PLANT FACT SHEET

Olax imbricata Roxb.

GENUS *Olax* **FAMILY** Olacaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The aril or fleshy layer around the seeds in the fruit is eaten.
The leaves are eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. Sometimes it is climbing. It is 2-6 m tall. The branches do not have thorns. The leaf stalk is 5-10 mm long. The leaf blade is oval and 5-10 cm long by 2.5-3.5 cm wide. The base is rounded and it tapers to a short tip. There are 6-9 pairs of veins. The flowering racemes are in the axils of leaves. They are 1.5-2.5 cm long. There are 3 petals 8-10 mm long and they are white or yellow. Two petals have 2 lobes. The fruit is fleshy with a hard covering over the seed. It is oval and almost covered with an orange covering. It is 1.5-2 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forests including secondary forests below 200 m in S China. It can be in mangrove and peat swamp and can grow up to 900 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 40 Olax species. They are tropical.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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