PLANT FACT SHEET

Ectadium virgatum E. Mey.

GENUS *Ectadium* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Slender Ectadium

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The outer most layer of the fruit is used as a vegetable. It is roasted and ground.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It has several stems. It has a taproot and keeps growing from year to year. It can grow 3 m high. The stems have a milky sap. The leaves are opposite and slender. The flowers tube is trumpet shaped. It is pale green to yellow. The flowers are in clusters near the end of the plant. The flowers have a scent like honey. The fruit is a capsule 4-5 cm long by 1 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in hot, arid areas where there is a marked dry season. The dry season can be 6-11 months. It grows in deep sandy and rocky soils. In southern Africa it grows between 70-200 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

Also put in the family Asclepiadaceae.

REFERENCES

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 30th March 2011]

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3985e0e8-e14b-443b-9082-7265aa407615