

82. *CHENOPODIUM AMBROSIOIDES* L. (CHENOPODIACEAE) — Wormseed

The major modern use<sup>29</sup> (perhaps explaining an anonymous call to me looking for several tons) is as a fragrance component in creams, detergents, lotions, perfumes, and soaps, with maximum use level of 0.4% reported for perfumes.<sup>29</sup> Regardless of its rank odor, the plant is used to flavor soups, a little bit imparting a good flavor. Shoots are even used as a potherb.<sup>22</sup> Brazilians feed the plant to fasting pigs to rid them of parasites.<sup>42</sup> Powdered seed used as an anthelmintic and insecticide. Oil of *Chenopodium* is a world-renowned vermifuge, especially effective in ancylostomiasis. It is also effective against dermatopathogenic fungi, indicating the wisdom of its folk usage for athlete's foot. A culicidal incense is made from the oil.<sup>16</sup> Indochinese farmers mix the infructescence with fertilizer to deter development of insect larvae detrimental to their truck crops. Leaves are used in hair care.<sup>16</sup>

According to Hartwell, the leaves and roots are used in folk remedies for tumors.<sup>4</sup> Reported to be abortifacient, amebicide, analgesic, anthelmintic, antispasmodic, ascaricide, carminative, diaphoretic, diuretic, emmenagogue, fungicide, lactagogue, narcotic, nervine, stimulant, stomachic, sudorific, tonic, wormseed is a folk remedy for amebiasis, amenorrhea, anemia, arthritis, asthma, bugbite, colic, dyspepsia, dysentery, dysmenorrhea, dyspnea, fatigue, fever, hookworm, neurosis, palpitations, puerperium, rheumatism, roundworm, sores, stomachache, and tumors.<sup>3,32</sup> According to *WHO Chronicle*, a decoction of 20 g rapidly expels parasites without apparent side effects.<sup>130</sup> Zulu use the infusion as an enema for intestinal ulceration. Xhosa use the green leaf tincture as an antitussive. Sotho take the infusion for colds and stomachache. South Africans use the plant as a poultice to remove