

Botanic name : *Borreria hispida* K. Schum. -- Nat. Pflanzenfam. [Engler & Prantl] iv. 4. (1891) 144. (IK) (syn. *Spermacoce hispida* L.)

Common name : Madanghanti (Sanskrit), Nattaiccuri (Tamil), Button weed

Family : Rubiaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Indian Himalayas and South India (widely distributed in the Western Ghats of Kerala and in Maruthamalai forest, which is an extension of Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu); distributed in Indo-China, SriLanka, & Malay, SE Asia; naturalized in Africa and Australia.

Description : A procumbent, branched, hairy or rough annual herb 10 to 14 centimeters in length; branches are greenish or purplish, ascending, stout, quadrangular; leaves simple, linearly-ovate, spatulate, or elliptic, and pointed or rounded at the tip; stipulate; interpetiolar; flowers are 4 to 6, arranged in a whorl in the leaf axils; calyx-teeth are linear-lanceolate; corolla pale blue or white; fruit is a hairy capsule about 5 millimeters in length. The seeds are oblong, granulate, opaque.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids (indole, bis-indole, tetrahydroisoquinoline, borreverine), flavonoids (isorhamnetin), terpenoids- β -sitosterol, ursolic acid), iridoids, volatile compounds, coumarins, and flavonoids. seed oil yielded saponins, tannins, phenolics, steroids, essential oil, flavonoids, and terpenoids, with an absence of alkaloids, glycosides and carbohydrates

Medicinal/Economic uses : Tonic and stimulant, aphrodisiac, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antimicrobial, larvicidal, antioxidant, gastrointestinal, anti-ulcer, and hepatoprotective. Since time immemorial as an alternative therapy for diabetes. leaves brewed in decoction are used as an astringent in haemorrhoids. Root decoction as an alternative. Leaves- used as ophthalmic, inflammation of eye and gums, blindness, headache, carache, fever, spleen complaints, sore, conjunctivitis, hemorrhage, gallstones, dysentery, and diarrhoea, and the decoction of the leaves, roots, and seeds is used in India for dropsy Seeds, as a confection, are cooling and demulcent, and are given in diarrhea and dysentery. In Indian traditional medicine, herb is used to heal stomach ailments and also used as tonic and antidandruff. The flowers have been applied to boils, eruptions, swellings and also regarded as an emetic and as a remedy for coughs and malaria. Edible as vegetables. Seeds as a substitute for coffee