PLANT FACT SHEET

Cyanotis axillaris (L.) D. Don ex Sweet

GENUS *Cyanotis* **FAMILY** Commelinaceae

COMMON NAMES Blue ears

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Tubers, Root

The plants are pulled and threshed and the hulls removed from the seeds. The seeds are ground into flour. The seeds also are boiled and ground and mixed with other flours.

DESCRIPTION

A succulent herb. It is often creeping but can curve upwards. It keeps growing from year to year. The stems are 70 cm long. They form roots at the nodes. The leaves are sword shaped and 2-15 cm long by 4-12 mm wide. The base of the leaf clasps the stem. There are 2-6 flowers which do not have stalks and occur in the axils of leaves. They are blue-purple. The fruit is a capsule 6-7 mm long. The seed are brown and have several pits.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in humid sandy places. It grows in open sites along streams and rice fields. It can grow in swamps and marshes. It grows up to 250 m altitude. It is damaged by frost or drought.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 50 Cyanotis species.

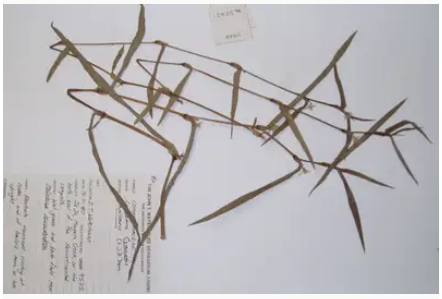
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 153

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 309

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 727

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 198

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 131

Cribb, A.B. & J.W., 1976, Wild Food in Australia, Fontana. p 136

Dey, A. & Mukhererjee, A., 2015, Living and Survival Amidst Hunger: Wild Edible Botanicals as a Prime Forest Productivity in the Rural Purulia District, West Bengal, India from Colonial to Present. Research Journal of Forestry 9(3): 71-86

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1984, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 3. Lothian. p 138

GAMMIE,

GUPTA & KANODIA,

Hong Deyuan; Robert A. DeFilipps, COMMELINACEAE, Flora of China

Kenneally, K.E., Edinger, D. C., and Willing T., 1996, Broome and Beyond, Plants and People of the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Land Management. p 202

Marandi, R. R. & Britto, S. J., 2015, Medicinal Properties of Edible Weeds of Crop Fields and Wild plants Eaten by Oraon Tribals of Latehar District, Jharkhand. International Journal of Life Science and Pharma Research. Vo. 5. (2) April 2015

Ogle, B. M., et al, 2003, Food, Feed or Medicine: The Multiple Functions of Edible Wild Plants in Vietnam. Economic Botany 57(1): 103-117

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 40

Prodr. fl. nepal. 46. 1825

PROSEA (Plant Resources of South East Asia) handbook Volume 10 Cereals. p 150

Singh, H.B., Arora R.K.,1978, Wild edible Plants of India. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. p 84

Sinha, R. & Lakra, V., 2007, Edible weeds of tribals in Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge 6(1) January 2007 pp 217-222

Swapna, M. M. et al, 2011, A review on the medicinal and edible aspects of aquatic and wetland plants of India. J. Med. Plants Res. 5 (33) pp. 7163-7176

WATT,

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 1022

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

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3dcd70dc-5108-4f3c-adc4-cae46c170120