

**Botanic name :** *Hyptis capitata* Jacq. -- Coll. i. 102; Ic. Rar. 1. t. 114. (IK)

**Common name :** Knobweed

**Family :** Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native of tropical America; naturalized in pan tropics

**Description :** An erect annual shrub; stems 4-angled, hairy; leaves lanceolate or rhomboid-elliptic, acute at apex, serrate at margin, cuneate and decurrent at base; flowers sessile, white, in crowded verticillasters forming axillary, solitary globular heads (hence capitata), bracteate; corolla 2-lipped with faint purplish spots on upper lip, lower lip turned black, corolla connate at base, stamens 4, didynamous, epipetalous, carpels 2, style gynobasic; fruits cerceule

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids, tannins, saponins, glycoside, quinones, phenols

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Antimicrobial, antioxidant, antidiarrhoeal, stimulant, and tonic. The plant is used as a treatment for dry cough and toothaches; gas pains in infants and convulsions in children. Decoction of the leaves is used for cleansing wounds and against amenorrhoea (The Philippines). Cold water infusion of the crushed leaves is drunk as a remedy for 'black diarrhoea'. Used as a sedative and calmative, and to reduce heart palpitations (leaf infusion), in treating stomachache (leaf paste), and infections (crushed leaves). A decoction of the stems and leaves is used to treat malaria, influenza and tuberculosis (Taiwan).