PLANT FACT SHEET

Acalypha bipartita Muell. Arg.

GENUS *Acalypha* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Mhacha

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The young leaves and shoots are eaten as a vegetable.
They are usually chopped and added to beans and eaten with the staple food.

DESCRIPTION

It is a scrambling shrub. It grows 3 m tall. The stems are almost square and have soft hairs. They are green to red-brown. The leaves are alternate and simple. The leaf blades are 3-11 cm long by 1-8 cm wide. There are teeth along the edge. The flowering shoots are in the axils of leaves and are up to 14 cm long. There are male flowers towards the end and female flowers below. The fruit are capsules with 3 lobes. They are 2.5 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It often grows near rivers. It grows in forest undergrowth. It grows between 1,000-1,500 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall of 900-1,500 mm.

NOTES

There are over 450 Acalypha species. They are tropical. There are 225 in tropical America.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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