

80. *CHAMAESYCE HYPERICIFOLIA* Millsp. (EUPHORBIACEAE) — Spurge

Guadelupe physicians use this spurge as a substitute for ipecac.⁴² Reported to be astringent, narcotic, purgative, this spurge is a folk remedy for abrasions, cancer, colic, coma, diarrhea, dysentery, leucorrhea, menorrhagia, ophthalmia, sclerosis, stomatosis, tumors, uteralgia, and warts.^{4,32,33} Colombians use the plant as emmenagogue, febrifuge, and sudorific; Cubans as a diuretic and hemostat. Jamaicans give this to malnourished children. Venezuelans use the plant for buccal ulcers, stomatosis, and toothache. Guadelupans use it for female, intestinal, respiratory, and stomach ailments. West Indians use it for leucorrhea.⁴² Colombians use the plant as a cataplasm on gangrenous ulcers.⁵⁷ The latex is applied to calluses, ringworm, and warts.⁴²

Latex contains alkaloids, caoutchouc, gallic acid, glycosides, phorbol esters, resin, and tannin.^{2,42}

Toxicity — Narcotic.² Juice may cause temporary blindness if introduced into the eyes.