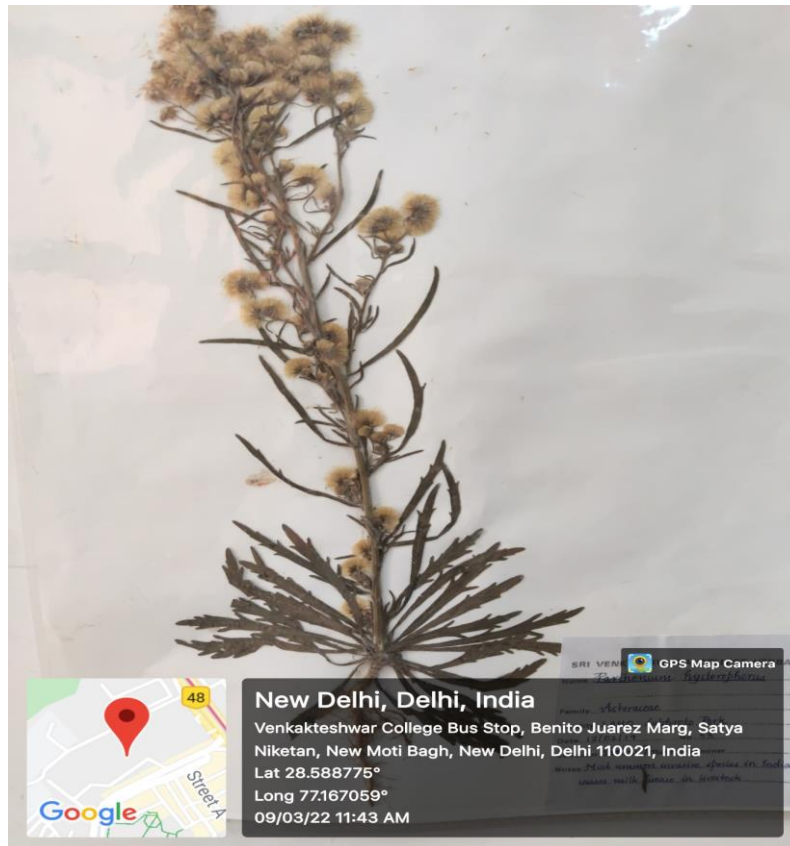


Parthenium hysterophorus



Common Name: Carrot grass, Congress grass, Gajar ghas, Santa- Maria, Famine weed

Scientific Name: *Parthenium hysterophorus*

Family: Asteraceae

It is the most common invasive species of India. This plant causes milk disease in livestock and is also responsible for respiratory malfunction in humans. It is an annual herb that has invaded large areas in different types of habitats and environmental conditions, mainly in Australia, Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands.

It is 30-40 cm tall but can reach 2m. The leaves are alternate and deeply lobed into narrow segments.

Economic Importance: Congress grass is an aggressive ubiquitous annual herbaceous weed with no economic importance unravelled till now. This erect, ephemeral herb known for its vigorous growth and high fecundity, especially in warmer climates is a native of North-East Mexico and is endemic in America.

Traditional Medicinal Uses: Congress grass is reported as a promising remedy against hepatic amoebiasis (Sharma and Bhutani, 1988). Congress grass is used as a folk remedy in the Caribbean and Central America (Nabie et al. 1996).