

Botanic name: *Eclipta alba* L. ex B.D.Jacks. -- Index Linn. Herb. 71 (1912), nomen. (IK)

Common name: False Daisy, Trailing eclipta, Kesuti

Family: Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Pantropical

Description: Perennial herb, erect or prostrate, grows upto 30-40 cm in height. Stems: green or purple, bristly, thickened at the nodes. Stems are erect or prostrate, entirely velvety, often rooting at nodes, oblong, lance-shaped; leaves opposite, sub-sessile, lanceolate-oblong, denticulate, hirsute on both sides; flowers white in axillary or terminal head, the female radiated, the bisexual in the centre; achene 3-angled, slightly flattened.

Phytochemicals: The plant is a rich source of thiophene derivatives, mono-, di- and trithiophene acetylenes. Aerial parts contain terthienyl aldehyde, ecliptal besides stigmasterol and β -sitosterol, 2-an-geloyloxy methylene-5-dithiophene. Roots are store house of thiophene acetylenes

Medicinal/Economic uses: An important Ayurveda herb, widely used in hair fall treatment, liver disorders, skin diseases. Useful in swelled spleen and liver, elephantiasis, inflammations, gastrointestinal problems, anorexia, skin diseases, wounds, ulcers, ophthalmopathy, debility, hypertension, strangury, leprosy, pruritis, fever, jaundice, odontalgia, otalgia and cephalalgia. Also used for blackening and strengthening of the hair, for stopping haemorrhages, menorrhagia, fatty liver, indigestion and fluxes, and for strengthening the gums. Seeds used for increasing sexual vigour, leaf paste for kajal, mixed with clarified butter (ghee), the fried leaves for improved vision, and other pharmacological preparations for liver cleaning, blood pressure regulation etc.