

**Botanic name:** *Hewittia sublobata* Kuntze -- Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 441. 1891 [5 Nov 1891] (IK) [syn. *Hewittia malabarica* (L.) Suresh]

**Common name:** Dhudla Shak (Bangladesh)

**Family:** Convolvulaceae

**Habitat:** Grasslands, woodlands, thickets and at forest edges.

**Distribution:** Tropical Africa, Asia (native to South Indian malabar coast) and, Polynesia up to up to 1,800 m, msl; probably naturalised in West Indies. Becoming rare in parts of Asia and Africa due to its exposure to grazing, anthropogenic activities, urbanisation, infrastructural works and negligence to its conservation

**Description:** Herbaceous, prostrate or twining perennial herb with slender stems, stems climb into the surrounding vegetation, or scramble over the ground occasionally forming new roots at the nodes; leaves oblong or ovate, variably cordate or hastate at the base, velvety or hairy on both surfaces; entire or dentate at margins; flowers in 1-3-flowered clusters; corolla pale yellow or whitish with a dark purple-red centre; capsule depressed-spherical to almost square, hairy, crowned with the persistent style

**Phytochemicals:** Calystegines (polyhydroxy-nortropanes), saponins, alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, phlobatannins

**Medicinal/ Economic uses:** A root decoction is drunk to rid the body of *Oxyuris* threadworms and leaves are rubbed onto sores. Leaves are chopped and eaten as leafy vegetables with rice (India); In South India, the plant is occasionally grown as an ornamental, for rope making (fibre from the inner bark) and as a ground cover in plantations; in Africa, leaves are eaten in the Mombasa area of Kenya.