PLANT FACT SHEET

Costus woodsonii Maas

GENUS *Costus* **FAMILY** Costaceae

COMMON NAMES Bitter cane, Red button cane, Scarlet spiral ginger

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows 1-2 m high. It spreads by underground stems or rhizomes. The stem spirals. The leaves are shiny and 15 cm long. The base is heart shaped. The flowers form a pine like cone at the top. There are thick red bracts overlapping each flower. The fruit are spongy and white with black seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows near the beach on the Caribbean side in Costa Rica. In Brisbane Botanical Gardens.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6bf4f430-b5e5-4bda-afd6-cf47f495125e