

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Acalypha hispida

[Synonyms : *Acalypha densiflora*, *Acalypha sanderi*]

CHENILLE PLANT is an evergreen shrub. Native to Malaysia it has long velvety tassel-like dark red, purple or white catkins.

It is also known as *Akalyfa srstnatá* (Slovak), Bristly copperleaf, *Buntut kuching* (Javanese), *Califa* (Spanish), Cat tail, Chenelle plant, Foxtail, *Hang-ga-rok* (Thai), *Isokissanhantā* (Finnish), *Kattsvans* (Swedish), *Katzenschwanz* (German), Monkey tail, *Nesselschön* (German), *Paradiesnessel* (German), Philippine medusa, Pussy tail, Red-hot cat's tail, Red hot poker, *Siú-siú* (Samoan), and *Vattattali* (Malayalam).

Warning - the milky sap in the leaves and stems can be poisonous if taken internally and can cause nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting – and handling the plant can cause dermatitis.

Hispida is Latin (rough, hairy, bristly) meaning 'bristly or with rough, erect hairs'.

The shrub was introduced to Europe in 1896.

Chenille plant is grown widely as an ornamental plant.

Medicinally, in south-eastern Asia a decoction of the root and the flowers has been used to ease some internal bleeding, a leaf and flower decoction has provided an internal remedy for some venereal diseases and the flowers have been recommended for treating diarrhoea. A leaf and flower decoction has also been applied externally to ulcers and wounds and the leaves have been used in poultices for leprosy.