PLANT FACT SHEET

Hylodesmum repandum (Vahl) H. Ohashi & R. R. Mill.

GENUS *Hylodesmum* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Orange desmodium

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds

The young leaves are eaten.
The seeds of are cooked and eaten

DESCRIPTION

A low creeping legume with hairy stems. It can be up to 1 m tall. The stems can be simple or branched and are hairy. It has 3 leaflets the edges of which are slightly wavy. The leaves are densely hairy underneath. The leaflets are 2-11 cm long by 1.5-9.5 cm wide. They are rounded at the base and wedge shaped at the tip. The leaf stalks can be 1-10 cm long. The flowers are in unbranched groups at the ends of branches and these can be 7-30 cm long. It has red and yellow flowers. They are 0.8-1.2 cm long. The fruit are pods 1.5-4.5 cm long with 4-5 segments.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs between 1080 and 2350 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. It occurs in forests and gardens. In Swaziland it is in the high veld only. In Zimbabwe it grows between 900-1,850 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They are mostly self sown in grassland and old garden sites in the bush.

NOTES

There are about 350 Desmodium species. They are mostly in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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