

ASTHMA WEED OR SNAKE WEED (SCIENTIFIC NAME *Euphorbia hirta* L.)

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Euphorbia hirta is commonly known as Asthma weed which belongs to Euphorbiaceae family. Euphorbiaceae are the largest families of angiosperms. It is an annual, branched and traditional hairy herb with many branches from base to top which is spreading up to 50cms height. It resides in roadsides and along pathways. Asthma weed is one among the therapeutic herbs with numerous pharmacological outlines and is a very important medicinal herb.

Euphorbia hirta is known with different names in various countries of the world according to their language. As it resembles like an erect snake hence in English it is typically called as "SNAKE WEED". It is called as snake weed. In India and Pakistan it is called dudhi or duhani.

Other vernacular names of *E. hirta* are sheer jiyah, dudhikalan (unani), raktavindhuchada (sanskrit), asthama weed, milk weed, cats hair (Australian) brokeruee, barakeru (bengali) tawa- tawa (kinaray), nanbala, bidarie (Telugu), nayeti, goverdhan, dudhali (mah), amumpatchaiyaris Tami.

- Asthma weed plant is mostly commonly known as asthma weed because it is used in the treatment of asthma and several lungs related respiratory diseases.
- Dry environmental conditions are most suitable for growing of asthma weed.
- The most easy way to identify asthma weed is when it breaks it flows a milky substance.

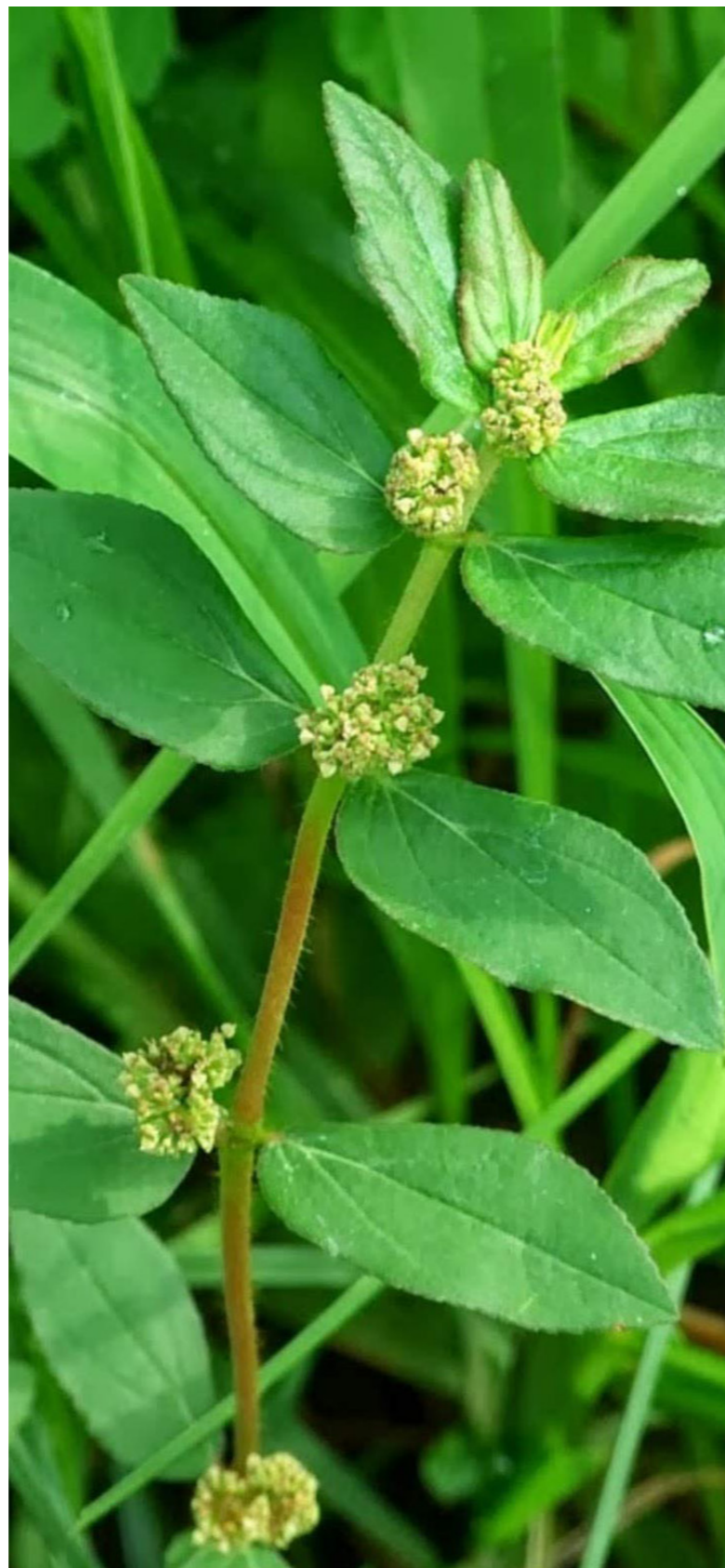
NUTRIENTS:

