense damage to natural ecosystems, shoreline vegetation and terrestrial and semi-aquatic environments (ISSG, 2016). <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/4403>

<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=763>

Description : An annual, branched, herb; stem ascending from a creeping base, branched; young stem and leaf axil white hairy; old ones glabrous; leaf blade oblong, oblong-obovate, or ovate-lanceolate, glabrous or ciliate, adaxially muricate, base attenuate, margin entire, apex acute or obtuse, with a mucro. Heads with a peduncle, solitary at leaf axil, globose; bracts and bracteoles white, 1-veined, apex acuminate; bracts ovate; bracteoles lanceolate; tepals white, shiny, oblong glabrous, apex acute; filaments connate into a cup at base; pseudostaminodes oblong-linear, as long as stamens. Ovary obovoid, compressed, with short stalk.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, Glycosides, Terpenoid, Steroid, Flavonoid, Tannins, Saponin. phaeophytin a, phaeophytin a, oleanolic acid, β -sitosterol, 3 β -hydroxystigmast-5-en-7-one, α -spinasterol, 24-methylene cycloartanol, cycloeucalenol and phytol. The antitumour compounds alternanthin B and N-trans-feruloyl-3,5-dimethoxytyramine

Medicinal/Economic uses : Preventive and therapeutic effects against influenza, antinociceptive and antihyperglycemic. Aqueous extract of the plant demonstrated for inhibitory activity against human immunodeficiency virus, and dengue. Use as vegetable basically the young stem and leaf and used against to treat dysentery, asthma in various regions of Assam. Young shoot and leaf juice (50-100ml) with equal amount of water is given before bedtime for stomach pain regularly for a week by Bodo, Santhal, and Goreswar tribes of Indian North East.