PLANT FACT SHEET

Vigna aconitifolia (Jacq.) Marechal

GENUS *Vigna* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Moth Bean, Turkish gram

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Pods, Vegetable

Seeds are used in lentil soup. They are boiled, parched, fried in oil or prepared with salt as a snack.
They can be ground into flour and mixed with other grains to make unleavened bread.
In India is it made into Dahl and bean paste.
The young pods are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A slender annual herb. It can be erect or creeping. The vines form a mat like cover over the soil. It is slightly hairy. The leaves have stalks. They are deeply 3 lobed. The lobes are narrow. The flowers are yellow. The fruit is a pod shaped like a cylinder. There are usually 7-8 seeds. They are small and yellowish brown.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Nepal it grows up to 1000 m altitude. It will grow on shallow dry soils. It is not tolerant of frost. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 380-1,730 mm. It grows in acid, neutral and alkaline soils. It grows below 1,300 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 150 Vigna species. They are mostly in the tropics. Also as Papilionaceae.

PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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