Anatomical Diagnosis of the Stem and Leaf of *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk. (Asteraceae)

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**Keywords:** quality control; “agrião do brejo”.

**Introduction:** *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk. (Asteraceae) is an annual herb popularly known as “agrião do brejo”, used to solve scalp diseases, like alopecia. In order to contribute to the quality control of this specie was made a description of the anatomical structure of the stem and leaf, detaching the key characters to an accurate taxonomical identification.

**Experimental part:** Fresh samples of young stem and leaves were collected at the urbanized area in Recife-PE-Brazil. Were obtained transversal sections, freehand, stained with safranin and astra blue and mounted semipermanent slides. The anatomical analysis was made using digital images obtained under an optical microscope and digital camera.

**Results/Discussion:** The stem shows circular boundary, covered by a simple and uniseriate epidermis, and delegate cuticle, followed by three layers of angular collenchyma, greater secretory structures over the phloem and fundamental parenchyma. The vascular bundles are arranged in a circular line inner the central cylinder and colorless medullar parenchyma. The leaf, at transversal view, is covered with a simple and uniseriate epidermis, with greater cells and secretory structures on adaxial surface; the mesophyll is dorsiventral, with 1-layer of palisade and 4-spongy with conspicuous intercellular lacunae. Three layers of collenchyma are on upper rib and two on lower rib in the median region of the main vein.

**Conclusion:** The presence of great secretory structures on the cortex of the stem is an important feature to the taxonomical identification of this specie.

**Funding:** CNPq/FACEPE/DB-UFRPE.