PLANT FACT SHEET

Murdannia nudiflora (L.) Brennan

GENUS *Murdannia* **FAMILY** Commelinaceae

COMMON NAMES Day-flower, Bird's-foot grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The tender leaves are cooked as a vegetable. They are also used in soups.
The young plant is used as a flavouring.
It is used as a vegetable with curry.

DESCRIPTION

A creeping herb. It lies along the ground. It keeps growing from year to year. It forms roots at the nodes. The base has a thickened root or tuber. The leaves are narrow and oval. They form a sheath around the stem. Leaves taper towards the tip. The leaves can be 9 cm long. The leaf like structure around the flower is boat shaped. The flowers are pale blue and about 0.6 cm across. They occur in a small cluster near the ends of branches. The flowers open about midday. The fruit is a 3 celled capsule which splits open. There are 2 seed in each cell. The seeds are angular and the seed coat has pits.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in damp places. In the lowlands it grows in light shade and in higher altitudes it grows in full sun. In Papua New Guinea it grows from sea level to 1,800 m altitude. It occurs throughout the tropics. It grows in waste places and in rice fallows. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They also grow easily and naturally from cuttings.

NOTES

There are 50 Murdannia species. They grow in the tropics.

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