PLANT FACT SHEET

Euphorbia royleana Boissier

GENUS *Euphorbia* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Cactus spurge, Royle's spurge

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stem, Flowers

Caution: All Euphorbias or spurges have irritating sap and many have chemicals that can cause cancer.
The tender stem is peeled and the pith boiled and pickled.
The young shoots are boiled and then cut into small pieces and added to yoghurt.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows to 5 m high. The branches are 5-7 angled. They have wavy ridges. The leaves have short stalks. There are a pair of spines at the base. The leaves are fleshy with round tips. They narrow towards the base. The flowers are yellowish. They are in clusters in the axils of leaves.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In Nepal the plants grow to about 2800 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from stem cuttings. It is grown as a hedge plant.

NOTES

Most Euphorbias have sap which irritates the skin.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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