

**Botanic name :** *Synedrella nodiflora* Gaertn. -- Fruct. Sem. Pl. ii. 456. t. 171. (IK)

**Common name :** Nodeweed, Cinderella weed

**Family :** Asteraceae (Compositae)

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Widespread in tropical Africa, India, and America over a range of altitude. A serious weed of over 28 crops in 50 countries growing abundantly at gardens, lawns, parks and other disturbed places such as roadsides, rubbish dumps, around buildings and on wasteland. When dense stands occur, the herb can compete vigorously for light with low-growing crops such as vegetables. The plant has allelopathic effects on neighboring crops and native ecosystem flora

**Description :** An annual tall, erect, herb; long internodes and swollen nodes, to be rounded or slightly angular; leaves simple, opposite-decussate, ovate-lanceolate, hispidly hairy, acute at apex, crenate-serrate at margins; floral heads axillary or between forks of branches, pale yellow, arranged in a distinct heterogamous capitulum as small crowded bunches of 2-8 inflorescences at nodes, each inflorescence consists of several erect bracts 3-5 mm long surrounding 5-6 marginal ray florets and 10-20 central disc florets; both ray and disc florets yellow; fruits cypsela-achenes; of ray florets prominently ribbed, lacerate, those of disc florets compressed, subtrigonal, minutely tuberculate. Both types of seed produce identical individuals, which in turn produce both types of seed.

**Phytochemicals:** Glycosides, saponins, anthracene glycosides, sterols, alkaloids, tannins, and pseudotannins

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Anticonvulsant, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antipsychotic, and sedative. Plant part/s are used for cardiac problems, pain, wound healing, and to stop bleeding (Indonesian tribes), headaches, earaches, stomachaches, and as a liniment for rheumatism (Indonesia and Malayasia). In traditional Ghanaian medicine, the whole plant is boiled and the aqueous extract drunk as required for the treatment of epilepsy. The leaves are used medicinally to prevent spontaneous abortion, hiccup, as a laxative and for the treatment of hiccup and threatened abortion. The whole plant extract has been reported to possess potent anti-inflammatory activity and central analgesic effects. In Indonesia, the tender foliage is taken as a vegetable whereas in Ghana, Africa, the foliage is eaten by livestock. An infusion of the leaves is applied to affected areas for athlete's foot (Tanchangya) while the leaf extract is taken for impotence (Marma) in Bangladesh.