PLANT FACT SHEET

Trapa bicornis Osbeck

GENUS *Trapa* **FAMILY** Lythraceae

COMMON NAMES Water caltrop, Chinese water chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Vegetable

The nuts need to be boiled for considerable time to remove poison and are then eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb which grows in water. It keeps growing from year to year. It has 2 kinds of leaves. The leaves under the water are long and like threads. The floating leaves form rings. They are broad and angular. The leaf stalk to them is swollen in the middle. The fruit are shiny, black nuts which have 2 horns. They are about 6 cm wide. These develop under the leaves near the centre of the plant.

Now (As Trapa natans var. bispinosa)

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in still water in warm places. It is cultivated in ponds and canals in rice areas in southern China. It grows in wetlands.

NOTES

There are 8-15 (30) Trapa species. Also as Trapaceae.

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