PLANT FACT SHEET

Apios fortunei Maximowicz

GENUS *Apios* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Ground pear, Potato bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tuber

The thick tubers are eaten.
The starch is also used to make alcohol.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a climbing plant. It keeps growing from year to year. It has tuberous roots. The small branches have a few soft hairs. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. There are 3-7 leaflets. They are oval or sword shaped. They are 3-7 cm long by 2 cm wide. The flowers are greenish-white. They are 6-8 mm long. They are in groups 6-27 cm long at the end of branches. The fruit are narrow pods 7-8 cm long and 5-6 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in sunny damp soils. In China it grows between 300-1,000 m above sea level. In Sichuan.

NOTES

There are 10 Apios species. Chemical composition: Protein = 4.2%. Fat = 0.2%. Carbohydrate (starch) = 18.3%. Carbohydrate (other) = 6%. Ash = 1.3%.

REFERENCES

Bircher, A. G. & Bircher, W. H., 2000, Encyclopedia of Fruit Trees and Edible Flowering Plants in Egypt and the Subtropics. AUC Press. p 35

Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Petersbourg 18:396. 1873 (Diagn. pl. nov. jap.)

Chen, B. & Qiu, Z., Consumer's Attitudes towards Edible Wild Plants, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. p 22 www.hindawi.com/journals/ijfr/aip/872413.pdf

Hu, Shiu-ying, 2005, Food Plants of China. The Chinese University Press. p 465

ILDIS Legumes of the World http:www;ildis.org/Legume/Web

Jackes, D. A., Edible Forest Gardens

Lim, T. K., 2015, Edible Medicinal and Non Medicinal Plants. Volume 9, Modified Stems, Roots, Bulbs. Springer p 10

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

READ

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.efloras.org Flora of China Volume 10

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/61dccc4b-b0ed-4e0b-ae41-9a3190607d0a