PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhazya stricta Decne.

GENUS *Rhazya* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Harmal

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - drink, Seeds - oil, Medicine

The leaves are bitter. They are used to make a cooling drink.

DESCRIPTION

A shrubby plant. It grows 70 cm tall. It has a woody base and branches spread upwards. The leaves are 3-10 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The flowers are in dense groups at the ends of branches. The fruit follicles are in pairs and slender and 3-6 cm long. They have many seeds with short wings.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It grows in arid regions and the desert. It has some salt tolerance.

NOTES

It is used as medicine.

REFERENCES

Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. ser. 2, 4:80. 1835

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 556

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