

KUCING GALAK

Scientific name : *Acalypha indica*
Common name : Indian copperleaf, India acalypha
Local name : Kucing Galak, Cika Mas
Family : Euphorbiaceae

Introduction

It occurs throughout tropical Africa and South Africa, in India and Sri Lanka, as well as in Yemen and Pakistan. In West and East Africa the plant is used as a medicinal plant. In West Africa the leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable. It is also browsed by cattle. This plant is held in high esteem in traditional Tamil Siddha medicine as it is believed to rejuvenate the body. Throughout the area where the plant grows, it is widely known for its effect on domestic cats, which react very strongly to the root of the plant.

Plant Description

An annual, erect herb, up to 1 m high. Leaves 2.5-7.5 cm long, ovate or rhomboid-ovate, crenate-serrate. Flowers in numerous lax, erect, elongated axillary spikes, the male minute, clustered near the summit of the spike, the females scattered, surrounded by a large.

Plant habit

A herb found in fields and waste places throughout the hotter part. In Peninsular Malaysia, it occurs in the more settled part.

Plants parts used :

Root, leaves

Uses in traditional medicine

It is used as a purgative for which purpose the plant is boiled and the extract drunk. It is a very good remedy in the treatment of piles. Root is used to remove worms in children, and given in the morning empty stomach work as mild laxative and also remove worms. Leaves with turmeric for relief from acne and pimples.

