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*Acalypha virginica*

**THREE-SEEDED MERCURY** is an annual. Native to North America it has minute green flowers and tiny red capsular fruit.

It is also known as *Acalifa* (Italian), *Acalypha de Virginie* (French), *Dreisamiges Bingelkraut* (German), Mercury weed, Virginia copperleaf, Virginia mercury, Virginia three-seed mercury, Water wax-ball, and Wax balls.

*Virginica* means 'of or from Virginia (United States)' which itself was named after the English 'Virgin Queen' Elizabeth I (1533-1603).

North American Cherokee Indians used the root not only to treat fluid retention but also to ease some urinary problems.

In the United States three-seeded mercury is treated as an invasive plant in many areas.

Medicinally, the plant was used locally to treat asthma and fluid retention.