PLANT FACT SHEET

Hydnora abyssinica A. Braun ex Schweinf.

GENUS *Hydnora* **FAMILY** Aristolochiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit, Roots, Shoots

The flowers are eaten raw and also cooked.
The fruit are eaten raw and used as a vegetable. They are also dried.
The root tubers are eaten raw.
The fruit occurs underground and the pulp is eaten.
The shoot of the underground stem is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows on other plants. It usually grows on Acacia roots. It grows underground. It is a parasite growing on the roots of Lannea fulva (Engl.) Engl. (Anacardiaceae) and Acacia mellifera. It grows 10-15 cm high. It lacks leaves. It has runner like roots or rhizomes that are thick, hard and dark brown. The flowers are the only part visible above ground. They are brown and scaly and covered with coarse bristles. The flower buds turn rusty red on exposure to the air as they emerge from the ground. The flowers are 15 cm long. They have a bad smell and attract beetles. There are underground stems or rhizomes. The fruit are produced underground. The seeds are embedded in a pulp.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in peat and organic soils. It can grow in arid places. It occurs in woodland and grassland up to 1,500 m above sea level in Tasmania. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 700-1,600 mm.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by cuttings of the underground stem.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are collected in the dry season.

NOTES

There are 4 Hydnora species. They grow in Africa.
Also put in the family Hydnoraceae.

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