PLANT FACT SHEET

Corchorus asplenifolius Burch.

GENUS *Corchorus* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild jute

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are stripped from the stem and washed and boiled with a little potash. The result is a soft slimy vegetable.
The leaves can be dried and stored for later use.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It keeps growing from year to year. The stems are 50 cm tall and can be hairy. It has a woody rootstock. The leaves are alternate and narrow. There are wide teeth along the edge. The flowers are yellow and have 5 petals. The flowers are in the axils of leaves. The fruit are cylinder shaped capsules. There are many seeds and they are dark brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is rare in Swaziland. It grows in open woodland and on the edges of seasonal swamps. It grows between 300-1675 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can re-grow from the woody rootstock.

NOTES

There are about 100 Corchorus species.

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