

Botanic name: *Micromeria biflora* Benth. -- Labiat. Gen. Spec. 378. 1834 [May 1834] (IK)

Common name: Lemon Savory, Lemon scented thyme

Family: Lamiaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to India; globally distributed in Arabia, South Africa, Afghanistan to Myanmar

Description: Low growing aromatic undershrub/herb; stems numerous, erect, 4-angled, subterete, slender, densely \pm patent white pilose and pubescent, red-purple narrowly ovate almost sessile leaves, base rounded to shallowly cordate, margin flat or recurved, entire, acute at apex; verticillaster peduncle 1-2 mm; bracts and bracteoles subequal, linear-subulate, with few rose to mauve bilabiate flowers, narrow tubular calyx, calyx 2-lipped, to 4 mm, veins puberulent, throat pilose, 13-veined, ciliate; posterior teeth narrowly triangular, apex long acuminate; anterior teeth subulate, apex spinescent; corolla rose, sparsely puberulent, tube; upper lip elliptic; lower lip, lobes subequal or middle larger; anterior stamens nearly included; ovary yellow-brown, glabrous; fruits-nutlets brown, oblong, glabrous.

Phytochemical constituents: Essential oil (monoterpene hydrocarbons and oxygenated monoterpenes. The major constituents of the oil were neral (25.3–32.2%) and geranial (26.7–41.3%]), oxygenated sesquiterpenoids; caryophyllene oxide (42.5%), epi- α -cadinol (5.7%), β -eudesmol (9.3%), oplapanone (4.5%) and guaial (4.6%). α -Terpeneol (1.1%)

Medicinal/Economic uses: Essential oil yielding, antifungal, antibacterial (The crude extract was active against all bacterial species but showed more antibacterial activity against *Salmonella typhi*, *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus aureus* while it showed less activity against *E. coli*), anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic; used in toothache, nose-bleeding, wounds, sinusitis. Flowers and leaves used to flavor tea and lentil soups/curries, dried stems/leaves burned as an incense; both the oil and the extract were tested for anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic activity on Swiss albino mice. Paste of the roots antiseptic, for infections, boils. Leaves juice aromatic and carminative, in stomachache. Veterinary medicine, plant paste used in worm-infested wounds in cattle.