

SPECIES: *AGERATUM CONYZOIDES*

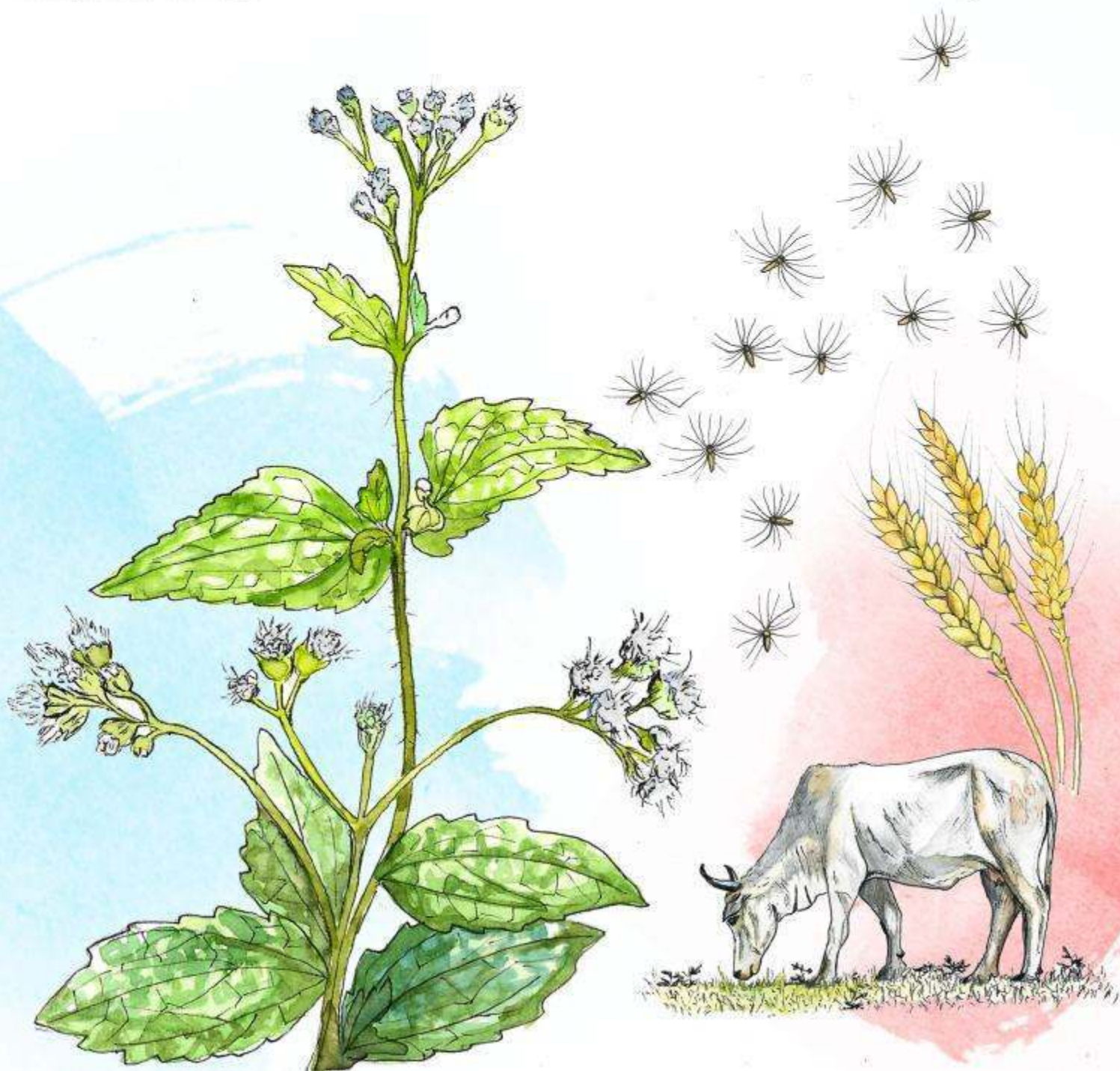
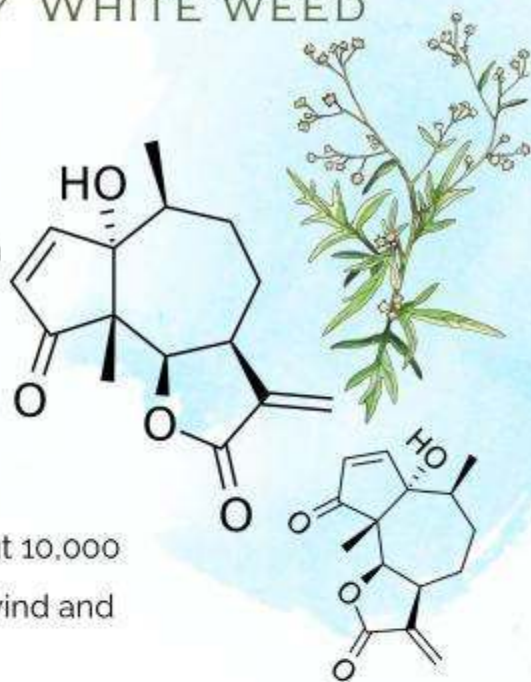
COMMON NAME: BILLY GOAT WEED / WHITE WEED

