PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax leucophylla Blume

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

COMMON NAMES Canar sarsaparilla, Marsh yam

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The young leaves are cooked as vegetables.

DESCRIPTION

A climber. It grows 20 m long. The stems are flat. They have strong spines over the stems. The leaves are broad and oval. The leaf tapers to a tip. The base of the leaf also tapers into the leaf stalk. The leaf blade is 19 cm long by 11 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 2 cm long. The fruit are 1 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in hill forest. In Java it grows up to 1,100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

Plant parts are also used as medicine. There are about 300 Smilax species.

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