

Botanic name : *Gnaphalium indicum* L. -- 1753.f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 289. 1881

Common name : Indian cudweed, avinpokutti (Tamil)

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : East Asia-India, China to Australia. Invasive in many east Asian countries including SE China, Eastern India. Widespread weed in tropical and subtropical Africa, Australia, and America, also due to presence of allelochemicals inhibiting growth of native flora

Description : An annual erect ascending, woolly annual herbs, grows up to 0.15 m, ; leaves sessile, semi-amplexicaul at base, oblong, spatulate or oblanceolate, woolly on both surfaces, obtuse at apex, sometimes mucronate, entire at margins, those at apical nodes linear-oblong, acute at apex; flowers arranged in capitula borne in dense terminal corymbs, golden-yellow, glistening; involucre bracts shining, straw-coloured, sub-herbaceous at base and transparent towards apex, outer ones ovate, sub-acute, inner linear, acute or sub-acute. Ray-florets: numerous, pappus shorter than the involucre. Disc-florets: slender; style-branches truncate; fruits cypsela oblong, papillose; Achenes are tubercled or have minute curved bristles

Phytochemicals: Flavonoids-Apigenin and its derivatives, luteolin, Gnaphalin and its compounds, quercetin, flavone, tetrahydroxy-3-methoxyflavone, sesquiterpenes, triterpenes, phytosterols, anthraquinones, gnaphaliol 3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside, Gnaphaliol 9-O- β -D-glucopyranoside, (Z)-3-Hexenyl O- β -D-glucopyranoside, adenosine; many of which act as alleochemicals

Medicinal/Economic uses : Not much information available. Used in India as Siddha, and folk medicine. Antitumor, antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-complement, antitussive and expectorant, insect anti-feedant, cytotoxic, anti-diabetic and anti-hypouricemic. Edible-leaves cooked.