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Dorstenia contrajerva

[Synonyms : *Dorstenia alexiteria*, *Dorstenia contrajerva* var. *houstonii*, *Dorstenia contrajerva* var. *maculata*, *Dorstenia houstoni*, *Dorstenia houstonii*, *Dorstenia maculata*, *Dorstenia palmata*, *Dorstenia quadrangularis*, *Dorstenia quadrangularis* var. *integrifolia*, *Dorstenia quadrangularis* var. *pinnatifida*, *Dorstenia quadrangularis* var. *sinuata*]

CONTRAYERVA is an evergreen perennial. Native to tropical America (particularly Mexico, Peru and the West Indies), it has minute flowers embedded in a dish-like receptacle.

It is also known as *Contra hierba* (Spanish), Contrayerva root and Torn's herb.

Contrajerva is derived from a Spanish-American word meaning 'antidote'.

In Malaysia it has been grown as an ornamental plant.

The dried root is used to flavour cigarettes, and an infusion of the root is said to have been used medicinally to treat fever and snake bites.