

Botanic name : *Mimosa pudica* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 518. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Lajjabati (Bengali), Touch Me Not

Family : Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native of tropical America; naturalized nearly all through the tropical and subtropical parts of India, having allelopathic potential to inhibit growth of native flora to facilitate its own invasion in new areas. It has become a serious weed in fields of corn, soybeans, tomatoes, upland rice, cotton, bananas, sugarcane, coffee, oil palms, papayas, coconuts, and rubber in many tropical areas. It is tolerated or valued as a forage plant in pastures but weeding in troublesome due to its thorny nature.

More read: <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1002>

Description : A creeping, annual or perennial, diffuse prickly undershrub; stems cylindrical; sparsely prickly, covered with long, weak bristles longitudinally grooved, external surface light brown, internal surface grey, bark fibrous; leaves digitately compound with one or two pairs of sessile, hairy pinnae, alternate, petiolate, stipulate, linear lanceolate; leaflets 10–20 pairs, sessile, obliquely narrow or linear oblong; obliquely rounded at base, acute, nearly glabrous; yellowish green; flowers pink arranged in globose head, peduncles prickly; calyx very small; corolla pink, lobes 4, ovate oblong; stamens 4, much exerted; ovary sessile; ovules numerous; fruits-lomentum, simple, dry with indehisced segments and persistent sutures having —two to five seeds with yellowish spreading bristle at sutures, glabrous, and straw colored.

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, non-protein amino acid (mimosine), flavonoids C-glycosides, sterols, terpenoids, tannins, and fatty acids

Medicinal/Economic uses : Identified as 'lajjalu' in Ayurveda, the plant is antioxidant, antiasthmatic, aphrodisiac, antihepatotoxic, anticonvulsant, antivenom, aphrodisiac, antifungal, antimicrobial, diuretic, analgesic, and antidepressant, sedative, emetic, and tonic. Used traditionally in the treatment of various ailments including alopecia, diarrhea, dysentery, insomnia, tumor, and various urogenital infections. Useful in regeneration of sciatic nerve. Included in an ointment, the herb was applied over piles, ulcers, and wounds. As Chhuimui, leaves used for increasing the sexual potency in men in Kurukshetra District (Haryana), India. As Laajvanti; its leaves and roots are used for gravel and other kidney diseases, also for piles and fistula in the Sagar District, Madhya Pradesh, India. The roots are also used in an oral snakebite remedy. As Lazaoni, root decoction is gargled for gum trouble and toothache by Rahba in West Bengal, India. Interesting in Plant biology study due to presence of rapid and nyctinastic movement (periodical) of its leaves.

More read: Ahmad et al. (2012) Pharmacogn Rev. 2012 Jul-Dec; 6(12): 115–124.