

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 antielastase

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.

