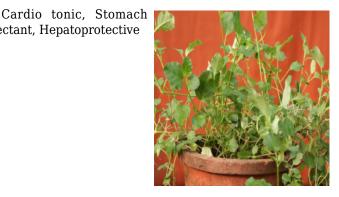
## Boerhaavia diffusa Linn

Synonyms	: <i>B. repense</i> Linn
Family	: Nyctaginaceae
Group	Anti-arthritic/anti-rheumatic/anti-inflammatory, Cardio tonic, Stomach disorders/carminatives/laxative, Diuretic/renal protectant, Hepatoprotective
Parts Used	: Whole plant
Vernacular	r Names
English	: Hogweed, Pigweed
Malayalam	: Tazhuthama
Hindi	: Godhapurna
Sanskrit	: Punarnava
Bengali	: Gadhapurna, Punarnaba, Raktapunarnaba
Gujarathi	: Satodi, Vokha:khaparo
Kannada	: Sanadika, Komma, Kommeberu
Tamil	: Mukkurattai keerai



**Distribution and habitat:** It is a creeping herb and distributed through out India.

**Botany:** Diffusely branched prostrate herb. Roots large. Stems up to 1.2 m long, slender, cylindrical, thickened at the nodes,

• *Leaves:* often purplish, long petioled, at each node in unequal pairs, ovate or oblong – cordate, entire or sinuate, glabrous above and whitish beneath, the margins entire, often coloured pink, somewhat undulate, base rounded or sub cordate; petioles as long as the blade, slender.

• *Flowers:* 4-10 together, red pink or white, in small umbels arranged in axillary and terminal panicles, short stalked, perianth 3 mm long, ovarial part of tube 1.25 mm long, limb funnel shaped, dark pink, with 5 narrow vertical bands out side. Stamens 2 or 3, slightly exserted

• *Fruits:* 3 mm long, ovate, oblong, pubescent, five ribbed, viscoid, glandular anthocarps

**Properties:** Laxative, diuretic, hepatoprotective, expectorant, emetic, purgative, anthelmintic, febrifuge **Chemical constituents:** Roots- phytoecdysone-  $\beta$ -ecdysterone, and punarnavoside (2-glucopyrano-4-hydroxy-5-(p-hydroxy phenyl)-propionyl diphenyl methane), an antifibrinolytic agent **Uses:** 

- Whole plant- cardiac disorder, lumbago, scabies, jaundice, anaemia, strangury
- Roots- anticonvulsant, analgesic, laxative

• Leaf -stomachic, juice serves internally as blood purifier, muscular pain, and ophthalmia

**Formulations:** Kumargasavam, Dhanvantaram kulumbu, Chyavanaprasam **Agrotechnology** 

Soil: Being a weed of waste land, it can grow on a variety of soil.

Propagation: Seeds, vegetative propagation and also through tissue culture from stem segments.

