PLANT FACT SHEET

Peponium vogelii (Hook. f.) Engl.

GENUS *Peponium* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Vegetable

The unripe fruit are bitter but ripe fruit are sweet. They are eaten raw. They are also cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing herb. A pumpkin family plant. It can grow 8 m long. It is roughly hairy on all parts. The tendrils are divided into 2. The leaves vary. They have 5 lobes and are 5-18 cm long by 7-26 cm wide. There are sharp teeth along the edge. The leaf stalk is 2-13 cm long. The flowers are bright yellow. The male flowers are along a stalk 8-36 cm long. They have green to yellow bracts 3 cm long. The flowers are 4-8 cm across. They have a sweet scent and open at night. The female flowers are also on long stalks. The fruit stalks are 7 cm long. The fruit have a bright red and hairy skin. The fruit are 15 cm long. They can be orange with green streaks. The seeds are small and dark.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland and mountain rain-forest in West and Central Africa. It grows between 1,500-2,100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Ripe fruit are collected during the rainy season.

NOTES

There are about 20 Peponium species.

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

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