

- 中文名稱：地膽草
- 英文名稱：Bhopatri, Elephant Foot, Prickly-Leaved Elephant's Foot
- 學名：*Elephantopus scaber*Linn.
- 科名：菊科(Compositae)毛蓮菜屬(*Elephantopus*)

地膽草(本草綱目拾遺)、紅花燈豎朽、紅燈豎朽、丁豎朽、苦地膽、牛拖鼻、小本丁豎朽、細本丁豎朽、燈豎朽、燈豎朽、天芥菜、穗狀丁豎朽、磨地膽(廣州)、鹿耳草(海南)、紅花毛蓮菜

Translation: Common Names / Aliases

- 別名：
 - **Standard Name:** Elephant's Foot (*Elephantopus scaber*)
 - **Chinese Aliases:**
 - **Didancao:** (From *Bencao Gangmu Shiyi*)
 - **Red-flowered Vertical Lamp Post:** (Honghua Dengshu Wu / Honghua Dengshu Xiu)
 - **Ding Shu Wu:** (A common folk name in Taiwan/Southern China)
 - **Bitter Elephant's Foot:** (Ku Didan)
 - **Ox-Drag-Nose:** (Niu Tuo Bi)
 - **Small-Leaved Ding Shu Wu:** (Xiaoben Ding Shu Wu / Xiben Ding Shu Wu)
 - **Tianjie Cai:** (Heliotrope-like herb)
 - **Spiked Ding Shu Wu:** (Huizhuang Ding Shu Wu)
 - **Mo Didan:** (Guangzhou regional name)
 - **Deer-Ear Herb:** (Luer Cao - Hainan regional name)
 - **Red-flowered Hairy Lotus:** (Honghua Maolian Cai)

廣泛分佈於美洲、亞洲、非洲各熱帶地區；在中國分佈於浙江、江西、福建、湖南、廣東、廣西、貴州及雲南等省區及臺灣。常生長於開曠山坡、路旁、或山谷林緣。

Origin & Habitat

- 原產地：
 - **Native Range:** Widely distributed throughout the **tropical regions of the Americas, Asia, and Africa.**
 - **Distribution in Greater China:** Found across various provinces including **Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, and Taiwan.**
 - **Natural Habitat:** Commonly grows on **open sunny slopes, roadsides, or along the edges of forests in mountain valleys.**

全島低海拔地區。

Distribution

- 分佈：
 - **Regional Range:** Commonly found in **low-altitude areas throughout the entire island** (referring to Taiwan).

1. 藥用：性味：全草：苦、涼。根：苦、涼，有小毒。效用：全草：清熱解毒，利尿消腫。治感冒，痢疾，吐瀉，乳蛾，咽喉痛，水腫，目赤紅痛，癰腫；根：清熱，除濕，解毒。治中暑發熱，溫毒發斑，赤痢，頭風，風火牙痛，癰腫。長期服用易致肝癌。

Uses: Medicinal Properties

- Properties (Traditional Chinese Medicine):
 - Whole Herb: Bitter and Cold (Cooling).
 - Root: Bitter and Cold; contains **mild toxicity**.

• 用途：

- Efficacy & Functions:
 - Whole Herb: Clears heat and detoxifies, promotes urination (diuresis), and reduces swelling.
 - Treats: Colds/flu, dysentery, vomiting and diarrhea, tonsillitis (*ru'e*), sore throat, edema (water retention), red/painful eyes, and furuncles (boils).
 - Root: Clears heat, removes dampness, and detoxifies.
 - Treats: Heatstroke and fever, epidemic eruptive diseases (skin maculae), red dysentery, "head wind" (chronic headaches/migraines), toothaches caused by "wind-fire," and carbuncles.

草本，根狀莖平臥或斜升，具多數纖維狀根；莖直立，高 20~60 公分，基部徑 0.2~0.4 公分，常多少二歧分枝，稍粗糙，密被白色貼生長硬毛。

Stem Characteristics

- **Growth Form:** Herbaceous plant with a **rhizome** that grows horizontally (procumbent) or ascends obliquely, featuring numerous fibrous roots.
- **Structure:** The stem is **erect**, typically reaching a height of **20–60 cm**, with a basal diameter of **0.2–0.4 cm**.
- **Branching & Texture:** It often exhibits **dichotomous branching** (forking into two). The surface is slightly rough and **densely covered with white, appressed long hairs** (strigose).

• 莖：

基部葉花期生存，蓮座狀，匙形或倒披針狀匙形，長 5~18 公分，寬 2~4 公分，頂端圓鈍，或具短尖，基部漸狹成寬短柄，邊緣具圓齒狀鋸齒；莖葉少數而小，倒披針形或長圓狀披針形，向上漸小，全部葉上面被疏長糙毛，下面密被長硬毛和腺點。

• 葉：

Leaf Characteristics

- **Basal Leaves:**

The leaves at the base persist during the flowering period, arranged in a **rosette** (like flower petals). They are **spatulate** (spoon-shaped) or **oblanceolate-spatulate** in shape.

- **Dimensions:** $5\text{--}18\text{ cm}$ long and $2\text{--}4\text{ cm}$ wide.
- **Apex:** Bluntly rounded or ending in a short point.
- **Base:** Gradually narrows into a wide, short petiole (stalk).
- **Margins:** Feature **crenate-serrate** (scalloped or saw-toothed) edges.
- **Stem Leaves:**

Few and relatively small, shaped **oblanceolate** or **oblong-lanceolate**, decreasing in size as they move up the stem.

- **Texture & Surface:**
 - **Upper Surface:** Sparsely covered with long, rough hairs (scabrous).
 - **Lower Surface:** Densely covered with long stiff hairs and **glandular dots**.

