PLANT FACT SHEET

Adenia gummifera (Harvey) Harms

GENUS *Adenia* **FAMILY** Passifloraceae

COMMON NAMES Snake climber, Green stem

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Fruit, Vegetable

CAUTION: Most Adenia are poisonous.
The young leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
The very ripe fruit are eaten as a dessert fruit.

DESCRIPTION

A climber. It is a succulent plant with a swollen base. It is a creeper with tendrils. The stems are grey. The leaf stalks are slender and 3 cm long. There is a small gland at the top. The leaf blades are 4 cm long. They have 3 broad blunt lobes. The edges are slightly wavy. The flowering shoots are in the axils of the leaves. These stalks are slender. The flowers are greenish-yellow. The fruit are oval and 2.5 cm long. The seeds are white with a netted surface.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is widespread in hilly country in Malawi. In grows in rainforest and along rivers. It suits humid locations. It grows below 1,700 m above sea level. In Tanzania it grows between 1 and 500 m above sea level. It grows in rocky and stony dry soils. It can grow in arid places. It can grow on termite mounds.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 95 Adenia species. They are common in the semiarid regions of Africa.

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