PLANT FACT SHEET

Cynanchum tunicatum (Retz.) Alston.

GENUS *Cynanchum* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Coated swallow-wort, Few flowered cynanchum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

CAUTION: Many Cynanchum are poisonous.
The young leaves are used as a relish.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing herb. It grows 1-2 m long. The stems are slender. It contains milky sap. The leaves are oval and 5-7 cm long. They have a heart shaped base and taper towards the tip. The leaf stalk is 2-3 cm long. The flowers are cream to pink and 6-8 mm long. The petals are oblong. The fruit are seed pods 5-6 cm long. They are sword shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in poor soils in drier places at altitudes from 50 to 1200 metres.

NOTES

There are about 150 Cynanchum species.

REFERENCES

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Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 177 (As Cynanchum pauciflorum)

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World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/68dadb7d-3347-49d2-a9cc-65dda34a840e