

Botanic name : *Alternanthera sessilis* R.Br. ex DC. -- Cat. Pl. Horti Monsp. 77. 1813 (GCI)

Common name : Dwarf copperleaf, Sessile joyweed

Family : Amaranthaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Wide-range distribution from South Asia to Oceania; invasive in parts of India, southern states of USA

Description : Perennial much branched prostrate herb; stems prostrate, rarely ascending; leaves simple, opposite, somewhat fleshy, obovate to broadly elliptic, occasionally linear-lanceolate, glabrous to sparsely villous, shortly petiolate; flowers in sessile spikes, bract and bracteolate, shiny white, glabrous; flowers are situated over the stem with shape as round; sepals equal, outer ones mono-nerved or indistinctly 3-nerved toward base; stamens 5, sterile; fruits obcordate utricles.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, tannins, quinones, saponins, steroids, stigmasterol, β -sitosterol, β -carotene, ricinoleic acid, myristic, palmitic, stearic, oleic and linoleic acids, α -spiraterol and uronic acid

Medicinal/Economic uses : Diuretic, cooling, tonic and laxative. Used in the treatment of dysuria, to treat diarrhoea, dysentery and fevers and haemorrhoids, and also as an ingredient in the making of medicinal hair oils and Kajal (kohl). The plant is cultivated for food, as an ornamental plant (red variety, as a hedging plant), in the aquarium plant, and as poultry feed. Poultice used in boils.