

HEMPEDU BUMI, POKOK CERITA

Scientific name : *Andrographis paniculata*
(Burn.f.) wall.ex Nees
Common name : King of Bitter
Local name : Hempedu bumi, Pokok cerita
Family : Acanthaceae

Introduction

This annual herb is indigenous to Southeast Asia, China and India. Because of its efficient reproductive capacity, it is considered a weed in many regions. This plant has been used for centuries in a number of cures in countries like China, India and Java. However, only recently was its actual potentialities discovered and has since captured the herbal and pharmaceutical market. It is now considered as a new promising herb for many ailments and is being tested for the treatment of many diseases including HIV,AIDs and the myriad symptoms associated with autoimmune disorders.

Plant Description

It is an erect, annual herb growing to a height of 60-70 cm. The stem are quadrangular and branches profusely. The leaves are green in color, simple, glabrous and decussately arranged with entire margins. The leaves are lanceolate in shape, acuminate at the apice and attenuate at the base. As the plant matures, the leaf size is reduced



Plant habit

Hempedu bumi is commonly found growing wildly in wastelands and grasslands. In Malaysia, hempedu bumi is normally grown in backyard gardens or pots for medicinal purposes. Although this is a very hardy plant and can survive and adapt itself in a variety of soil conditions.

Plants parts used :

Leaves,whole plant.

Uses in traditional medicine

This herb is given as analgesic, laxative, expectorant, digestive, stomachic and also used for treating diabetes, fever, worm infections, chronic bronchitis, leprosy, flatulence, colic, dysentery, and skin disease (eg burns, wounds, ulcers). It is also good remedy for treating snake-bite and female disorder.