PLANT FACT SHEET

Indigofera cassioides Rottler ex DC.

GENUS *Indigofera* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Siralli

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Pod, Leaves, Seeds

The flowers are eaten as a vegetable. The flowers are also pickled.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It grows 10-15 cm high. The young branches are hairy. The leaves are alternate and have an odd number of leaflets. The leaves are 7-15 cm long. There are 11-21 leaflets. They are 1-2 cm long by 7-15 mm wide. The leaflets have short stalks. They are oval and can have a sharp tip. They are covered with fine hairs above and grey flattened hairs underneath. The flowers are purple-red in colour. The occur along stalks in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a pod 2.4-4.3 cm long and about 4 mm wide. It is straight. There are 8-12 seeds.

HABITAT

It it s subtropical and tropical plant. In southern China it grows in slopes and grasslands between 300-2,000 m above sea level. In Sikkim it grows between 800-1,400 m above sea level. It grows throughout Nepal between 300-1900 m altitude. It grows in open, dry places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in January to March and fruit in April to June.

NOTES

There are about 500-700 Indigofera species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics.

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