

**Botanic name :** *Chenopodium ambrosioides* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 219. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

**Common name :** Mexican Tea, Wormseed, Chandan bathwa, Bathu/Skunkweed

**Family :** Chenopodiaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native of Mexico; now distributed in Indian Himalayas, South Asia, SE Asia

**Description :** An annual or perennial erect herb, height of five feet; stems slightly woody at the bottom, branched, with potent smell; leaves simple, alternate, roughly toothed, lanceolate; flowers thick spines of minute flowers, numerous, yellowish-green in cymose clusters forming axillary spikes or long terminal panicles at the leaf axils; sepals 5, sometimes only 3, enclosing the utricle; stamens are as many as sepals, hypogynous or somewhat perigynous, filaments distinct; fruit is perfectly enclosed in the calyx, obtusely angled; seed smooth and shining

**Phytochemicals:** Ascaridol (unique smell), ascaridole (60-80%), isoascaridole, p-cymene, limonene, and x-terpinene (essential oil), dimethyl oxide, volatile oil, saponins, vitamin C, safrle, ascaridole glycol, butyric acid, p-cymene, L-limonene, l-isolimonene, anthraglycosides, cinnamic acid derivatives, mucins and pectins, amygdalin, and d-camphor. Fruits yielded two flavonol glycosides, kaempferol 3-rhamnoside-4'-xyloside and kaempferol 3-rhamnoside-7-xyloside

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Anthelmintic, abortifacient, anti-leishmaniasis, antidiabetic (more study needed), vermifuge, laxative, analgesic, anti-asthmatic, anti-fungal, stomachic, carminative, diuretic, hypotensive, emmenagogue, stomachic, and sudorific, For centuries the plant has been used by Southern and Central American people to rid the body of parasitic intestinal worms, nematicidal, and was listed in the United States Pharmacopeia. Cures Piles, gas trouble, indigestion, tropical ulcer (oil), skin diseases of the lower limbs, eczema (decoction), internal hemostatic (decoction), grippe, flatulence, colic and stomach pains (infusion), as carminative in poultices applied to abdomen of children suffering from dyspepsia (leaf crushed and mixed with rice), hemorrhoids (wash), wound, snake bites and poison-related troubles, uterine fibroids and certain cancers. Used with caution in patients with gout, kidney stones, and rheumatism. In the Yucatan, indigenous tribes use plant for intestinal parasites, asthma, chorea and other nervous affliction while in Peru, plant soaks used topically for arthritis. In southern Africa, Suto and Zulu tribes use an infusion for colds and stomach aches; as an enema for intestinal ulceration and as sudorific. The whole plant has a strong, peculiar, somewhat aromatic odour, which is due to the presence of a volatile oil and is retained on drying. The leaves have been used in place of tea in Mexico. Seed oils if taken in excess is highly toxic and can cause dizziness, vomiting, convulsions, and even death. Commonly used as an herb for cooking and especially used in traditional bean dishes (central America). Tender leaves and cooked leaves are edible; used as potherb, as a condiment in soups, infusion of leaves used as tea substitute. Used as a fumigant against mosquito and mixed with fertilizer as insecticide. Plant yields gold/green dye of economic use.