PLANT FACT SHEET

Cistanche salsa (C. A. Meyer) G. Beck

GENUS *Cistanche* **FAMILY** Orobanchaceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet big cistanche, Fleshy cistanche

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stem

Slices of the dried fleshy stems are cooked with meat and vegetables.

DESCRIPTION

A parasite. It grows on Chenopodiaceae. It grows on the roots of shrubs and grasses. It is a stout, rough plant 10-30 cm high. The stems are fleshy and cylinder shaped. They are yellow and do not branch. They are 5-20 mm across. They are covered with bracts. The flowers are yellowish-purple. They are in crowded spikes 5-20 cm long at the top of the plant. The fruit is an oval capsule. There are many small seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in the deserts of north-western China. It can grow in arid places. In north China it grows on slopes between 700-2,700 m above sea level.

REFERENCES

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