

Centella asiatica (L.) Urban



Habit: Herb

Description: The stems are slender, creeping stolons, green to reddish-green in color, connecting plants to each other. It has long-stalked, green, rounded apices which have smooth texture with palmately netted veins. The leaves are borne on pericladial petioles, around 2 cm (0.79 in). The rootstock consists of rhizomes, growing vertically down. They are creamish in color and covered with root hairs. The flowers are white or crimson in color, born in small, rounded bunches (umbels) near the surface of the soil. Each flower is partly enclosed in two green bracts. The hermaphrodite flowers are minute in size, less than 3 mm (0.12 in), with five to six corolla lobes per flower. Each flower bears five stamens and two styles. The fruit are densely reticulate, distinguishing it from species of *Hydrocotyle* which have smooth, ribbed or warty fruit.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Tracheophytes
Class	Eudicots
Order	Apiales
Family	Apiaceae
Genus	Centella
Species	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban

Uses: It has been used to treat many conditions for thousands of years in India, China, and Indonesia. It was used to heal wounds, improve mental clarity, and treat skin conditions such as leprosy and psoriasis.

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI