

# Dermatologic Use of *Ageratum Conyzoides*: A Scoping Review



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## INTRODUCTION

*Ageratum conyzoides* is an invasive weed of tropical and subtropical countries, with potential medicinal use in the field of dermatology.

*Ageratum conyzoides* has demonstrated wound-healing, antifungal, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and pediculicidal properties in both in vitro and in vivo animal studies. For example, its essential oil shows strong antifungal activity against *Epidermophyton floccosum*, which causes skin and nail infections. An in vitro study indicates the potential of its extract to be included in the formulations as a pediculicidal agent for head lice. Its extract has antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Propionibacterium acnes*. Its extract also reduces the expression of mRNA coding for 5-alpha-reductase types 2 and 1, suggesting potential as a treatment for hair loss.

## PURPOSE

This scoping review evaluates the oral and topical dermatologic use of *Ageratum conyzoides* in humans.

## METHODS

We conducted a PubMed and Embase search of peer-reviewed English language articles. Search terms included "*Ageratum conyzoides*" and "dermatology," "hair," "skin," or "nails." Data extraction took place on May 31, 2025, and included all articles published prior to that date. Articles were limited to those published in English. Reference lists of eligible studies were also screened for potential relevant studies. Full-length texts were then further screened for inclusion criteria consisting of articles reporting on effective human dermatologic use of *Ageratum conyzoides*. Due to the limited number of relevant articles, we included all article types, including randomized controlled trials, surveys, and reviews.

## FIGURE



## RESULTS

*Ageratum conyzoides* is widely used in many countries for its dermatologic benefits. For example, surveys show that it is 1 of 5 most preferred plant species used to treat skin diseases by the Tharu community in India and 100% of families in Rivers State, Nigeria use it specifically to treat skin diseases. Topical applications of its mature fresh leaf and stem decoctions are used to treat skin burns, cuts, wounds, boils, itches, abscesses, post-partum skin diseases, wormy skin sores, and leprosy. It is also prescribed as a bath for patient with ecchymosis and even used as an anti-dote in the treatment of snake bites. Its flower extract is also applied as a cleansing lotion for the skin and used in the treatment of hair loss. Randomized double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trials have demonstrated a net increase in hair growth following topical application and oral supplementation of *Ageratum conyzoides*.

## FIGURE



## CONCLUSIONS

Based on this review, *Ageratum conyzoides* shows promising clinical potential for a range of dermatologic conditions. Its traditional use is well established across many countries and it may serve as a valuable complementary therapy. However, further research is needed to confirm its efficacy, safety profile, and potential integration into formal healthcare systems. This review highlights the need for continued investigation and brings *Ageratum conyzoides* into the broader dermatologic conversation.

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