

Euphorbia hirta

Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Order	: Malpighiales
Family	: Euphorbiaceae
Genus	: <i>Euphorbia</i>
Species	: <i>E.hirta</i>
Part used	: Leaves



Description

This erect or prostrate annual herb can grow up to 60 cm (24 in) long with a solid, hairy stem that produces an abundant white latex.^[8] There are stipules present. The leaves are simple, elliptical, hairy (on both upper and lower surfaces but particularly on the veins on the lower leaf surface), with a finely dentate margin. Leaves occur in opposite pairs on the stem. The flowers are unisexual and found in axillary cymes at each leaf node. They lack petals and are generally on a stalk. The fruit is a capsules with three valves and produces tiny, oblong, four-sided red seeds. It has a white or brown taproot.

Medicinal uses

Euphorbia is used for respiratory ailments breathing disorders including asthma, bronchitis, and chest congestion. It is also used for mucus in the nose and throat, throat spasms, hay fever, and tumors. It worm infestations in children, dysentery, jaundice, pimples, gonorrhoea, digestive problems. The aqueous extract exhibits anxiolytic, analgesic, antipyretic, and anti-inflammatory activities.