PLANT FACT SHEET

Acalypha fruticosa Forssk.

GENUS *Acalypha* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Birch leaved acalypha

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The young leaves are cooked as a vegetable. They are chopped and boiled and mixed with other vegetables or the staple food.
The dried leaves are used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It grows 3.5 m high. It can be hairy. The leaves can give a bad smell when crushed. The leaves are simple and oval. They are arranged alternately. The leaves are 1-8 cm long. There are round teeth along the edge. The leaves are grey-green underneath. The flowers are separately male and female. They are small and yellow to red. They hang in spikes. Usually the male flowers are above and the female ones below but they can be on separate plants. The fruit is a very small capsule 2-3 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in moist spots in arid areas. It grows from sea level to 1,800 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are over 450 Acalypha species. They are tropical. There are 225 in tropical America.
The leaves are also used as medicine.

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