

Graptophyllum pictum

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Clade : Angiosperms
Order : Lamiales
Family : Acanthaceae
Genus : *Graptophyllum*
Species : *G. pictum*



Graptophyllum pictum

DESCRIPTION

Caricature plant is an erect, much branched shrub growing up to 3.5 metres tall. The plant has a range of traditional medicinal uses and is also used as a soap substitute. It is commonly grown as an ornamental and hedge plant in the tropics, and also as a pot plant in colder areas, being valued especially for its attractive, variegated leaves in which some people can see caricatures of the human face.

MEDICINAL USES

The plant contains such biologically active substances as saponin, tannin, pectin and has medicinal properties. Infusion and alcohol extract from its leaves is used as a diuretic, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic and anesthetic. In the homeland of the plant, its juice is used to treat skin ulcers, wounds and burns, and as a substitute for soap. In traditional medicine of Indonesia mix pounded leaves with coconut milk is used to reduce the swelling.