

## **Acalypha hipsida**

### **Scientific classification**

Kingdom : Plantae  
Clade : Tracheophytes  
Order : Malphigiales  
Family : Euphorbiacea  
Genus : Acalphy  
Species : *A.hipsida*



*A.hipsida*

### **PLANT DESCRIPTION :**

It can grow to be 5–12 feet (1.5–3.7 m) tall, and have a spread of 3–6 feet (0.91–1.83 m), with potted plants being the smallest in growth. The plant has become somewhat domesticated, due to the nature and color of its flowers. It can be grown from seeds as well as from cuttings. It can be kept either as an outdoor plant or as a houseplant. However, care should be taken in growing it, as all parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested by animals.

The plant is dioecious, and therefore there are distinct male and female members of the species. The female plant bears pistillate flowers which are 0.7 millimeters long and range in color from purple to bright red, and grow in clusters along catkins. This feature is the primary reason the plant bears the nickname “red-hot cat tail”. The pistillates will grow all year long as long as the temperatures are favorable. It is an erect shrub of soft stems cultivated by its precious and tiny flowers of a fiery red which in summer hang on pendulous spikes and resemble the tassels of female plants. The leaves are large, oval and bright green to reddish copper.

### **Medicinal uses**

- ✓ In Indonesia, the roots and flowers, fresh or in decoction, are considered a remedy for haemoptysis
- ✓ The leaves are used to treat thrush. A poultice of the leaves is used in the treatment of leprosy.
- ✓ In Malaysia a decoction of the leaves and flowers is externally applied as an emollient to wounds and ulcers
- ✓ The bark is applied as an expectorant in the treatment of asthma.