

Botanic name : *Digera muricata* Mart. -- Nova Acta Phys.-Med. Acad. Caes. Leop.-Carol. Nat. Cur. 13: 285. 1826 (IK)

Common name :

Family : Amaranthaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Widespread in south Asia from tropical Arabia and the Yemen to Afghanistan, India, Ceylon, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Description : An annual laxly branched herb; stem and branches glabrous or very sparingly pilose, with pale ridges; leaf-blade narrowly linear to broadly ovate or rarely subrotund, glabrous or the petiole and principal veins of the lower surface of the leaf spreading-hairy, acute or acuminate at the apex, longly or (in broader-leaved forms) rapidly narrowed to the base; flowers glabrous, white tinged with pink to carmine or red, usually becoming greenish-white in fruit, in long and slender or shorter and denser axillary racemes, long-pedunculate, up to c. 30 cm long, laxer below; bracts persistent, deltoid-lanceolate, each subtending a very shortly pedunculate partial inflorescence of 3 flowers; central flower fertile, the 2 membranous, navicular outer perianth segments, oval or oblong, 7-12-nerved (in Asia), acute; the 2-3 inner segments slightly shorter, more delicate, blunt or erose, 1-3-nerved, hyaline, with a darker central vitta; stamens sub-equalling or shorter than the style; the 2 stigmas finally recurved; lateral flowers appressed, 1-bracteolate, bracteoles similar in form to the bract, modified into accrescent, antler-shaped scales, these scales with the lateral lobes narrow (in Asia) to broad and wing-like; fruit subglobose, slightly compressed, bluntly keeled along each side, surmounted by a thick rim or a corona of short, firm processes furnished throughout with verrucae or ridges, style persistent.

Phytochemicals: The α - and β - spinasterol, flavonoids, rutin and hyperoside flavonoids , alkaloids, terpenoids, saponins, coumarins, tannins, cardiac glycosides, anthraquinones.

Medicinal/Economic uses : The root, leaf, stem, seeds and flowers of this plant have medicinal properties and traditionally used as medicinal plant. Antidiabetic, diuretic, hepatoprotective, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anthelmintic, All parts of the plant have been used as crude drug for the treatment of kidney stone and urinary tract disorders/discharge. Ethnopharmacologically, the plant has been used in renal disorders, aperients, refrigerant³. This plant is also used as an alternative for secondary infertility. In Ayurveda this herb is considered as cooling, astringent of bowels and also used as a laxative. Edible- plant is a rich source of calcium, iron, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, zinc, vitamin C, thiamin (Vit B1),. leaves and young mshoots of this plant are locally used as a vegetable and given to relieve constipation. In India the leaves are made into curries or the entire plant is boiled in water and seasoned with salt and chili.