



SPECIES	Orthosiphon aristatus
COMMON NAME	Cat's whiskers, Java tea
ORIGIN	South East Asia and tropical Australia
DESIGN USE	Ornamental, perennial borders or informal hedges, container or planter



HEIGHT
0.30-1 m high

SPREAD
0.50 m

HABIT
It is a perennial but grown as annual while the foliage is semi-deciduous.

FORM
It is erect and highly branched with a tendency to touch ground and root easily.



FLOWERS
The flowers are borne in very lax racemes. The calyx is bell-shaped, with a naked throat and two slender lower teeth. Corolla is 2.5 cm long, smooth, white or purplish, slender in the tube, and thrice as long as the calyx. Nutlets are oblong and compressed. These beautiful pagoda-shaped flower clusters can be white/almost white, or mauve to lavender or light violet/purple.

FLOWERING PERIOD
Late Summer/Early Fall

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES
In thickets, at low and medium altitudes. It grows perfectly well in light shade in warmer climates. Full sun to part sun or partial shade. Grows best in sunny location. It can tolerate shade but tends to grow skyward with less flowering.

HORTICULTURE
Prefers moist garden soil. Propagates from seeds though best from softwood cuttings that root easily in water or ground. Best done when deadheading spent blooms or pruning. Medium to high water requirements though less once established

REFERENCES
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