頭狀花序多數，在莖或枝端束生的團球狀的複頭狀花序，基部被 3 個葉狀苞片所包圍；苞片綠色，草質，寬卵形或長圓狀卵形，長 1~1.5 公分，寬 0.8~1 公分，頂端漸尖，具明顯凸起的脈，被長糙毛和腺點；總苞狹，長 0.8~1.0 公分，寬約 0.2 公分；總苞片綠色或上端紫紅色，長圓狀披針形，頂端漸尖而具刺尖，具 1 或 3 脈，被短糙毛和腺點，外層長 0.4~0.5 公分，內層長約 1.0 公分；花 4 個，淡紫色或粉紅色，花冠長 0.7~0.9 公分，管部長 0.4~0.5 公分。花期 5~10 月。

Flower Characteristics

• 花：

- **Inflorescence (Flower Clusters):** Numerous **flower heads (capitula)** are clustered together at the tips of the stems or branches to form a **globose compound flower head**. These are surrounded at the base by **three leaf-like bracts**.
 - **Bracts:** Green and herbaceous (leaf-like), broadly ovate or oblong-ovate. They measure $1 - 1.5\text{ cm}$ long and $0.8 - 1\text{ cm}$ wide, with acuminate (tapering) tips, prominent veins, and a surface covered in long rough hairs and glandular dots.
 - **Involucre (Flower Base):** Narrow, measuring $0.8 - 1\text{ cm}$ long and about 0.2 cm wide.
 - **Involucral Bracts:** Green or purple-red at the tips, oblong-lanceolate with a sharp spiny point. They feature 1 or 3 veins and are covered with short rough hairs and glandular dots. The outer layer is $0.4 - 0.5\text{ cm}$ long, while the inner layer reaches approximately 1.0 cm .
- **Individual Flowers:** Each head contains **4 small flowers**, which are **pale purple or pink**.
 - **Corolla (Petals):** $0.7 - 0.9\text{ cm}$ in length.
 - **Corolla Tube:** $0.4 - 0.5\text{ cm}$ long.

- **Flowering Period:** Typically blooms from **May to October**.

果實為瘦果，長圓狀線形，長約 0.4 公分，頂端截形，基部縮小，具稜，被短柔毛；冠毛汗白色，具 5 稀 6 條硬剛毛，長 0.4~0.5 公分，基部寬扁。

Fruit Characteristics

- **Fruit Type:** The fruit is an **achene** (a small, dry, one-seeded fruit), which is **oblong-linear** in shape.
 - **Dimensions:** Approximately **0.4 cm** long.
 - **Structure:** Truncate (flat) at the apex and narrowed at the base. It is **ribbed** and covered with fine, soft hairs (pubescent).
- **Pappus (Seed Tuft):** The "parachute" structure at the top is **off-white** and consists of **5 (rarely 6) stiff bristles**.
 - **Dimensions:** **0.4–0.5 cm** long.
 - **Base:** The base of each bristle is wide and flattened.

• 果實：

草本，莖直立，株高 20~45 公分，二分叉狀，被粗毛和長柔毛。根生葉長 7~18 公分，寬 2~3.5 公分，倒披針狀匙形，葉尖圓形，葉基下延形，近無柄，葉緣鈍鋸齒緣，被粗毛和長柔毛；莖生葉長 3~8 公分，到披針形；上部葉為卵狀披針形。頭狀花序聚集，油心形葉狀苞片包圍，苞片 3 枚，長 1~1.5 公分，寬 0.8~1 公分，闊卵圓形；總苞長 0.8~0.9 公分，寬約 0.2 公分，總苞片呈乾膜質，2 輪，長橢圓狀披針形，被毛，外層苞片長約 0.4 公分，寬約 0.5 公分，內層苞片長約 0.4 公分，寬約 0.8~0.9 公分；小花皆為管狀花，4 朵，花冠長約 0.7 公分，裂片不等長。果實為瘦果，長約 0.4 公分，寬約 0.05 公分，長橢圓狀披針形，被毛；冠毛長 0.4~0.5 公分，被剛毛。花期 5~10 月。

General Characteristics

- **Growth Habit:** An erect herbaceous plant, typically reaching a height of **20 – 45 cm**. The stem features **dichotomous branching** (forking into two) and is covered with both coarse and long soft hairs.

• 特性：

Foliage (Leaves)

- **Basal Leaves:** Measure **7 – 18 cm** long and **2 – 3.5 cm** wide. They are **oblanceolate-spatulate** with rounded tips and bases that taper down the stem (decurrent), making them nearly sessile (stalkless). The margins are **crenate** (bluntly saw-toothed), and the surface is hairy.
- **Stem Leaves:** Measure **3 – 8 cm** long and are **oblanceolate**.
- **Upper Leaves:** Transition into an **ovate-lanceolate** shape near the top.

Inflorescence (Flowers)

- **Structure:** Individual flower heads (capitula) are clustered together, surrounded by **three broad, heart-shaped (ovate) leaf-like bracts**.
 - **Bract Dimensions:** **1 – 1.5 cm** long and **0.8 – 1 cm** wide.
 - **Involucre:** Approximately **0.8 – 0.9 cm** long and **0.2 cm** wide. The bracts here are **scarious** (dry/membranous), arranged in two whorls, and hairy.
 - **Florets:** Consists entirely of **tubular florets** (4 per head). The corolla is about **0.7 cm** long with lobes of unequal length.
 - **Blooming Period:** Typically occurs from **May to October**.
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Fruit (Seeds)

- **Achene:** The fruit is an **oblong-lanceolate achene**, roughly **0.4 cm** long and **0.05 cm** wide, and is covered in fine hairs.
- **Pappus:** The "seed tuft" measures **0.4 – 0.5 cm** and consists of stiff bristles.