**Centella asiatica** (L.) Urb.

**Family:** Apiaceae


**Common name:**
Gotu Kola; Pennywort

**Stem**
Stems creep over the soil surface and produce roots at the nodes.

**Leaves**
Petiole 100-150 mm long, base winged and partly sheathing the stem. Leaf blades 30-50 mm diam., leaf blade underside clothed in very fine, web-like hairs. Veins 5-6, radiating from the base.

**Flowers**
Inflorescence umbellate with 1-4-6 flowers in each umbel. Peduncle 8-12 mm long. Flowers about 3 mm diam. Calyx absent. Petals ephemeral, obovate to orbicular, 0.8-1 mm diam. Ovary bilobed, laterally compressed, about 2 x 2.5 mm, mainly red except for two green glands at the apex. Styles 2. Stigmas 2.

**Fruit**
Fruits 3-4 x 4 mm, laterally compressed and consisting of two mericarps. Seeds about 3-4 x 2 mm, surface ornamented with longitudinal lines. Embryo minute.

**Seedlings**
Features not available.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Occurs in NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ, and widespread in southern Australia. Grows mainly in damp places in swamps and various types of forest from 0-1000 m altitude.

**Natural History & Notes**
A weed of disturbed moist places.

**Synonyms**
*Hydrocotyle asiatica* L., *Species Plantarum* 1: 234(1753), Type: Habitat in India.

**RFK Code**
4019