**Ambrosia maritima L.**
Crushed dried herb of Ambrosia
*Ambrosia maritima L.; Species Plantarum 2: 988.
1753

**Arabic:** Damsissa
**English:** Damaseisa, Rogweed, Ambrosia, Sea Ambrosia, Oak of Cappadocia
**French:** Ambroisie, Ambrosie

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**Part used**
The flowering and fruiting herb.

**Collection:** Fruiting stage

**Preparations:** Decoction

**Use:** By mouth

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**Constituents**
Sesquiterpene: chloroambrosin, ambrosin, damsirn, neoambrosin, farnserin, hymenolin, hymenin, stamonin-b, anhydrofarnserin; triterpenes: s-amyrin; flavonoids: apigenin; coumarins; sterols: B-sitosterol; tannin; and volatile oil: carvone, camphor, caryophyllene, cineole.

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**Pharmacological action and toxicity**
1. The effect of *Ambrosia maritima* L. on the viability of lymnea snails was studied. Ambrosia maritima was lethal to lymnea snails at concentration of 3000 mg/l after one day and at 100 mg/l after 14 days.
2. The isolated compounds showed considerable cytotoxic activity.
3. The aqueous extract exhibited significant changes in the electro cardiomogram pattern of adult anesthetized dogs and induced arrhythmic manifestations in doses of 2, 4, and 8 ml/kg body weight.
4. It relaxes plain muscles of the intestine, uterus and blood vessels, where it inhibits the force and frequency of plain muscle contraction.
5. It increases the urine output/day and the level of sodium in urine.
7. It has antimicrobial activity against *Streptococcus pyogens*, *Aspergillus niger*.
8. It has an excellent molluscicidal activity due to its content of volatile oil and sesquiterpenes.

**Pharmacopeias**
Not available.

**Pharmaceutical products**
Not available

**Traditional medicine and local knowledge**

**History:** In ancient mythology, *Ambrosia* is sometimes the food, sometimes the drink, of the Gods. The word has been derived from Greek a-(not) and mbrotos (mortal); hence the food or drink of the immortals. A. W. Verrall, however, denies that there is any clear example in which the word *ambrosios* necessarily means immortal, and prefers to explain it as “fragrant”, a sense which is always suitable. If so, the word may be derived from the Semitic ambar (ambergris) to which Eastern nations attribute miraculous properties. W. H. Roscher thinks that both nectar and ambrosia were kinds of honey, in which case their power of conferring immortality would be due to the supposed healing and cleansing power of honey. Derivatively, the word *Ambrosia* (neuter plural) was given to certain festivals in honour of Dionysus, probably because of the predominance of feasting in connection with them.

**Diseases:**
- Antispasmodic
- Anti diuretic
- Bronchial asthma
- Bilharziasis
- Diabetes
- Kidney diseases
- Spasms

**Other uses of the plant:** Flowering branches of the plant are used as stimulant, stomachic, slightly astringent, emollient, vulnerary.

**References**

**General references**