PLANT FACT SHEET

Dioscorea belophylla (Prain) Voigt. ex Haines

GENUS *Dioscorea* **FAMILY** Dioscoreaceae

COMMON NAMES Spear-leaved yam, Pear-leaved yam, Tarur

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root

The tubers are eaten after repeated boiling, washing, and baking. They are cut into small pieces for this process. The bitterness is removed when boiled with ash
They are also recorded as being eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A yam. It has small tubers. The stems twine anticlockwise. The leaves are usually opposite and simple. They are 8-13 cm long and 2-9 cm wide. They vary in shape. The leaf stalk is 6.5 cm long. The male flower spikes are 3-4 cm long and occur as 1 or 2 together in the axils of leaves. The female flower spikes are 6-12 cm long and often occur singly. The fruit capsules are 3 cm long and 3 cm wide. The tubers are small.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Pakistan it grows in the foothills and up to 1,400 m altitude.

NOTES

There are about 650 species of Dioscorea.

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