PLANT FACT SHEET

Heterotis rotundifolia (J. E. Smith) Jacq.

GENUS *Heterotis* **FAMILY** Melastomataceae

COMMON NAMES Trailing glory-flower, Pink lady, Spanish shawl

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are used as a potherb and as a spice for sauces.

DESCRIPTION

It is an evergreen creeper. It forms roots at the nodes. The stems are pink. The leaves are oval and 1.2 cm long. They have 3 primary veins. The leaf stalk is red. The flowers occur singly and are at the ends of branches. The flowers have 5 violet to pink petals. The flowers are 2.5-4 cm wide. The flowers occur singly. The fruit is a berry about 10 mm across. There are many seeds about 1 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It needs regular moisture or wet conditions. It needs fertile, humus-rich, well-drained soil. It needs an acid pH. It is best in full sunlight. It grows in wet locations throughout the forest zone in West Africa. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 1,200 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It easily forms roots from cuttings.

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