

Xanthium strumarium

[Synonyms : *Xanthium abyssinicum*, *Xanthium acerosum*, *Xanthium acutilobum*, *Xanthium acutum*, *Xanthium affine*, *Xanthium albinum* subsp. *ripicola*, *Xanthium americanum*, *Xanthium arcuatum*, *Xanthium arenarium*, *Xanthium aridum*, *Xanthium barcinonense*, *Xanthium brevirostre*, *Xanthium bubalocarpon*, *Xanthium californicum* var. *rotundifolium*, *Xanthium calvum*, *Xanthium campestre*, *Xanthium canadense*, *Xanthium cenchroides*, *Xanthium chasei*, *Xanthium chinense*, *Xanthium chinense* var. *chinense*, *Xanthium chinense* var. *globuliforme*, *Xanthium cloessplateaum*, *Xanthium commune*, *Xanthium commune* var. *commune*, *Xanthium cordifolium*, *Xanthium crassifolium*, *Xanthium cuneatum*, *Xanthium curvescens*, *Xanthium cylindraceum*, *Xanthium cylindricum*, *Xanthium decalvatum*, *Xanthium discolor*, *Xanthium echinatum*, *Xanthium echinatum* var. *cavanillesii*, *Xanthium echinatum* subsp. *echinatum*, *Xanthium echinatum* subsp. *italicum*, *Xanthium echinellum*, *Xanthium fuscescens*, *Xanthium glabratum*, *Xanthium glanduliferum*, *Xanthium globosum*, *Xanthium homothalamum*, *Xanthium indicum*, *Xanthium indicum* var. *indicum*, *Xanthium inflexum*, *Xanthium italicum* var. *albinum*, *Xanthium japonicum*, *Xanthium leptocarpum*, *Xanthium longirostre*, *Xanthium macounii*, *Xanthium macrocarpum* var. *glabratum*, *Xanthium mongolicum*, *Xanthium natalense*, *Xanthium nigri*, *Xanthium occidentale*, *Xanthium oligacanthum*, *Xanthium orientale*, *Xanthium orientale* var. *albinum*, *Xanthium orientale* forma *laciniatum*, *Xanthium orientale* var. *riparium*, *Xanthium oviforme*, *Xanthium pungens*, *Xanthium pungens* var. *cylindricum*, *Xanthium pungens* var. *denudatum*, *Xanthium pungens* var. *globosum*, *Xanthium riparium*, *Xanthium ripicola*, *Xanthium roxburghii*, *Xanthium saccharatum* subsp. *aciculare*, *Xanthium saccharatum* subsp. *commune*, *Xanthium sibiricum*, *Xanthium sibiricum* var. *subinerme*, *Xanthium speciosum*, *Xanthium sphaerocephalum*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *arenarium*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *canadense*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *glabratum*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *hausmanni*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *oviforme*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *pensylvanicum*, *Xanthium strumarium* forma *purpurascens*, *Xanthium strumarium* subsp. *strumarium*, *Xanthium strumarium* var. *wootonii*, *Xanthium varians*, *Xanthium wootoni*, *Xanthium wootonii*]

ROUGH COCKLEBUR is an annual. Native to southern Europe it has white and greenish flowers.

It is also known as *Arishta* (Sanskrit), *Banokra* (Bengali), *Bardana menor* (Portuguese, Spanish), *Bardane minore* (Italian), Beach clotbur, Broad cockle-burr, *Buah anjang* (Malay), Bur-thistle, Burweed, Butter bur, Button-bur, *Cacamwci Lleiaf* (Welsh), *Chhota-gokhuru* (Hindi), Clotbur, Cocklebur, Cockle-burr, Common cockle-burr, Dike bur, *Färggullfrö* (Swedish), *Grapille* (French), *Gullfrö* (Swedish), *Herbe-aux-écrouelles* (French), *Kachab* (Thai), *Kankerroos* (Afrikaans), *Kharaq el bahr* (Arabic), *Lanetsuru* (Kashmiri), *Lappola* (Italian), Large cockle bur, Lesser burdock, Louse-bur, *Marlumutta* (Tamil), *Marulutige* (Telugu), *Řepeň durkoman* (Czech), Sea burdock, Sheepbur, Small burdock, *Stekelnoot* (Dutch), *Sungtu* (Punjabi), and *Voškovník obyčajný* (Slovak).

Warning – contact with the plant can cause dermatitis. Seeds encased in the burrs, and young seedlings, consumed in large amounts can be fatally poisonous for animals which

normally avoid it because of the prickles. The prickles can also cause painful physical injury. (Although no records of animal deaths exist in Britain they have been recorded in the United States.)

Rough cocklebur can be confused with lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*).

Strumarium means 'with cushion-like swellings'.

In North America some Indian tribes ate the seeds raw or as an ingredient in a dish.

Some of the Dakota Indian tribe used the plant during ceremonial rituals.

Rough cocklebur also provided some North American Indian tribes with medicines. While the

Costanoans used a seed decoction to treat some urinary difficulties, some of the Paiute Indians rubbed the burrs on painful or bleeding gums.

The leaves yield a yellow dye.

Medicinally, in India the root has been used to treat some cancerous diseases, and the plant has been employed in remedies for malaria. (In northern India fruit garlands are hung round the necks of babies suffering from eye diseases.) It has been an ingredient in Chinese medicine for hundreds of years.