PLANT FACT SHEET

Isachne globosa (Thunb.) Kuntze

GENUS *Isachne* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Swamp millet

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots

The tender tops are eaten with rice.

DESCRIPTION

A millet grass which keeps growing from year to year. It grows 30-70 cm high. It forms loose clumps. The stems are trailing and form roots at the nodes. The leaves are 2-10 cm long by 0.3-0.8 cm wide. They are narrowly sword shaped. They are dark green and slightly roughened. The leaves are scattered along the stalk and at right angles to it. The flower heads are 6-12 cm long and 4-6 cm wide. They are open and with many branches. The spikelet is 0.2 cm long. It is purplish.

HABITAT

A tropical to warm temperate plant. It grows in low lying wet soils. It forms mats around the edges of streams and swamps. It can tolerate light frosts. In Java it grows in the lowlands and up to 1,300 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or by division of the clump.

NOTES

There are about 80-100 Isachne species. It can be a troublesome weed in rice fields.

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