PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax zeylanica Linn.

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian smilax

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Roots, Flowers, Seeds

The boiled young roots are edible. They are sued to add flavour.
The young stem tips are used as a vegetable. They are boiled and then used in curry. They are used in pickles.
The harvested leaves can be stored for 5-6 days.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The seeds are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A robust woody climber. It is up to 6 m long. It varies a lot. The branches are angular. They can zigzag. There can be some prickles. The leaves are alternate and oblong to oval. They are 5-24 cm long by 1-13 cm wide. The fruit is a round berry. It is 6-9 mm across. It is a dull yellow. There are 2-3 seeds per berry.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in jungle or secondary forest. It grows up to 1000 m altitude. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 300 Smilax species. It is used in medicine.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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