PLANT FACT SHEET

Indigofera linifolia (L. f.) Retz.

GENUS *Indigofera* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Flax-leaved indigo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Seeds

The plant is threshed and the seeds ground into flour for bread. In large amounts it can cause swelling of the mouth.

DESCRIPTION

A small bushy annual herb. It grows to 50 cm tall. It has a woody base and many branches. The branches have 2 ribs and whitish hairs. The leaves are simple and narrow. They are covered with hairs. Leaves are 1.2-4 cm long and 0.1-0.2 cm wide. Flowers are red and 3 mm long. They occur in small clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are pods which are rounded and with a point. They are 1.5-2 mm long. There is one seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Papua New Guinea it is in the lowlands below 100 m altitude. It grows on sandy plains or dunes. It suits seasonally dry tropical regions. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia, flowers and fruit are produced in March to July.

NOTES

There are about 700 Indigofera species. Chemical composition (after Church): Water = 9.3%. Albuminoids: 34.3%. Carbohydrate (soluble): 43.4%. Oil = 3.0%. Fibre = 6.5%. Ash = 3.5%.

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