

Botanic name : *Cleome monophylla* L.-- Sp. Pl. 2: 672. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Spiderplant, spindle pot, bastard mustard

Family : Capparaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Throughout tropical Africa, Arabian Peninsula to India. Widespread in Indian plains, having

Description : Erect or spreading annual herb; stem densely covered with short glandular and longer non-glandular hairs; leaves alternate, simple; petiole up to 2.5 cm long; leaf usually lanceolate or oblong, sometimes ovate or linear-lanceolate, entire at margin, pubescent on both surfaces with hairs like those on the stem; flowers bisexual, small, 4-merous; pedicel up to 1 cm long, arranged in a few-flowered, terminal raceme; sepals narrowly lanceolate; petals free, obovate to oblanceolate, at base tapering into a thin claw about as long as the sepals, pink to purple; stamens 5–6, two inner ones slightly longer than outer ones, filaments 5–6 mm long; ovary superior, 1-celled, pubescent, style short, stigma capitate; fruit a spindle-shaped capsule with stalk up to 4 mm long, densely covered with glandular and non-glandular hairs, completely dehiscent with 2 valves. Seeds flattened to subglobose, dark brown with fine longitudinal striations and low transverse ridges.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloid, flavonoid, tannin, saponin, cyanogenic glycoside, oxalate, fatty acids, cleomaldeic acid, glucosinolates, isothiocyanate, Essential oil contains terpenolene (14%), 1- α -terpeneol (10%), pentacosane (9%), (α and β)-humulene (8%), phytol (5%) and 2-dodecanone (4%).

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antidiabetic, antibacterial, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-malarial, and anti-diarrheal. In India, the Ayurvedic drug 'Hurhur' is prepared from seeds and leaves of the plant to treat ulcers, boils and wounds and formation of pus. The roots are used in cough and put on the lips to restore consciousness when in a faint. Leaves are helpful in eye irritation, headache, sores, and swellings. The leaf-sap is used as a sudorific in the treatment of fevers and ear discharge. The seeds are anthelmintic, rubefacient and vesicant. Edible use- leaves, young shoots and young flowering stems - cooked and used like spinach often with beans and peas in African countries. The essential oil extracted from *Cleome monophylla* exhibited repellency against the tick *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus* and the maize weevil (*Sitophilus zeamais*).