

**Botanic name :** *Herpestis chamaedryoides* Kunth -- Nov. Gen. Sp. [H.B.K.] 2: 369. 1818 (IK) [syn. *Mecardonia procumbens* (Mill.) Small]

**Common name :** Baby Jump-up, Garurbramhi (Bengali)

**Family :** Scrophulariaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Tropical and subtropical America; distributed widely in India and is now naturalized on all continents except Antarctica

**Description :** An annual decumbent trailing ephemeral herb; rooting at lower nodes; stems weak, sharply quadrangular, glabrous; leaves opposite, glabrous, short-petioled or petioles indistinct, elliptic to ovate-elliptic, apically obtuse, basally cuneate or obtuse; flowers bisexual, zygomorphic, axillary, solitary; pedicellate; pedicels thin, glabrous, 4-6 mm long; bracteates; sepals free, with acute base, glabrous, 5 – lobed; the 3 outer lobes ovate – oblong, attenuate at apex, subobtuse at base, the 2 inner ones shorter, much narrower, linear, calyx accrescent; corolla bilabiate, yellow with purple lines on upper lip, slightly longer than the calyx; upper lip emarginated; stamens 4, didynamous; anther cells divaricate; ovary superior, narrowly ovoid; style filiform, 1.3 mm long, curved at apex. Fruit-capsule, narrowly ellipsoid, 2-valved, glabrous, dehiscent loculicidally and septucidally from apex; Seeds numerous, tuberculate, yellow or greenish brown, oblong with obtuse or truncate apex and subobtuse base

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids- Herpestine and Nicotinine; triterpenoid saponins, saponins A, B and C, betulinic acid, d – mannitol,  $\beta$  –sitosterol, stigmasteral and pseudojujubogenin glycoside designated as bacopasides I and bacopasides II, saponins, tannins, flavonoids, cardiac glycosides

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** In Mexico, the herb known as 'Metatera' is boiled and placed on external wounds to heal. The nectar obtained from flower is liked by butterflies. The plant is brain stimulant as well as neuro-stimulant.