

Botanic name : *Gnaphalium luteoalbum* L. -- Sp. Pl. 2: 851. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Jersey Cudweed, Bal Raksha, Bara Kamra (Bengali),

Family : Asteraceae (Compositae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to the Canary Islands; distributed in Indian Sub-continent, China, Japan and Taiwan, and southward to Borneo and Australia. Sensitive to habitat destruction, pollution, and other ecological/environmental stress.

Description : An erect ascending, wooly annual herbs, grows up to 70 cm high, often woody at base; 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: chalcone glucoside(l) which is characterised as 2',4,4'-trihydroxy-6-methoxychalcone-4'-glucoside, luteolin and its 4'-D-glucoside, dehydro-*p*-asebotin (flowers), calycopterin and 3'-methoxycalycopterin from the leaf wax

Medicinal/Economic uses : Astringent and vulnerary, antifungal, antiseptic, anti-diarrheal, useful in wounds and burns, also used internally to check discharge of blood serum or mucous secretions. The tomentum is applied to counter irritant originated from gout (Bangladesh). The leaves are used as a tinder and taken raw or cooked. In Indian state of Meghalaya, plant is used by the Garo tribe, crushed along with dried fish and applied as a poultice to heal fractured bones. Also, used by the Kavirajes of Chalna as tonic, and for tumor, gout, and dermatitis (India, Bangladesh).