

**Botanic name** : *Hypericum japonicum* Thunb. -- Fl. Jap. (Thunberg) 295, t. 31. 1784 (IK)

**Common name** : Swamp Hypericum

**Family** : Clusiaceae

**Habitat** : Terrestrial

**Distribution** : Indo-China, Japan, S. Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; SE Australia, Pacific islands

**Description** : An annual erect to decumbent herb; stems solitary, unbranched below inflorescence or variously branched, 4-lined, with scattered gland dots; leaves sessile; ovate or ovate-triangular to oblong or elliptic, thickly papery, abaxially paler and sometimes glaucous, laminar and intramarginal glands dense, basal, base cordate-amplexicaul to cuneate, margin plane, apex obtuse to rounded; flowers stellate, buds cylindric-ellipsoid, obtuse at apex, arranged in cymes; sepals free, erect, narrowly oblong or rarely lanceolate to elliptic, distally dots, apex acute to rounded; petals pale to bright yellow or orange, obovate to oblong or elliptic, entire at margin, glandular, stamens 5-30, irregular or in 5 obscure groups when few; Ovary broadly ovoid to subglobose; styles as long as ovary, spreading; fruits-capsule cylindric to globose,

**Phytochemicals**: Flavonoids (taxfolin-7-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside, isoquercitrin, quercitrin, quercetin-7-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside and quercetin), phloroglucinols, xanthones, hypericin and hyperforin

**Medicinal/Economic uses** : Alterative, hepatoprotective, anti-tumor, antibacterial, antiviral, and antioxidant, antitumor, astringent, antiphlogistic, depurative, febrifuge, stomachic, styptic, and vulnerary. Used in the treatment of asthma and dysentery, acute hepatitis, liver pain, appendicitis, boils, and abscesses. Combined with ginger and ash salt, it is used in the treatment of malaria. Externally, the plant is used to treat wounds, swellings, abscesses, leech and snake bites, scrofula and fungal skin diseases.