

Botanic name : *Ageratum houstonianum* Mill. -- Gard. Dict., ed. 8. n. 2. 1768 (IK)

Common name : Floss Flower, Blue mink, Mexican paintbrush

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Mexico, parts of USA; garden escape in UK, and becomes invasive; alien and invasive in Indian Himalayas with high allelopathic potential

Description : An annual branched semi-erect herb; leaves oval to heart-shaped; flowers purple to blue to lavender or pink, arranged in capitula, ray florets are thread like; anthers syngenesious; fruits cypsela with pappus

Phytochemicals: 2,6-octadien-1-ol, phenol, ethanone, hexadecanoic acid, acetylcopsamine, squalene, stigmasterol

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antimicrobial, antioxidant, antifungal, anti-ulcer, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory. Juice of the plant is used externally to treat cuts and wounds. Insecticide. May cause skin problems and hepatotoxic.