PLANT FACT SHEET

Decalepis hamiltonii Wight & Arn.

GENUS *Decalepis* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Swallowroot

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots - spice, Tuber

The young aromatic roots are used for pickles. They are used as a condiment for meat.
They are also used for coffee.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing shrub. It has tuberous roots. The stems and branches can be 5 cm across. The leaves are simple and opposite. They are narrowly oval and 2.5 cm long by 1.5 cm wide. They are folded along their length. The plant has milky latex. The roots have a vanillin like smell. They can be 150 cm long by 3.5 cm wide. There are 4 to 10 roots from one rootstock. The flowers are cream to brown. The fruit follicle is oblong and 5.5 cm long by 3 cm wide. It has a thick crinkled skin.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in deciduous forests.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds have a hard seed coat and dormancy.

NOTES

The roots can be used to reduce losses of stored grains due to fungi.
The root contains antioxidants.
It is an at risk plant due to overharvesting.

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