PLANT FACT SHEET

Lagenaria sphaerica (E. Mey. ex Sond.) Naudin

GENUS *Lagenaria* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild bottle gourd

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Vegetable

The leaves are occasionally cooked and eaten.
The young fruit are eaten as a vegetable.
Caution: Mature fruit are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a climber in the pumpkin family. It can climb 10 m high. The stems are angled and nearly smooth. The leaves are 5-15 cm long. They are leathery and rough to touch. They have 5 lobes. The leaf stalk has 2 horn like processes near the base. The male flowers are in groups and white. They are 10-15 cm across. The female flowers occur singly. The fruit is oval and hard. They are 7-11 cm long by 6-10 cm wide. It has a pattern of green and yellow.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowland rainforest and along rivers. It suits humid locations. It grows from sea level to 1,700 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It can grow to 2,700 m.

NOTES

The seeds are rich in oil.

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