

Lamiaceae
Orthosiphon aristatus
cats whiskers



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ETYMOLOGY	(orth-o-SY-fon) Greek orthos = straight; siphon = a tube referring to the straight tube of the corolla The species aristatus (ah-ris-TAH-tah) awned;
LIFEFORM	Shrub 1 m x 1 m Spread
OCCURS	Only known Cardwell to Cape York Peninsula NE Qld, to NG known India, mainland SE Asia;
HABITAT	Many Planted in gardens Deciduous closed forests, Monsoon Rainforest
LEAVES	Opposite, 3-16 x 2-4.5 cm, ovate to rhomboid, dark green thin, irregularly toothed margins. Stalkless glands visible on both surfaces. Sparse hairs present on both leaf surfaces on 1-6 cm stalks
FLOWERS	Terminal spikes of white or pale blue with filiform stamens are 2 or 3 times as long as the corolla tube with very small anthers the prominence of these stamens being indicated by common name 'Cat's Moustache' Flowering times Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Aug
FRUIT	Nuts 2 mm, enclosed in boat-shaped 1 cm calyx with awn-like tips to lobes; Fruiting times Feb, March
ROOTS	Rooting along stem
STEM	Erect to spreading, fleshy stemmed herb; Stems square-angled.
ETHNOBOTANY	Often cultivated; Leaves boiled as a tea for Kidney stones. Edible flowers used as garnish.
ID FEATURE	Loosely branched perennial herb with white or purple flowers;