PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum anguivi Lam.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Forest bitterberry, Madagascar potato

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Vegetable, Leaves

The fruit are eaten as a vegetable. They can be cooked and sun dried and then stored for later use in soups. They are used unripe. The ripe fruit can be eaten raw. They are also fried.
The green fruit are salted, dried, roasted in oil and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1 m high. It has irregular branches. They are slightly woody. There are short prickles on the stems and leaf veins. The leaves are oval and some deep triangle shaped lobes on each side. The leaves are 15 cm long by 10 cm wide. The flowers are in compact groups of 12 small flowers. They are mauve or white. The fruit are small orange or red berries. They are 1 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in relatively humid locations.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seedlings emerge in about a week. A spacing of about 1 m is suitable.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Flowering starts 2-3 months after seed germination. Fruit are ready 2-3 weeks after fruit set. Plants can keep producing for up to one year. Often fruit are collected at the end of the rainy season and early in the dry season.

NOTES

It is used for flavouring and medicine. There are about 1400 Solanum species.

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