PLANT FACT SHEET

Cyathula prostata (L.) Blume

GENUS *Cyathula* **FAMILY** Amaranthaceae

COMMON NAMES Prostrate pastureweed, Prostrate burr-amaranth

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are eaten cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A herb which continues to grow from year to year. It can be upright or hanging over. It often lies along the ground. It grows up to 50-100 cm tall. The stem is slender, stiff and brittle. The stem is tinged red. It has many branches. These are thickened and often form roots at the nodes. The leaves are 1.5-10 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. They are narrowed below the middle. The leaf stalk is 2-12 mm long so the leaves appear to be attached directly to the stalk. The leaves often have red hairs underneath and near the veins. The flowers are mostly in one stalk. These arise from the axils of the upper leaves. These flower arrangements are 5-25 cm long. Along it the flowers are in clusters with 1-3 fertile flowers and some sterile ones. The fruit or seed is oval and about 1.5 mm long and shiny brown. The flower clusters have small hooks and these attach to things moving the seeds around.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs throughout the tropics. In Papua New Guinea the plant occurs between sea level and 1,200 m. Sometimes it grows up to 2,000 m. It grows in moist shady places. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

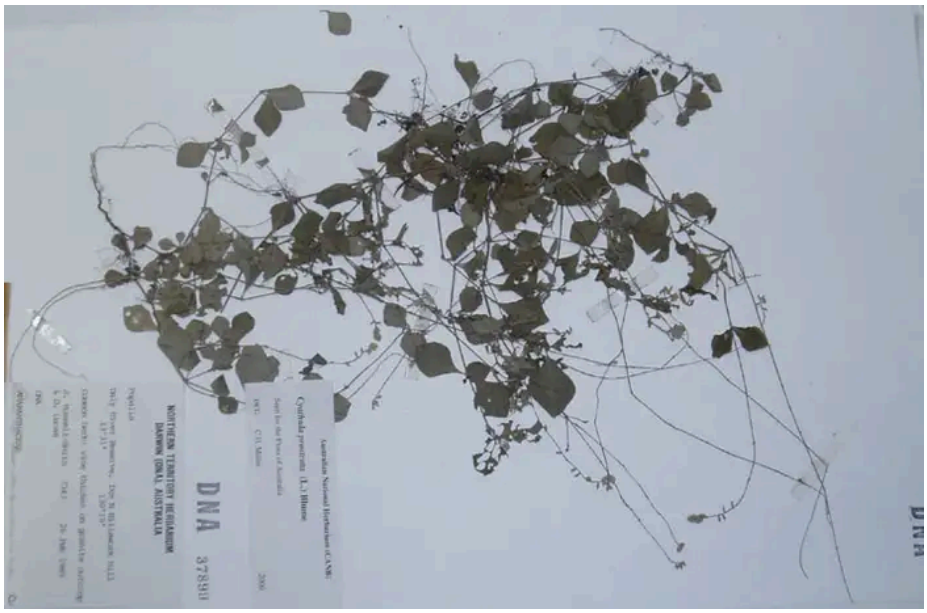
Cultivation

Plants are mostly self sown from seed. They can be grown from cuttings.

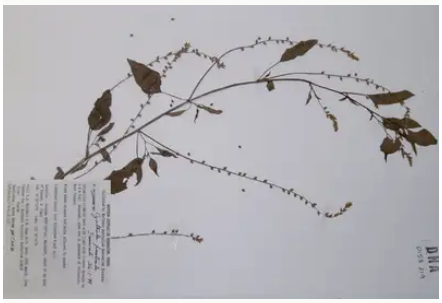
NOTES

It is used in medicine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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