PLANT FACT SHEET

Cucumis prophetarum L.

GENUS *Cucumis* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild cucumber, Mandera cucumber

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The unripe fruit are pickled. The ripe fruit are bitter but are boiled and eaten. They are also cut into small pieces, dried and then cooked as a vegetable.
The leaves are edible cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a pumpkin family plant. It can lie along the ground or be climbing. The stems are slender. The tendrils are simple and short. It has a taproot. The leaves are oval or round and 2-4 cm long. They can have 3-5 lobes. Male and female flowers are separate. Male flowers occur in groups of 2 or 3 and female flowers occur singly. The fruit are oval and hairy. They have soft bristles. They have yellow and green stripes along them. They are 3-4 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The seeds are pale. There are 2 subspecies.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows between 3-2,400 m altitude. It can grow in stony, sand or clay soils. It can grow in alkaline soils. It is often over limestone material. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall of 400 mm. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are available during the dry season.

NOTES

There are about 25 Cucumis species.

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