

Botanic Name : *Spilanthes acmella* Murr.

Common Name : Pellitory (English), Akarkara (Hindi), Jhummosak in NE Bangladesh.

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Indian subcontinent

Description : Annual erect or ascending stout herb, leaves opposite, petiolate, broadly ovate, narrow at base, acute, axillary and terminal panicles, ray florets few, disc florets companulate, Achenes dorsally compressed.

Phytochemicals: The major pungent constituent-Spilanthal is chemically N-isobutylamide. The flower head and root part of the plant have been reported to be the rich source of active principles

Medicinal/Economic uses: Spilanthal-an isobutylamide is bitter in taste and is well known for its insecticidal properties. The Whole plant is used in treatment of dysentery. Flower heads are chewed to relieve the toothache and other mouth related troubles, Pharmacological preparations of leaves are used in skin diseases, & as diuretic and lithotropic. Popularly used as folklore remedy for toothache and for throat and gum infections. Root paste used to treat throat problems. Also used in treating snakebite (whole plant paste), articular rheumatism, leucorrhoea in females among tribal people of Bangladesh (CHT). Supposed to be useful in cases of tuberculosis in India.