



***Hamelia patens* Jacq.**

**Family:** Rubiaceae

**Common names:** Hamelia, Red Head, Fire bush



**Description:**

*Hamelia Patens* is a showy, fast-growing, semi-woody evergreen shrub that can reach up to 15ft tall under ideal conditions. It has whorled leaves usually three but occasionally as many as seven at each node. The leaves are elliptic to oval, about 15 cm long, and grey-pubescent underneath with reddish veins and petioles. It produces showy terminal clusters of bright reddish-orange or scarlet tubular flowers, Throughout the year. Even the flower stems are red. Fruit is a juicy berry with many small seeds, ripening from green to yellow to red and finally to black.

**Utilization:**

Humming birds are attracted by its flowers and other birds feed on the fruit, both of which will also forage on small insects found in the vicinity, helping to keep down pests. It is also grown as a hedge plant. Indigenous people use the plant to treat all types of skin problems including, sores, rashes, wounds, burns, itching, cuts, skin fungus, and insect stings and bites.

Part	Uses
Fresh leaf sap	Stop the bleeding of a wound
Root	Inflamed uterus

**References:**

Reyes-Chilpa R, Rivera J, Oropeza M, Mendoza P, Amekraz B, Jankowski C, Campos M; (2004) Methanol extracts of *Hamelia patens* containing oxindole alkaloids relax KCl-induced contraction in rat myometrium. *Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin*, 27.10, 1617-1620.

Leonti M, Vibrans H, Sticher O, Heinrich M; (2001) Ethnopharmacology of the Popoluca, Mexico: an evaluation. *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, 53.12, 1653-1669.

Gomez-Beloz A, Rucinski J.C, Balick M.J, Tipton C; (2003) Double incision wound healing bioassay using *Hamelia patens* from El Salvador. *Journal of ethnopharmacology*, 88.2, 169-173.