PLANT FACT SHEET

Hydrocharis dubia (Bl.) Backer

GENUS *Hydrocharis* **FAMILY** Hydrocharitaceae

COMMON NAMES Frog Bit

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Bud

The leafy shoots are dried and eaten in winter.

DESCRIPTION

A plant which grows in water and keeps growing from year to year. It can be free floating or root in mud. It has long creeping runners which are fleshy and branched. The leaves are 3-6 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. They are broadly oval, heart shaped or kidney shaped. The leaf stalks are 5-12 cm long. The leaves can be floating or above the water. They are bright green and shiny. They are spongy. The flowers are 2-3 cm across and white with a yellow centre. The male flowers are in groups of 1-4. The female flowers occur singly. They have longer stalks. The fruit are 5-10 mm long and about 5 mm wide. There are several lumpy seeds. These are 1-1.5 mm long.

HABITAT

It grows in tropical and warm temperate places. It grows in still water. It grows in wetlands. It suits shallow water in a sunny position. It grows in water up to 30 cm deep. It can then extend out into deeper water. It can only tolerate light frosts.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or pieces of the runners.

NOTES

There are 6 Hydrocharis species.

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

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