PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax menispermoidea DC

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The tender shoots and leaves are boiled and picled.
Ripe fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A thorny climber. It has slender wiry stems. The stems are blackish towards the base. They are smooth and the twigs are angular. The leaves have stalks. The leaf stalk is 5-12 mm long and has wings. The leaves are 2-4 cm long and 1.5-3 cm wide. They can be larger. They are broadly oval and taper to the tip. The base is rounded and ends bluntly. The flowers are deep brown. The occur in hanging heads in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a berry. They are round but flattened and black. They are 7-10 mm across. The seeds are pale brown.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. In Nepal plants grown between 1600-3400 m altitude. They grow in openings in oak forests. In China it grows in shady places between 2600-3700 m altitude in southern regions. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 300 Smilax species.

REFERENCES

Chen Xinqi, Liang Songyun, Xu Jiemei, Tamura M.N., Liliaceae. Flora of China. p 33
Manandhar, N.P., 2002, Plants and People of Nepal. Timber Press. Portland, Oregon. p 430

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