



Scientific name	<u><i>Hamelia patens</i></u>
Common name	Scarlet bush or Texas firebush
Family	Rubiaceae
Plant description	<p>Semi-woody shrub up to 3.7 m tall.</p> <p>Stem : Woody, solid, aerial, Erect, branched, cylindrical.</p> <p>Leaves : Cauline, whorled, stipulate, petiolate, simple, ovate, entire, acute, unicostate reticulate venation.</p> <p>Inflorescence : Polychasial cyme with each helicoid branch.</p> <p>Flowers: Ebracteate, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, pentamerous, epigynous. Calyx made up of sepals 5, gamosepalous, petaloid, reddish, valvate.</p> <p>Corolla made up of 5 petals, gamopetalous, twisted, large and tubular.</p> <p>Androecium made up of 5 stamens, polyandrous, epipetalous, ditheous, basifixed, introrse.</p> <p>Gynoecium composed of pentacarpellary, syncarpous, inferior pentalocular, axile placentation. Fruit : 5-valved, loculicidal capsule</p> <p>Seeds : Small, endospermic.</p>
Distribution	Is native to the American subtropics and tropics. Its range extends from Florida in the southern United States to as far south as Argentina.

Uses	Is used in herbal medicine to treat athlete's foot, skin lesions and insect bites, nervous shock, inflammation, rheumatism, headache, asthma, and dysentery
Flowering and fruiting time	Flowers from early summer until late fall.