PLANT FACT SHEET

Cocculus pendulus (J. R. & G. Forst.) Diels

GENUS *Cocculus* **FAMILY** Menispermaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Vegetable

The leaves are eaten as a vegetable.
The juice of the plant has been used to produce a fermented drink.
The flowers are eaten as a vegetable.
The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing plant or shrub that lies along the ground. It can climb 15 m high. The stem can be 15 cm across at the base. The bark is dark grey and striped. The leaves are simple and arranged in spirals. The leaf blade is 2-5 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The flowers are small and of separate sexes. They are pale yellow. The fruit is made up of 3 flattened fleshy fruit with stones containing seeds. Each section is 4-7 mm long by 4-5 mm wide. They are dark red.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in desert regions. It can be in shade. It grows in the drier regions of West Africa. It grows between 350-1,500 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 8-11 Cocculus species. The leaves contain several alkaloids and are used in medicine.

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