Hemigraphis alternata (Burm.f.) T.Anderson

Family: Acanthaceae

Common name: Red Ivy; Aluminium plant

Stem
Sprawling herb with ascending branches to 20 cm tall. Stems purple.

Leaves
Leaf blades often purplish in colour, ovate to oblong, margin crenate-serrate, surfaces of the leaf blade clothed in prostrate hairs, petioles often as long as the leaf blades, 6.5-9 x 3.5-6 cm, petiole 20-50 mm long.

Flowers
Inflorescence a spike 20-100 mm long, corolla ca. 15 mm long, white with faint purple markings within; stamens white tinged purple.

Seedlings
Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology
An introduced species native to the India, Java and Malaysia; now naturalised in parts of CYP and NEQ. Invading rain forest and complex mesophyll vine forest.

Natural History & Notes
Popular garden plant widely used as borders and ground covers.

Synonyms
Ruellia alternata Burm. f., Flora Indica : 135(1768), Type: Java.

RFK Code
4013