PLANT FACT SHEET

Dracaena angustifolia (Medik.) Roxb.

GENUS *Dracaena* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Native Dracaena, Suji dracaena

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Shoots

The very young leaves are cooked and eaten. They are also used in vegetable curry.
They are also pounded and mixed with water to give a juice used to colour rice green.
The roasted fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tall slender shrub. It forms suckers. It has rhizomes or underground stems. It grows 3-8 m high and spreads 1-2 m wide. It can often be sprawling or climbing. The stems are slender and pithy. They are densely covered with scars from the leaf sheaths. The bark is dark grey. The leaves are 12-40 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They are strap like. They are green, soft and pointed. They are crowded near the top of a stem. They occur in whorls or rings. The flower panicle is 15-40 cm long. It is at the end of the branch and has many branches. The flowers are 1.5-3 cm long and white. They have a scent. They are like tubes at the base. They have lobes which are narrow and spreading or curve back. The fruit is a berry. It is 1-1.5 cm across and brownish-red. It has a brownish pulp. It contains 1-3 large seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in northern Australia. It grows in sheltered rainforests often near the sea. It suits humid locations. They are very sensitive to cold. It needs a shady position and well drained soil. In China it grows in forests and thickets. In Townsville Anderson BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed which must be sown fresh. It can also be grown from cuttings which strike easily. As well it can be grown from dividing the basal clump of the plant.

NOTES

There are 140 Pleomele species. Also put in the family Dracaenaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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