PLANT FACT SHEET

Strobilanthes hamiltoniana (Steud.) Bosser & Heine

GENUS *Strobilanthes* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese rain bell, Cone-flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Shoots

The shoots and leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or shrub. It grows 1.5 m tall. The stems are 4 angled. The leaves are oval or sword shaped and 5-19 cm long by 2-9 cm wide. They are in opposite pairs with one smaller than the other. The flowers are in the axils of leaves or at the end of branches and in groups 30 cm long. When in flower the stems hang over. The flowers are pink and tube shaped.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In China it grows in forests on mountain slopes between 800-2,000 m above sea level. It is damaged by frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 250 Strobilanthes species.

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