

Botanic name : *Blumea laciniata* DC. -- Prodr. [A. P. de Candolle] 5: 436. 1836 [1-10 Oct 1836] (IK) [**syn.** *Conyza laciniata*]

Common name : Cutleaf Blumea

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to India and SE Asia. Aggressive in many parts of E. Asia - southern China, Indian subcontinent, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines.

Description : An unpleasant smelling herb 1-6 ft tall from a taproot. Stems are erect to ascending, usually branched from the base, hairless or hairy. Leaves are inverted-lacinated, obovate to elliptic in outline, 4.5-36.5 cm long, 0.8-21 cm wide. The lower leaves are pinnately lobed, sometimes with a large terminal lobe, becoming progressively less lobed above. Margins are irregularly toothed. Lower leaves have 1-6 cm long stalks, upper ones are stalkless. Flower-heads are borne in large, open panicles at the end of branches, in capitulum. Involucral bracts are often purple-tinged, reflexed at maturity, 1-8 mm long, hairy. Receptacle is sparsely hairy. Florets are yellow, perfect florets 5-lobed, 4-5 mm long, marginal pistillate florets are 2-3-lobed, 3.5-4.5 mm long. Achenes are brown, ribbed, 4 mm long.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, phlobatanins, protocatechuic acid, chrysoeriol, apigenin, 4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxybenzoic acid, scopolet

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antimicrobial, antiviral [human herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1)] and antioxidant. The leaves are sudorific and are used against bronchitis, aphthae and asthma. Leaf paste is applied externally as a poultice to treat rheumatism. In Indian Ayurveda, the herb is antipyretic; good for bronchitis, fevers, thirst, and burning sensation, mouth disease. In Indian state of Mizoram, traditionally leaf preparations (Pressed leaf, decoction, infusion, juice) are used in treating stomach ulcer, wound, indigestion, asthma, tuberculosis, dysentery, scabies, skin diseases, sores, and dandruff. In Konkan region of South India, the plant is used to prevent insect and flea. Leaves are also used as a flavoring agent.