



***Euphorbia hirta* L**

Family:Euphorbiaceae

Common names:Asthma weed, Bara dudhi.



Description:

Euphorbia hirta distributed in tropical regions of all continents, possibly native to India. It is an erect or prostrate annual herb can get up to 70 cm long with a solid, hairy stem that produces an abundant white latex. Leaves are approximately 1-4.5× 0.5- 1.5 cm in size, obliquely oblong- lanceolate, acute and appressed hairy. Leaves occur in opposite pairs on the stem. The flowers are unisexual and found in axillary cymes at each leaf node. They lack petals and are generally on a stalk. The fruit is a capsules with three valves and produces tiny, oblong, four-sided reddish- brown, 1 mm long seeds.

Utilization:

It is used in the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery, intestinal parasitosis, etc. It is also used in bronchial and respiratory diseases (asthma, bronchitis, hay fever, etc.), and in conjunctivitis. The aqueous extract have anxiolytic, analgesic, antipyretic, and anti-inflammatory activities. The stem sap is used in the treatment of eyelid styes and a leaf poultice is used on swelling and boils (The wealth of India, 2005).Decoction of dry herbs is used for skin diseases. Herb has a relaxation effect on respiration. The methanolic extract exhibits anti-oxidant activity (Basma *et al.*, 2011) and anti-inflammatory activity (Shih *et al.*, 2010).

Part used	Disease
leaves	Antioxidant activity
Leaves extract	Anti-inflammatory

References:

Basma A.A, zakira Z, Sasidharan S; (2011)Antioxidant activity and phytochemical screening of the methanol extracts of *Euphorbia hirta* L. Asian pacific journal of tropical medicine. 386-390.
Shih M.F, Cheng D.Y, Shen C.R and Chern J.Y; (2010) A molecular pharmacology study into the anti-inflammatory actions of *Euphorbia hirta* L. on the LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells through selective iNOS protein inhibition Journal of Natural Medicine. 330-335.