

Botanic name: *Ruellia tuberosa* L. -- Sp. Pl. 2: 635. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name: Minnie Root, Snapdragon Root, Cracker Plant

Family: Acanthaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to Central America but introduced and naturalized in tropical South and Southeast Asia including India; becomes invasive in New Caledonia, Seychellus islands, Australia, and Taiwan

Description: Herb with tuberous fusiform roots, opposite leaves, winged petioles, stem 4-angled, flowers violet; Cymes dichotomous, few-flowered, bracts narrow; calyx lobes linear, 12-20 mm long, hispid; corolla tube abruptly expanded above, 4-6 cm long, purple, lobes suborbicular; stamens included in throat, strongly didynamous, anthers not overlapping; filaments fused for 1–2 mm at base, free parts 2–3 and 6–7 mm long; anthers 3–4 mm long; capsule linear, glabrous

Phytochemicals: Leaves contain apigenin, luteolin, while myristic, capril and lauric acid. Presence of tannin, flavonoid, steroid, triterpnoid and phenol also reported.

Medicinal/economic uses: Antioxidant/antiinflammatory, anthelmintic, abortifacient, blood cleansing, antimicrobial, antifungal, insecticidal; in treating joint pains, bladder disease, common colds, fevers and hypertension, kidney disease, whooping cough, and joint pains (roots and leaves).used as diuretic, antidiabetic, antipyretic, analgesic, anti-hypersensitive, thirst-quenching, and antidotal agent.