



2010 Promising Plant

Aeollanthus suaveolens

Promising Qualities

- ◆ Tropical coconut smell
- ◆ Culinary

Aeollanthus suaveolens, or macassa, is commonly found in Northern Nigeria, Sudan, East Africa and Brazil. This herb has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. In Northeastern Brazil it is used as a medicinal plant for the treatment of eye, ear and skin infections. In Africa, the leaves are stuffed into the ear like an earplug for relief from ear aches. An additional folk medicine use is that of a soothing tea for menstrual cramps. The flowers and leaves of *A. suaveolens* have a high content of monoterpenes which may be why this plant has anti-convulsant and sedative properties. Macassa can be added to sauces and condiments when cooking or it may be used as a flavoring. Although this herb has a sweet smell “similar to that of coconuts” it has been known to be referred to by such misleading names as catinga de mulata which translates to stench of mulatta.

FAMILY

Lamiaceae

GENUS

Aeollanthus

SPECIFIC EPITHET

suaveolens

SYNONYM

Aeollanthus heliotropiodes

COMMON NAMES

catanga de mulata,
macassa, stench of mulatta

FLOWER COLOR

pink

BLOOM PERIOD

spring

PLANT TYPE

annual, tender perennial

PROPAGATION

USE

culinary, medicinal

HEIGHT/WIDTH

24-30” high

LIGHT

SOIL

garden loam, sandy loam

WATER

HABIT

erect, bushy

Where can I find this plant?

- ◆ Well Sweep Herb Farm - www.wellsweep.com

The Herb Society of America
9019 Kirtland Chardon Road
Kirtland, OH 44094
440.256.0514
www.herbsociety.org



Photos: (top) Courtesy of Jim Long, (bottom) photo found at Wellsweep/www.wellsweep.com