

Acalypha wilkesiana

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Order : Malpighiales
Family : Euphorbiaceae
Genus : *Acalypha*
Species : *A. wilkesiana*



Acalypha wilkesiana

DESCRIPTION:

Acalypha wilkesiana, common names **copperleaf** and **Jacob's coat**, is an evergreen shrub growing to 3 metres (9.8 ft) high and 2 metres (6 ft 7 in) across. It has a closely arranged crown, with an erect stem and many branches. Both the branches and the leaves are covered in fine hairs. The leaves, which may be flat or crinkled, are large and broad with teeth around the edge. They can be 10–20 centimetres (3.9–7.9 in) long and 15 centimetres (5.9 in) wide. The leaves are coppery green with red splashes, giving them a mottled appearance. Separate male and female flowers appear on the same plant. The male flowers are in long spikes which hang downwards while the female flowers are in short spikes. The latter do not show up easily as they are often hidden among the leaves. The flower stalks are 10–20 cm long.

Medicinal value

Acalypha wilkesiana ointment is used to treat fungal skin diseases. *Acalypha wilkesiana* ointment using 32 Nigerians with mycological as well as clinical evidence of mycoses. The ointment successfully controlled the mycoses in 73.3% of the affected patients.