

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

Acalypha rhomboidea (*Acalypha rhomboidea*)

Acalypha rhomboidea is a herbaceous annual plant commonly known as **three-seeded mercury**. It is widely found in the wild and is mainly considered a weed. The stem is slender, slightly hairy, and grows upright. Its leaves are rhombus-shaped (diamond-like), green, and often have serrated edges. The most distinctive feature of the plant is its small flowers and the characteristic three-part seed capsules, from which it gets its common name.

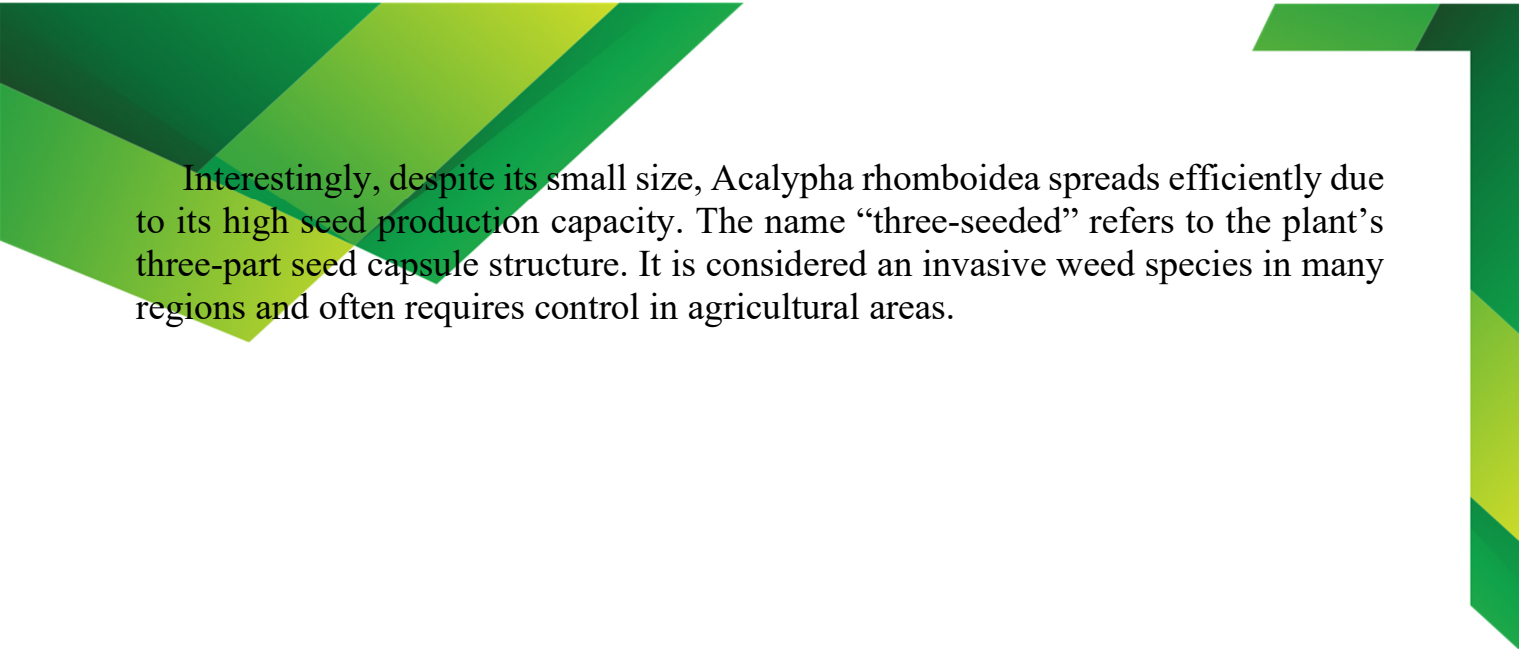


This plant is native to North America but has spread to many other regions over time, often becoming invasive. Today, it can be found in agricultural fields, gardens, roadsides, and disturbed soils. In Azerbaijan, it may also appear in some areas as a weed.

Acalypha rhomboidea grows best in sunny and open areas. It is not very demanding in terms of soil and can even grow in poor soil conditions. It spreads quickly through seeds and can cover large areas within a single season. It has some drought tolerance but grows more actively in moist environments. Its life cycle is mainly completed during the summer months.

In terms of human and ecological impact, this plant is mainly regarded as a weed. In agricultural fields, it can compete with cultivated crops and reduce their growth. However, in natural environments, it may provide microhabitats and shelter for small insects. Its main ecological role is rapid colonization of disturbed soils.

Its uses are very limited and mostly related to agricultural research. It is sometimes used as a model species for studying weed distribution and growth patterns. It has no significant food or ornamental value.



Interestingly, despite its small size, *Acalypha rhomboidea* spreads efficiently due to its high seed production capacity. The name “three-seeded” refers to the plant’s three-part seed capsule structure. It is considered an invasive weed species in many regions and often requires control in agricultural areas.