It is rich in protein, beta carotene, vitamin c, sodium, potassium, calcium, sulphur, phosphorus, zinc, iron, manganese and copper.

MEDICINAL VALUE:

All plant parts of *Euphorbia hirta* L. are used in medicine. It contains triterpenes, phytosterols, tannins, polyphenols and flavonoids.

This plant is used for its antibacterial, antidiarrheal, antimalarial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, galactogenic, antiasthmatic, antifertility, antiamoebicant and fungal property.



Common name: Asthmaweed or snakeweed

Botanical name: *Euphorbia hirta*

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Origin: India, Asia

The plant has gained wide spread attention because of its ability to treat many illness in patients.

- This plant is used in treatment of various diseases of children, such as in case of worm infestation, bowel complaints, cough etc.
- Juice of this plant is used in the treatment of dysentery and colic.
- *Euphorbia hirta* L. the Magical herb is used in treating wart. All parts of this plant will secrete milky latex, which issued in the treatment of wart. The regular application of this latex three times a day (TDS) up to 15 days is known to cure almost every type of wart on any part of the body.
- It is used when there is panic asthma attack by rubbing it on their heart.
- Mainly respiratory disorders such bronchitis, cough and asthma.
- It acts as prophylactic agent. Used in treating many disorders including intestinal diarrhea, peptic ulcers, parasites, vomiting, heart burn, hay fever, coughs, emphysema, cold, menstrual problems, kidney stones, venereal and sterility diseases.
- In Philippines asthma weed is commonly known as tawatawa which is used in treating dengue fever.
- It is used as traditional medication for the cure of malaria.
- It is also used for diuretic, anti-diarrhoeal, antispasmodic and anti-inflammatory.

- Used for diarrhoea, dysentery especially amoebic dysentery.

- It is effective in treating cancer cells. Especially squamous cell carcinomas, malignant melanomas.
- Its extract is used as ear drops.
- It is used in treatment if boils, sores and in promoting wound healing.
- It is also used for treating worm infestation in children.
- Used for Gonorrhoea, jaundice, pimples, digestive problems and tumours.
- The decoction of root of *Euphorbia hirta* is used to stop vomiting, chronic diarrhea and fevers and for snake bites.
- Leaf extract of *Euphorbia hirta* is used to treat edema and hypertension.
- Effective in the treatment of arthritis.
- *E. hirta* is effective on HIV virus.
- This plant can be used to treat skin infections. It is used to address scars and blemishes on skin.
- In place of warts the white latex from asthma weed stem can be applied and will gently relieve the top layer of skin.
- It is used in regulating excessive white discharge in female
- For increasing production of milk in lactating mothers and also used for many female disorders. Women should use this plant with extreme care during pregnancy.

