PLANT FACT SHEET

Spilanthes paniculata Wallich ex DC.

GENUS *Spilanthes* **FAMILY** Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES Spot flower, Brazil cress, Toothache plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Flowers, Leaves - tea

The tender parts are used as a potherb. The young leaves are cooked with dry meat.
Seeds are used in pickles and curries.
The harvested shoots can be stored for 3-4 days.
The young flower heads are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An erect herb. It is an annual plant. It grows 30-60 cm high. The leaves are oval and have teeth around the edge. The leaf tapers towards the tip and is wedge shaped towards the base. The leaves are 2.5-4 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide. The leaf stalk is 1-3 cm long. The flower heads can be in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The flower stalk is 8-15 cm long. The flower receptacle is cone shaped. Flowers are yellow. The fruit is one seeded and dry. Fruit are triangular shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in old gardens and along tracks. It grows in wetlands. In Nepal it grows to about 1800 m altitude. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. It can be grown from stem cuttings.

NOTES

The plant is grown for medicine. It is also used to kill fish and mosquitoes.

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