

Botanic name : *Malvastrum tricuspidatum* (R. Br.) A. Gray (syn. *Malvastrum coromandelianum* (L.) Garcke)

Common name : False Mallow, Broom Weed

Family : Malvaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Probably of American origin; now ubiquitous in tropical, subtropical zone. Pan Indian distribution

Description : Woody-rooted coarse hairy herb; leaves ovate to ovate-elliptic, free-lateral stipules, margins serrated; cymose inflorescence with light yellow flowers; bean-shaped anthers in monadelphous staminal column; ovary superior with axile placentation of ovules; fruit capsule.

Phytochemicals: Bioactive secondary metabolites such as stigmasterol, β -sitosterol, phenylethylamine, lutein, indole alkaloids, fatty acids (palmitic, oleic, malvalic acid, sterulic, linoleic, and), etc. Besides, leaves contained alkaloids, tannins, with fair content of phenolic and flavonoid contents.

Medicinal/Economic uses : Anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, analgesic, antidiarrheal, antibacterial, antifungal, hypoglycemic properties (leaf); useful in wound healing and immunomodulation. Ethnobotanically- Plant decoction given in dysentery, stomach pain, sore throat, fever infection, & cough. Leaves decoction in dysentery whereas Crushed leaves employed in wounds, ringworm, sores; Roots as aphrodisiac; root bark mixed with milk to increase strength. Dried seeds ground with sugar given to cure premature ejaculation. Used as emollient in West Indies and also in religion and magico-religious beliefs [Ref-CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants]