PLANT FACT SHEET

Mucuna poggei Taub.

GENUS *Mucuna* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Buffalo bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

DESCRIPTION

A bean. It is a woody creeper with stem up to 30 m long. The stems can be 20 cm across. The sap stains things dark brown. The leaves are alternate and have leaflets along the stalk. The leaflets can be 10-19 cm long by 6-19 cm wide. The side leaflets are unequal. The flowers hang in a group in the axils of leaves. The flowers have orange-red hairs. The fruit is an oblong pod 5-20 cm long by 4 cm wide. It is covered with red bristles that irritate the skin. The pod contains 1-5 seeds. The seeds are curved and 2.5 cm long by 2 cm wide and flattened. They are purple with brown marks.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows near rivers and swamps from sea level to 2,000 m altitude.

NOTES

It is used as a dye plant.

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