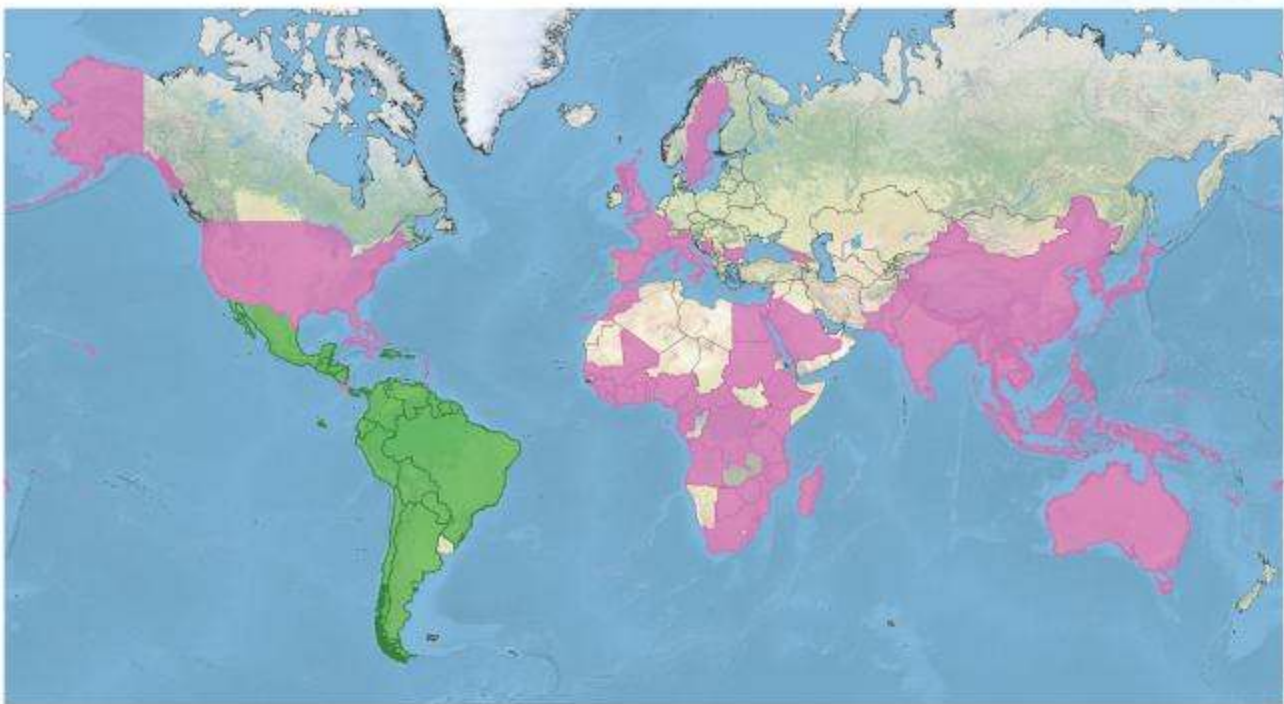
FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

Plant Description

It is an annual aromatic herb that can grow between 5 and 1.5 m tall, depending on the conditions. It has been observed at altitudes up to 2400 masl. The stems are often red and have white hairs. Flowers are white or light blue or purplish, and found in clusters. Leaves are broadly ovate with hairy petioles.

It is shade tolerant. It has a huge seed producing capacity, about 10,000 fruits per plant with tiny seeds that are easily disseminated by wind and water, and by animals.





Source: CABI, 2022. *Ageratum conyzoides*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/3572#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
■ Native
■ Origin not recorded

***Ageratum conyzoides* ASTERACEAE**

Origin: Central America, South America and Caribbean

Introduction: There is no definitive information on when *A. conyzoides* was introduced to India, though its presence was first documented before 1882. It was probably introduced as an ornamental plant.

Impacts: It readily invades agricultural fields and open and degraded areas. In grasslands, it can reduce grazing area, resulting in fodder scarcity. It has been observed to reduce the yield of various crops, e.g., wheat, maize, chickpeas, and rice. In some parts of the country, farmers have been forced to abandon croplands due to the spread of *A. conyzoides*. Its strong and pungent smell causes dizziness and nausea as well as allergic reactions in humans.

Management: Physical removal is not practical due to the huge infestations by the plant, and due to the negative health effects on people doing removal. Parthenin, extracted from *Parthenium hysterophorus*, negatively affected the growth and physiology of *A. conyzoides* and has potential for use as a novel agrochemical.