PLANT FACT SHEET

Calopogonium mucunoides Desv.

GENUS *Calopogonium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Calapo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

DESCRIPTION

A trailing or twining herb. It grows to several metres long. The stems are covered with long spreading rusty hairs. The leaflets are oval and 1.5-16 cm long by 1.3-11.5 cm wide. They are rounded at the base and ending abruptly in a small tip at the top. The side leaflets are slanting at an angle, and hairy on both sides. The leaf stalk is 2-16 cm long. The flower arrangements are 1-10 cm long, on stalks 0-17 cm long. These stalks have rusty hairs. There are 6 flowers in a cluster but these are well separated. The largest petal is violet or blue. The fruit are long and narrow and 2-4.5 cm long by 3.5-5 mm wide. These pods can be straight or curved. They have rusty hairs and 5-8 seeds. The seeds are dark brown and almost square. They are 2.5-3.7 cm long by 2.5-3 mm wide. The seed scar is round, and in the centre.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows from sea level to 550 m altitude in the tropics near the equator. It commonly becomes self sown on waste land. It suits hot, humid, tropical conditions with rainfall over 1500 mm per year. It cannot grow in shade. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed are produced in large numbers and seed often germinate in the pods.

NOTES

There are 8 Calopogonium species.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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