

Botanic name: *Lindenbergia indica* (L.) Kuntze

Common name: Nettle Leaved, Halidi basanto (Bengali)

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial, also grows on damp, old wall

Distribution: The species is native in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia.

Description: An annual much branched herb; stems glandular hairy; leaves ovate and pointed, opposite-decussate, hairy, stinging nettle, coarsely toothed or crenate-serrate at margins; flowers yellow arranged in solitary or axillary sikes or racemes; the corolla is 2-lipped, 3-lobed lower lip is larger than the 2-lobed upper lip; stamens 4, didynamous, included, anthers divaricate (with separate stalk cells); the ovary ovoid; fruits-capsules oblong containing hair at the tip.

Phytochemicals: Long-chain hydrocarbons, β -sitosterol, β -sitosterol palmitate, β -sitosterol- β -D-glucoside, mannitol and apigenin, phenols, terpenoids, saponins and tannins.

Medicinal/Economic uses: Plant juice mixed with 'thunkuni' are given in chronic bronchitis and skin-diseases. Boiled plant in water and vapor is used for fever. Fruit is eaten in diarrhea. Seeds are eaten as curry. Powder is prepared from seeds used as additive in curry.