PLANT FACT SHEET

Ceratophyllum demersum L.

GENUS *Ceratophyllum* **FAMILY** Ceratophyllaceae

COMMON NAMES Hornwort, Rigid hornwort

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The plant is boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A plant which grows in water and under the water. It forms tangled colonies. The stems are brittle and do not have roots. They are branched. They can be 2 m long. The leaves are 1.5-4 cm long and slender. They are dark green and forked. There are 7-12 leaves in a ring. The flowers are small and occur singly at the nodes. The flowers are of one sex. Male flowers have several stamens on a common stalk. Female flowers have an ovary without a stalk. The fruit are black and 4.5 mm long. There are 3 spines one at the end and 2 at the sides.

HABITAT

They grow in temperate to tropical waters. It occurs in streams, ponds and lakes. It grows in still or slow-flowing water. It can be in water up to 10 m deep. Flowers and fruit occur in water about 25°C. It grows best in slightly alkaline water rich in nitrogen. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 1,600 m above sea level. in Sichuan and Yunnan. In Uni of Calicut BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by using pieces of the stem.

NOTES

There are 3 Ceratophyllum species. It is used in medicine. This one occurs almost worldwide.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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