PLANT FACT SHEET

Piper mullesua Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don

GENUS *Piper* **FAMILY** Piperaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Leaves

The ripe fruit are eaten fresh.
The flowers are added to vegetables and meat curries for flavour.
The leaves are used as a substitute for betel pepper.

DESCRIPTION

A trailing herb. It is woody. The stems are swollen at the joints. The leaves have stalks. The stalks are 0.7-2 cm long and slender. The leaves are 5.3-14 cm long by 2-8 cm wide. The leaves are oval and taper to the tip. They are papery to thinly leathery. The leaves have 5 veins. These are easy to see underneath the leaf. Flowers contain both sexes. The flowers are yellowish. The spikes are opposite the leaves and near the ends of the branches. The fruit is a berry. They are small and crowded. They are about 2.5 mm across.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. In Nepal it grows between 200-2000 m altitude. It grows in steep, rocky, shady places. In China it grows on forested slopes and in valleys between 800-2100 m altitude in S China. In India it grows in wet places near falls. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or root offshoots.

NOTES

There are between 1000-2000 Piper species. They are mostly in the tropics. It is used in medicine.

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