

## *Boerhavia diffusa*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae  
Clade : Angiosperms  
Order : Caryophyllales  
Family : Nyctaginaceae  
Tribe : Nyctagineae  
Genus : *Boerhavia*



*Boerhavia diffusa*

### DESCRIPTION:

*Boerhavia* is a perennial creeping weed, prostrate or ascending herb, up to 1 m long or more, having spreading branches. The roots are stout and fusiform with a woody root stock. The stem is prostrate, woody or succulent, cylindrical, often purplish, hairy, and thickened at the nodes. Leaves are simple, thick, fleshy, and hairy, arranged in unequal pairs, green and glabrous above and usually white underneath; ovate-oblong, round or subcordate at the base with smooth, wavy, or undulate margins; up to  $5.5 \times 3.3$  cm<sup>2</sup> in area. Flowers are minute, subcapitate, present 4–10 together in small bracteolate umbels, forming axillary and terminal panicles; hermaphrodite, pedicellate, and pink, or pinkish-red in color; Bracts are deciduous and involucrate; Calyx and corolla replaced by perianth which is tubular in shape, the tube being short and narrow at the base and funnel-shaped at the top and constricted above the ovary. There are five lobes, which are small and acute. Two or three stamens are present and are slightly exserted. The stigma is peltate. The fruit is an achene and is detachable, ovate, oblong, pubescent, five-ribbed and glandular, anthocarpous, and viscid on the ribs.

### MEDICINAL USES:

As an Ayurvedic medicine, this herb is said to cure disorders like intestinal colic, kidney disorders, cough, hemorrhoids, skin diseases, alcoholism, insomnia, eye diseases, asthma and jaundice, *Boerhavia diffusa* (Sri Lankan Name Pita Sudu sarana best green medicine for Diabetes).