PLANT FACT SHEET

Begonia aptera Blume

GENUS *Begonia* **FAMILY** Begoniaceae

COMMON NAMES Aptera begonia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Spice

The leaves and shoots are eaten as a sour flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows 1.5 m tall. It has a rhizome or underground stem. The stem is erect and branched. The leaves are broadly sword shaped and unequal on opposite sides. They are 9-29 cm long by 3-11 cm wide. There are irregular teeth along the edge. The leaf stalks are 8-15 cm long. The flowering shoots are small and 5 cm long. They hang down. The flowers are mixed male and female and white. The fruit is a flattened round capsule. It is fleshy and 2 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on the edges of forests up to 2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from stem or leaf cuttings or by division of the rhizome or from seeds.

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