



***Achyranthes aspera* Linn.**

Family: Amaranthaceae

Common names: Prickly chaff flower, Puthkanda

Description:

Achyranthes aspera is an erect herb about 0.5-2 m high often a woody rootstock, having much branched hairy stem. Leaves are opposite, elliptic, obovate or sub-orbicular, acute, obtuse or acuminate, sparingly hairy with a short petiole. Flowers are green or pinkish, crowded in 2- 4 cm terminal spikes which elongate in fruit and reach up to 50 cm in length. Fruit is an oblong utricle enclosed in the hardened perianth.

Utilization:

The seeds are given in hydrophobia, in cases of snake bite, in ophthalmia and cutaneous diseases. The flowering spikes rubbed with a little sugar are made in to pills and given internally to patients bitten by mad dogs. The pulp of fresh leaves applied externally is a good remedy for scorpion stings. Kheer prepared of its seeds allays appetite and one does not require food for a couple of days on having its kheer. It contains saponin which has a high larval mortality so it is an environmentally safe measure to control the vector of dengue and lymphatic filariasis (Bagavan *et al.*, 2008). Its extracts contain antimicrobial, haemolytic and photolysis activities (Priya *et al.*, 2012).

Part	Uses
Leaves	scorpion stings
Saponin	dengue and lymphatic filariasis
Seeds	Snake bite, Ophthalmia

References:

Bagavan A, Rahuman A, Kamaraj C and Geetha K; (2008) Larvicidal activity of saponin from *Achyranthes aspera* against *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Diptera: Culicidae) parasitology research 103; 223–229.

Priya C.L, Kumar G, Karthik L and Bhaskara Rao K. V; (2012) Phytochemical composition and in vitro antioxidant activity of *Achyranthes aspera* Linn (Amaranthaceae) leaf extracts. Journal of Agricultural Technology 8(1): 143-156.