PLANT FACT SHEET

Sparaxis bulbifera (L.) Ker-Gawl.

GENUS *Sparaxis* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Harlequin flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tubers

DESCRIPTION

A herb that keeps growing from year to year. It grows 10-40 cm high. It forms a bulb or corm. This has small corms off the side. The stems are erect, wiry and branching. The leaves are green, narrow and 30 cm long. The flowers are an expanding tube shape. They are in clusters at the ends of branches. The flower petals are cream and purple.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in wetlands. They do well in a Mediterranean climate. They will grow in most well-drained soils. They are resistant to frost and drought. In Argentina it grows below 200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are best left for several years undisturbed before dividing the clumps. They can be planted from corms. Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are 6-15 Sparaxis species. They grow in South Africa. It can be invasive.

REFERENCES

Ann. Bot. (Koenig & Sims) 1:225. 1804

Curtis, W.M., & Morris, D.I., 1994, The Student's Flora of Tasmania. Part 4B St David's Park Publishing, Tasmania, p 415

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 629

Hussey, B.M.J., Keighery, G.J., Cousens, R.D., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G., 1997, Western Weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia. Plant Protection Society of Western Australia. p 36

Marinelli, J. (Ed), 2004, Plant. DK. p 254 (Other species), 468,

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 72

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 66

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/571f6dd1-7d90-4aa2-ab14-d4fff18666ab