

Evolvulus alsinoides Linn.

Syn. *Convolvulus alsinoides* Linn.

Fam. Convolvulaceae

Ayurvedic name	Vishnugandhi, Shankhapushpi
Unani name	Sankhaholi
Hindi name	Phooli, Sharikha-pushpi
English name	English Speed-wheel
Trade name	Shankhapuspi
Parts used	Whole Plant



Evolvulus alsinoides

Morphological Characteristics

It is an annual/perennial herb with prostrate spreading branches in all directions. The root system is deep. Leaflets are 2.5-5 cm long, elliptical, oblong and rounded at base. Leaves are densely clothed with white appressed and long spreading hairs. In nature, seedlings appear after 2-3 showers during July-August. Generally, the seedlings are abundant under the canopy of trees or shrubs. The young seedling grows straight and produces lateral branches during first week of August. The lateral branches spread in all directions. The flowering starts during first week of August. Fruit formation takes place in the last week of August, while flowering still continues. The dispersal of the seeds takes place from September to December. Plant dries during November – December.

Floral Characteristics

Flowers are blue in colour and axillary in position. They are either solitary or in pairs on the long stalk. Styles are two and each is bifid. Fruit is globose with four-valved capsule containing dark brown to black smooth seeds. The flower colour varies from dark purple to whitish-purple.

Distribution

Plant is commonly found growing in open and grassy places, almost throughout India,



Harvest Management

- **Crop Maturity and Harvesting:** It is a rainy season crop and takes about four months to complete its life cycle. The seedlings transplanted in the month of July attain its full growth during September-October. This is the appropriate time for harvesting the plant.
- **Post-harvest Management:** Fresh herbage is perishable and should be stored in gunny bags for marketing after proper drying.
- **Chemical Constituents:** Plant contains an alkaloid evolvine; β -sitosterol, stearic, oleic and linoleic acid, betaine, pentatriacontane and triacotane.
- **Yield and Cost of Cultivation:** As a pure crop, 18.6 quintal (fresh herbage) per hectare is obtained which is reduced to 1/3rd after drying. The dry herb is stored in cool and dry places. Rs. 5930/- is the cost of cultivation for one hectare.

Therapeutic Uses

The whole plant is used in form of decoction in nervous debility and loss of memory. The plant is also useful as blood purifier and in bleeding piles. The fresh flowers with sugar are eaten as a brain tonic. The leaves are made into cigarettes and smoked in chronic bronchitis and asthma. It also improves complexion, voice and cures from intestinal worms. It promotes 'medha', the power of memory.

