PLANT FACT SHEET

Tacca integrifolia Ker.-Gawl.

GENUS *Tacca* **FAMILY** Dioscoreaceae

COMMON NAMES Cat's whiskers, Bat-flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root, leaves, Flowers

The tubers are sweet and nourishing.
It contains a bitter substance taccalin which is removed before eating.
The leaf stalk is boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb which has tubers and becomes dormant for part of the year. It grows 75 cm high. The leaves form at the base and are sword shaped or broadly oval. They are 50 cm long. They are glossy dark green. The leaf stalks are purple. The flowers are purplish. They have short stalks. There are 2 broad, spreading bracts. These are white to purple. There are 2 narrower bracts below. There are long threadlike bracteoles. These are 20-25 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on monsoon forest. It needs a seasonally moist and dry climate. It needs a fertile, humus-rich, well-drained soil. In Tibet is grows on mountain slopes between 800-900 m above sea level. It needs a neutral to acid pH. It needs light shade. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Cairns Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They are grown by division or from cuttings of old tubers. Seeds can be used and these take 3 years to flowering. The seeds are sown on the soil surface.

NOTES

Also put in the family Taccaceae.

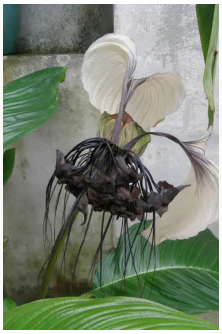
PICTURES



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