PLANT FACT SHEET

Spermacoce articularis L. f.

GENUS *Spermacoce* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Shaggy button weed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - coffee, Leaves, Fruit, Roots - tea

The seeds are used as a substitute for coffee.
The leaves are used as a famine food. They are boiled with spices or stir-fried in oil.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It can be erect or lie over. The stems are woody at the base. The stems are angled and have hairs. The leaves are 2-3 cm long by about 1 cm wide. They are sword shaped. The flowers are pink, blue or violet. The fruit is a capsule 3 mm long. The seeds are brown. They are 3 mm long by 1 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in open sandy places.

NOTES

There are about 150 Borreria species.
There is confusion over the name between Borreria and Spermacoce with several different authorities.

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WATT (As Borreria articularis)

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