PLANT FACT SHEET

Eriosema chinense Vogel

GENUS *Eriosema* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bush potato, Bandar guli, Chinese eriosema

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Tubers

The root tubers are eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

An erect small shrub. It grows to 50-90 cm high. The rootstock is tuberous and woody. It has a hairy covering of slightly curved grey hairs close to the plant with more brown and longer hairs spreading out. These last ones are 2.5 mm long. The leaves have one leaflet. These are narrow and oval. They are 2-8 cm long by 0.7-1.8 cm wide. There are a few hairs on the top surface of the leaf and it is very hairy underneath. The flowers are in the axils of leaves. They are 0.7 cm long. The fruit is a pod which does not have a stalk. It is oblong and about 1 cm long by 0.6 cm wide. It turns black eventually. The seeds are mottled brown and green. They are oblong and 4-5 mm long by 2.5 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It mostly grows in drier grassland areas. It can grow in open forest and wet locations. In Papua New Guinea it grows from 10-750 m altitude. In Asia it grows to 2000 m altitude. In Nepal they grow between 900-3000 m altitude. They grow in dry places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

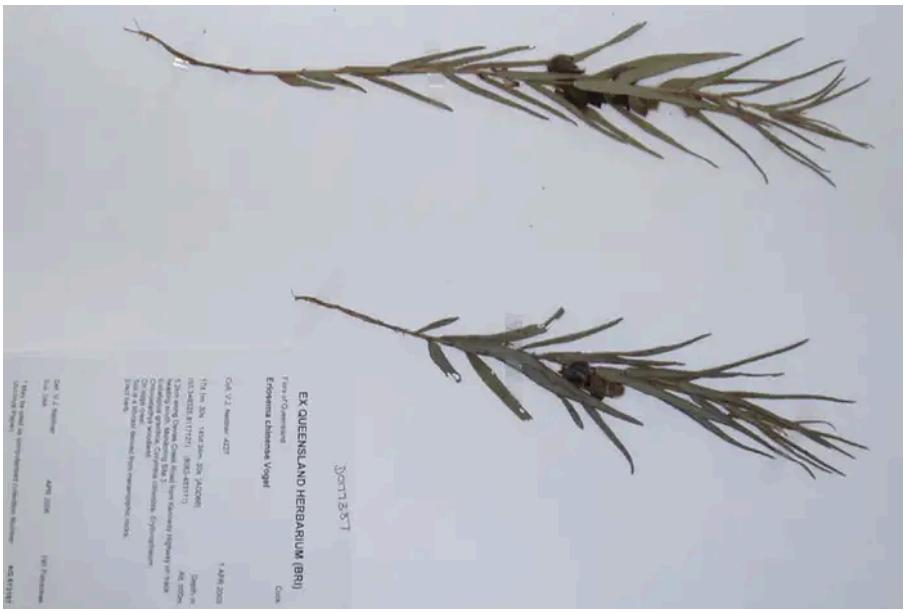
Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia the plant flowers December to January and produces seeds from January to June.

NOTES

Also as Papilionaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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

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