

Botanic name : *Cyperus odoratus* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 46. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name: Fragrant flat sedge

Family: Cyperaceae

Habitat: Aquatic

Distribution : Native to India, mainly in NE India including Shillong, Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam and Tripura; distributed much in tropical and warm temperate world, including South Central and North America, Southeast Asia, some Pacific Islands, Australia, New Guinea, Madagascar, and central Africa. Becomes threatened and endangered in parts of India, USA, and other parts due to its sensitivity to aquatic pollution, water level, and existence of invasive species

Description: An annual herb ,has some long, thin grass-like leaves around the base. The inflorescence is made up of several small bottlebrush-like clusters of spikelets; Each spikelet is usually light brown to reddish-brown and has a few to over 20 flowers. Each flower is covered by a tough, flat bract with a visible mid vein. Spikelets 12–34 × 0.9–1.5 mm, 0.6–1.1 mm thick. Rachilla articulate at the base and all nodes, spikelet splitting into units composed of rachilla 1 internode + 1 glume + 1 achene, internodes 1.3–2 mm long. Rachilla wings present, 0.6–1.3 mm wide, spongy, becoming membranaceous at the margins, yellowish-brown to ochraceous. Stamina 3; anther 0.4–0.7 × 0.1–0.2 mm; connective prolongation absent or present at the anther apex, up to 0.1 mm long, vinaceous to reddish, glabrous. The fruit is a flat achene

Phytochemicals: Terpenes, phenols, steroids, fatty acids, alkanes, alkaloids and esters, hexadecanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester, Octadecanoic acid, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl ester, Phytol, gamma.-Sitosterol and l-(+)-Ascorbic acid 2,6-dihexadecanoate, squalene and Campesterol, Caryophyllene oxide and Phenol, 2,3,5,6-tetramethyl.

Medicinal/Economic use : Aphrodisiac, antispasmodic and stomachic.