PLANT FACT SHEET

Scutellaria barbata D. Don

GENUS *Scutellaria* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Half-branch flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Leaves

The young shoots are gathered in early spring, pickled in salt, rubbed between the hand and dried in the sun then stored for winter use.

DESCRIPTION

An erect herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 15-35 cm high. It has creeping underground stems. They are 4 sided. The leaves are triangle shaped and 1-4 cm long by 5-15 mm wide. The flowers are purple-blue. They are in one sided arrangements in the axils of leaves and near the ends of branches. These are 3-5 cm long. The fruit are 4 nutlets that are flattened and 1 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It is native to China and grows in lowland and on the banks of springs and canals. It grows between sea level and 2,000 m above sea level. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

REFERENCES

Hu, Shiu-ying, 2005, Food Plants of China. The Chinese University Press. p 654

Li, D. et al, 2017, Ethnobotanical survey of herbal tea plants from the traditional markets in Chaoshan, China. Journal of Ethnopharmacology. 205 (2017) 195-206

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