

# *Strobilanthes alternata* (Burm.f.) E. Moylan ex J.R.I. Wood

**Synonyms** : *H. comiculata*, *Hemigraphis colorata* Hallier f.

**Family** : Acanthaceae

**Parts Used** : Leaf

**Vernacular Names**

English : Hemigraphis

Malayalam : Murikoodi



**Distribution and habitat:** Found throughout India.

**Botany:** A small perennial plant with fleshy wine red stems that root at nodes.

• **Leaves:** Heart shaped, toothed and about 5-8 cm long, shiny, silvery above, red purple beneath. The vein areas of the leaves are notably sunken and conspicuous. Leaves are arranged along the stem in opposite pairs on the 1 cm long wine red stalks.

• **Flowers:** Small and white, covered by large bracts. Fully grown plants produce flowers but the plant is grown for its leaves rather than for its flowers.

**Properties:** antibacterial, antioxidant and antielastance

**Chemical constituents:** flavonoids, phenols, carbohydrates, coumarins, sterols

**Uses:** It is useful in wound healing. Leaves are used to mend gall stones, excessive menstruation and as a contraceptive and diuretic.

**Agrotechnology:**

**Soil:** It grows well in loose sandy soil which is enriched with leaf mould.

**Propagation:** cuttings.

