PLANT FACT SHEET

Trichosanthes kirilowii Maxim.

GENUS *Trichosanthes* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese snake gourd, Mongolian snake gourd, Trichosanthes root

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Oil, Root, Seeds

The starchy root, is peeled, cut into slices, soaked in repeated changes of water for five days until they disintegrate, and then mashed to a pulp which is made into steamed cakes.
The pulp of the fruit is also eaten cooked.
The young buds are boiled and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a vine up to 3-10 m long. It climbs. The leaves have 3-5 lobes. They are slightly rough underneath. The flowers are white. The fruit are red or orange. They are 7-11 cm long.

HABITAT

A subtropical or temperate plant. It grows in open forests and grasslands between 200-1,800 m above sea level in China.

NOTES

It is used in medicine.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/04c1a07f-c3e6-4dfe-b62a-610d9c494782