PLANT FACT SHEET

Ipomoea longituba Hallier f.

GENUS *Ipomoea* **FAMILY** Convolvulaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tuber

The root tuber is chewed to quench thirst. They are peeled and eaten. They are slightly sweet. They are also dried.

DESCRIPTION

A herb that can lie along the ground or extend upwards. It has a tuberous rootstock and re-grows from this. The stems are thin and green. The tubers are grey and 40 cm long by 15 cm wide. There can be several tubers from one plant. The leaves are large and oval. The leaves are hairy when young and smooth later. They are folded. The flowers are large and white and at the tips of the branches. They are tube shaped. The fruit turn brown when dry. They burst open to release small hairy seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Kenya it grows in open grassland between 1,200-2,000 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds, the base of stems or from tubers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly. Plants from seeds develop tubers in 6-9 months.

NOTES

There are about 500 Ipomoea species.

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