

ACHYRANTHES (PRICKLY CHAFF FLOWER)

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Achyranthes aspera
FAMILY	:-	Amaranthaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	
HINDI NAME	:-	Apaamaarga



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

Shrub, found throughout tropical and subtropical regions, upto an altitude of 2,100 m

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

The plant is a shrub about 6 feet in length, with erect and pubescent stem. The branches are more or less 4-sided. Leaves are borne on short petioles, obovate-rotund shaped, pubescent and abruptly attenuated at the base. Flowers are purplish green in colours, flowering nearly all time of the year. Fruit is a capsule and 5-seeded.

PARTS USED :-

Flower, roots and seed.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

Ashes of the plant is used in Asthma and cough. Plant is diuretic, hepatoprotective, emmenagogue..Root is astringent and haemostatic. Seed is emetic and used for biliousness.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

Whole plant contain Achyranthine and betaine root contain ecdysterone and oleanolic acid.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Rice, deep, well-drained soil, ideally sandy and slightly acid, in partial shade. By seed sown in late spring. Leaves and stems are picked in summer and crushed for juice or used in tinctures. Root are lifted in autumn or winter from one or two year old plants and sun-dried for use in decoctions, liquid extracts, pills, and powders. The drying process often involves a stage of stir –frying with rice wine. Fresh root is used in South China.