PLANT FACT SHEET

Gouania lupuloides (L.) Urb.

GENUS *Gouania* **FAMILY** Rhamnaceae

COMMON NAMES Toothbrush tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stems, Bark - stimulant, Fruit

The stems are used for flavouring for a cooling drink.
The bark is chewed as a stimulant.
The bitter stems and chopped to produce foam that is added to ginger beer, root beers and root tonics to add flavour and body.

DESCRIPTION

A woody climber. It grows 7-12 m long. It has tendrils. The young stems are hairy. The leaves are 11 cm long by 7 cm wide. They are often heart shaped at the base. The flowers are as 5-8 in long heads. These are 8-18 cm long. The fruit has 3 wings. They are 5-7 mm long. The seeds are 3-4 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 70 Gouania species. They grow in the tropics.

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