

Botanic name : *Oldenlandia corymbosa* L. [syn. *Hedyotis corymbosa* (L). Lam]

Common name : Diamond Flower, Parpata

Family : Rubiaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Pantropical weed; Native to tropical Africa, including Madagascar, and India

Description : Annual sub-erect herb; leaves subsessile, linear lanceolate, acute at apex, recurved with hairy margins, interpetiolar stipulate; tetramerous white small flowers arranged in axillary corymbose manner; stamens white, four, in the throat of the corolla; ovary 2-celled with many ovules per chamber in axile placentation; fruit capsule

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids biflorine and biflorone, which are interconvertable, The content of biflorone increases in Herbarium plants at the expense of biflorone; flavonols (Quercetin, 3"-Methoxy quercetin and 3", 4"-Dimethoxy quercetin), phenolic acids (vanillic, syringic acid, melilotic acid, p-hydroxy benzoic, p-coumaric, ferulic and caffeic acids), anthocyanidins (cyanidin and pelargonidin), and Iridoids are also present

Medicinal/Economic uses : Used in jaundice and liver diseases (Gujrat, India), stomach disorder (leaf juice), sore & sore eyes (poultice), fever (plant juice), gastric irritation, viral infections, cancer, acne, boils, appendicitis, hepatitis, eye problems and bleeding (Chinese medicine). The plant is known to clear toxins, accelerate blood circulation and relieve stranguria. Also active against appendicitis, hepatitis, pneumonia, cholecystitis, urinary infection, cellulites and snake bite. The whole plant/ plant part decoction has been used as an antirheumatic, depurative, antimicrobial, diaphoretic, anthelmintic, diuretic, digestive, vermifuge/tincture (roots), febrifuge, pectoral, stomachic, tonic & to facilitate childbirth (Africa). As a rich source of vitamin C, leaves mixed with *Amaranthus* & *Cucurbita* spp, are cooked as vegetables. Ash obtained from burnt leaves and stems are mixed with vegetables and taken as a tenderizer