

Botanic name : *Drymaria cordata* (L.) Willd. ex Roem. & Schult.

Common name : Tropical Chickweed

Family : Caryophyllaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to tropical America, but is now widely distributed throughout the tropics and subtropics; interestingly becomes invasive in its origin but becomes rare in naturalized zones

Description : A weak prostrate or creeping annual, or less commonly perennial, herb, usually with a mass of extensively branched, trailing weak stems; leaves opposite, round to heart-shaped or oval with rounded bases, rounded or bluntly pointed at tips, glabrous, weakly three-nerved, and paler below; stipulate; Very short stipules persist at the bases of the petioles; flowers small consisting of five narrow green sepals, deeply forked, white petals which are shorter than the sepals, and two or three stamens surrounding the deeply divided style; arranged in small repeatedly forked terminal or axillary cymes, on slender, densely hairy pedicels; fruit- a papery capsule, splitting at maturity into three parts; seeds 5-10 small reddish tuberculate flattened

Phytochemicals: Alkaloid, steroid, flavonoid, tannin, anthraquinone, haemolytic saponins, stigmasterol, cerebroside, stigmasteryl glucoside, glucocerebroside,

Medicinal/Economic uses : Appetizer, analgesic, anti-nociceptive, depurative, emollient, stomachic and vesicant, febrifuge, laxative and stimulant. Plant parts in different pharmacological preparations are used to treat respiratory chest-ailments, colds and bronchitis, jaundice, colds, biliousness and malaria, eye-troubles, as a poultice on injuries, sores, tumours and yaws eruptions, skin burning. Pounded leaf is applied to snake bites in China. Tender leaves and shoots are eaten with dry fish and mixed vegetables in NE India. The folk and traditional uses include snake bite, skin diseases, peptic ulcer, headaches or nephritis, female infertility, sleeping disorders, convulsions, and febrile conditions in children (WI). Major pharmacological activities include analgesic activity, antitussive activity, anxiolytic activity, antipyretic activity, antinociceptive activity, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial activities.