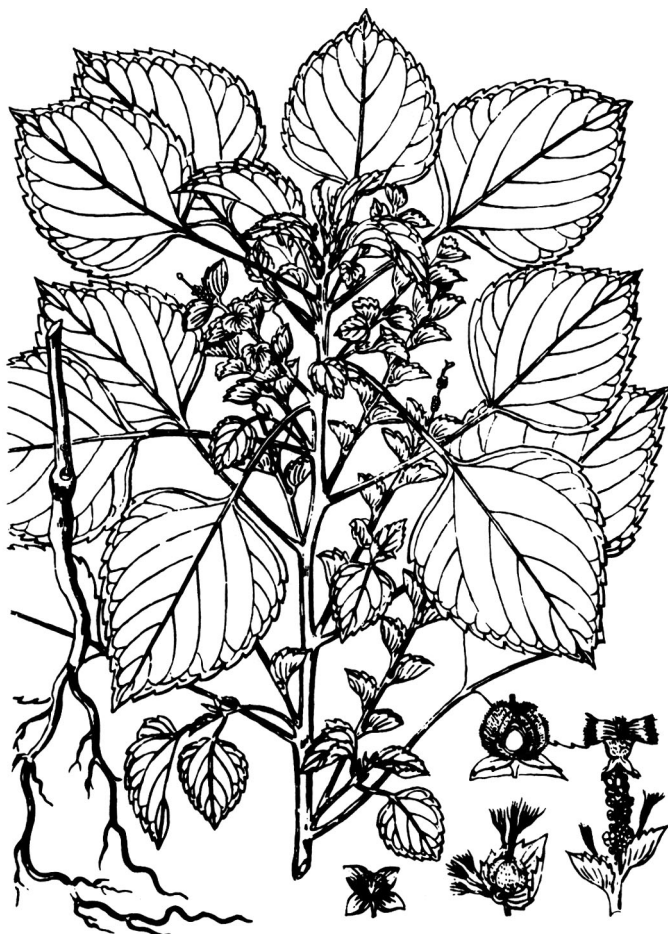


5. *ACALYPHA INDICA* L. (EUPHORBIACEAE) — Indian Acalypha, Hierba de Cancer

Used as a diaphoretic, expectorant, and emetic substitute for ipecac or senega. About 15 g of the decoction is said to be a safe and speedy laxative. Plant sometimes used as a substitute for ipecac or senega.³³ Said to work like catnip on cats.

The juice is applied to tumors in India.⁴ Transvaal Africans used the plant for eye ailments. In Indochina the leaf is used as an anthelmintic, the root as a purgative, and the juice as an emetic. Bruised leaves introduced as an anal suppository to relieve constipated children. Perry recites a dangerous headache remedy, dribbling the acrid sap into the eye.¹⁶ Juice of fresh leaves used against croup. The leaf, ground with salt and/or lime or lime juice, is applied externally as a parasiticide for ringworm, scabies, and maggoty wounds. The herbage is used as an expectorant in bronchitis, croup, phthisis, and pneumonia; also for eczema and pimples.³³

Contains the alkaloid acalypine, a resin, a tannin, a volatile oil, a cyanogenetic glucoside ($C_{14}H_{29(22)}O_{10}N_2$) and HCN (ca 270 mg/100 mg dry weight). Triacetonamine, quebrachitol (1-inisitol monomethyl ether).

Toxicity — The plant is toxic, causing a dark chocolate coloring of the blood (due to something beside the cyanide).³³ Contact with the plant can cause dermatitis.