

**Botanic name :** *Amaranthus sessilis* (L.) R. Br.

**Common name :** Dwarf Copperleaf, Matsyakshi (sanskrit)

**Family :** Amaranthaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Asia, Africa

**Description :** Erect glabrous herbs, profusely branched, branches ridged distinctly; spines divaricate, sharp. Leaves of various shape ovate elliptical, lanceolate, lanceolate-oblong, leaf base attenuate, apex obtuse or subacute; petiolate, petiole 1cm to 4 cm long. Flowers in terminal panicles, spikes or in axillary, sessile clusters. Bracteate, bract minute, ovate-lanceolate in shape. Male flowers: 1-2 mm across; tepals 5, calycine, unequal, ovate-lanceolate; stamens 5; anthers sagittate. Female flowers: 1-2 mm across; tepals 5, oblong, acute at apex; ovary 1-celled; ovules solitary; stigmas 2-3. Seeds minute, discoid

**Phytochemicals:** flavonoids, steroids, terpenoids and cardiac glycosides

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** One of the sources of Ayurvedic drug 'Lonica' used to treat flatulence, wounds, cough, bronchitis, diabetes, gastrointestinal problems, vomiting, headache, asthma, vertigo, hepatitis. Antibacterial. Used as mixed vegetables & home remedies