PLANT FACT SHEET

Acalypha ciliata Forssk.

GENUS *Acalypha* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are picked and washed and cut into small pieces then boiled or fried. They are used in porridge and soup.

DESCRIPTION

A slender herb. It grows 1 m tall. The leaves are arranged singly. They are on long stalks. The leaves are 3-8 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. The flowers are above small leafy bracts. The flower stalks have separate male and female flowers. The fruit have 3 lobes.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows best in good soils and damp conditions. It can grow in hot arid conditions with a marked dry season. It grows along rivers. In southern Africa it grows between 300-1,000 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. In Pakistan it grows between 600-1,800 m altitude.

NOTES

There are over 450 Acalypha species. They are tropical. There are 225 in tropical America. This one is used in medicine.

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