PLANT FACT SHEET

Halopegia blumei (Koern.) K. Schum

GENUS *Halopegia* **FAMILY** Marantaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root

The tubers are eaten cooked or roasted.

DESCRIPTION

An erect herb. It forms tillers. It grows 30-75 cm tall. There are several rhizomes or underground stems which are swollen at the tip. These form into 3-4 jointed tubers up to 2.5 cm long. There are 4-8 leaves. The leaf stalk is 15-25 cm long. It forms a sheath. The leaf blade is 12-28 cm long by 5-11 cm wide. The leaves are thin and end abruptly. The flowers can be at the end of the plant or in the axils of leaves. The flower spike was 15-20 cm long. There are 10 bracts 5-10 cm long. The flowers are in pairs. The fruit is one seeded. The fruit is about 8 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in shady places on heavy soils. The aerial parts of the plant can die off at the end of the wet season.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from tubers or from seed.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3d425d69-4a30-45dc-9e53-d001ffa46b3c