

# *Muehlenbeckia platyclada* (F.Muell.) Meisn.

**Synonyms** : *Coccoloba platyclada* F.Muell. ex Hook. , *Honalocladium platycladaum* (F.Muell)

**Family** : Polygonaceae

**Parts Used** : Leaf

**Vernacular Names**

English : Centipede plant

Malayalam : Pazhuthara cheti



**Distribution and Habitat:** Solomon Islands.

**Botany:** Subshrub; branchlets green, flattened, jointed, modified in to phylloclades; nodes flattened.

• **Leaves:** Lanceolate, chartaceous, lateral nerves 4 pairs, faint, base acute, margin entire, apex gradually acute, deciduous; petiole to 0.5cm; stipules sheathing, deciduous.

• **Flowers:** Axillary fascicles or on short, lateral spikes; bract ovate, scarious; bracteoles 2-4. perianth greenish yellow, campanulate; lobes 6, equal, oblong, concave, 1.5 mm, obtuse. Stamens 6-9, (sub) exserted; ovary 3-gonous; stigma simple.

• **Fruit:** Nutlet trigonous, long.

**Chemical constituents:** flavanoids (morin-3-O- $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranoside, kaempferol-3-O- $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranoside, kaempferol-3-O- $\beta$ -glucopyranoside, quercetin 3-O- $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranoside and (+)-catechin

**Properties:** Fruit is astringent

**Uses:** anti-oxidant, antiulcer, anti inflammatory

**Propagation:** By cuttings.

