PLANT FACT SHEET

Alternanthera pungens H. B. Kunth

GENUS *Alternanthera* **FAMILY** Amaranthaceae

COMMON NAMES Khaki weed, Creeping chaffweed, Paper thorns

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Stems, Vegetable

The young leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. The stems are slightly woody. It lies along the ground. It can grow as an annual or continue growing from year to year. The stems are 25-50 cm long. They are branched. The leaves are oval and have a sharp tip. They taper to the leaf stalk. They are 2-4 cm long. They are softly hairy underneath. The flower heads are in clusters in the axils of leaves and towards the end of the branches. The flowers are white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on a range of soils. It can be near creek banks and roadsides. It can grow in tropical and warm temperate places. It grows from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is available throughout the year in tropical places.

NOTES

There are 200 Alternanthera species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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