PLANT FACT SHEET

Cymbidium canaliculatum R. Br.

GENUS *Cymbidium* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Queensland tree orchid, Black Orchid, Channel Leaf Cymbidium, Cooktown Black Orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stems, Fruit, Bulbs, Pods, Seeds, Root

The stems and bases of the leaves are eaten raw or cooked.
The starch from the tubers is also used to make sago.

DESCRIPTION

An orchid which grows attached to trees. It produces thick fleshy bulb like organs. These are 3-12 cm long. The leaves are thick and smooth. They are leathery and V shaped. They are 10-50 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. The midrib is raised underneath. The flowers vary in colour. They can be green and yellow or red-brown. They are 1.5-4 cm long by 2-5 cm wide on stalks 20-40 cm long. These stalks come from the base of the bulb like structure. The fruit is a woody capsule. It is 4.5-5 cm long and about 1-1.7 cm wide. It splits along the edge when ripe. It contains many small seeds.

HABITAT

It mostly grows on Eucalypts in open woodland. It grows in tropical and warm temperate places. It can withstand drought. It grows in drier areas. It grows in rotten logs.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by division.

NOTES

There are about 40-50 Cymbidium species and thousands of hybrids.

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