

Biophytum sensitivum (L.) DC.



Habit: Herb

Description: It is an annual herb 5-25 cm tall, base woody. Flowers are borne in several flowered umbels carried on flower-cluster-stalks 2-7 cm, nearly equal to leaf length. Petals are yellow, longer than sepals. Sepals are 5-6 mm, with glandular septate trichomes. Flower-stalks are about 1 mm at anthesis but up to 3 mm in fruit. Bracts are several, lance shaped, about 2 mm, densely crowded at tip of flower-cluster-stalk, cluster about 3 mm. Stem is simple, slender to robust, bristly especially apically. Leaves are 3-13 cm; axis slender, moderately bristly; leaflets 6-14 pairs; leaflet blades oblong to obovate-oblong, 3-15 x 2-7 mm, usually hairless, occasionally sparsely covered with trichomes, base almost symmetric. Leaves are sensitive to touch, and fold up on being disturbed. Capsule ellipsoid-obovoid, 4-5 × 3-4 mm, velvet-hairy.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Tracheophytes
Class	Angiosperms
Order	Oxalidales
Family	Oxalidaceae
Genus	Biophytum
Species	<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i> (L.) DC.

Uses: As a traditional folk medicine in ailments such as inflammation, arthritis, wounds, tumors and burns, gonorrhoea, stomach ache, asthma, cough, degenerative joint disease, urinary calculi, diabetes, snake bite, amenorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI