

# *Ruellia tuberosa* L.

**Family** : Acanthaceae

**Parts Used** : Leaf

**Vernacular Names**

English : Ruellia

Malayalam : Kattamukkuram



**Distribution and habitat:** Found throughout Tropical America; also in India, Malaysia

**Botany:** Herb, 50 or 75 cm height; tender parts hispid. Nodes purplish.

• **Leaves** : Obovate to lanceolate, 5-9 x 2.5-4 cm, base cuneate to attenuate, apex obtuse to sub acute, petiole 2cm long.

• **Flowers:** solitary or in 3 flowered cymes, terminal or axillary. Bracts and bracteoles linear-lanceolate. Calyx- lobes subequal, or 1 or 2 longer, valvate, linear, scabrous, ciliate, acute. Corolla blue to violetish, 4 cm across; tube 3.5 cm; lobes subequal, or 1 or 2 smaller, twisted to left in bud, 1.5 cm. stamens 4, included; filaments pairs 4, hairy below. Anthers 4 mm, sagittate, puberulous; staminode linear. Ovary 4 x1.5 mm; style 2 cm; stigma 2 lamellate, flattened, ciliate or fimbriate, obtuse.

• **Fruit** : Capsule oblong, 2.5 x 0.4 cm, glabrous or scabrous, minutely beaked above.

• **Seeds** : Flattened, orbicular, 2 mm across, hairy.

**Properties:** Potent antioxidant activity.

**Propagation:** Seeds.

