PLANT FACT SHEET

Vigna lanceolata Benth.

GENUS *Vigna* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bush potato, Maloga bean, Pencil yam

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Pods

The tuber is peeled, cooked and eaten.
The seed pods are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing plant. There is a tuber under the ground from which the shoots re-grow each year. The stems can have a few hairs. The leaves are compound and alternate. The leaf stalks are 2-6 mm long. The leaflets are 2-10 cm long and 1-3 cm wide. They can have hairs. The midrib on the upper side is often silver coloured. The flowers are in a group in the axils of leaves. The flowers are yellow or pale purple. The standard is 6-10 mm long. The fruit is a pod. It is green with dark mottles. The pod is 2-5 cm long and 3-6 mm wide. There are 3-8 seeds.

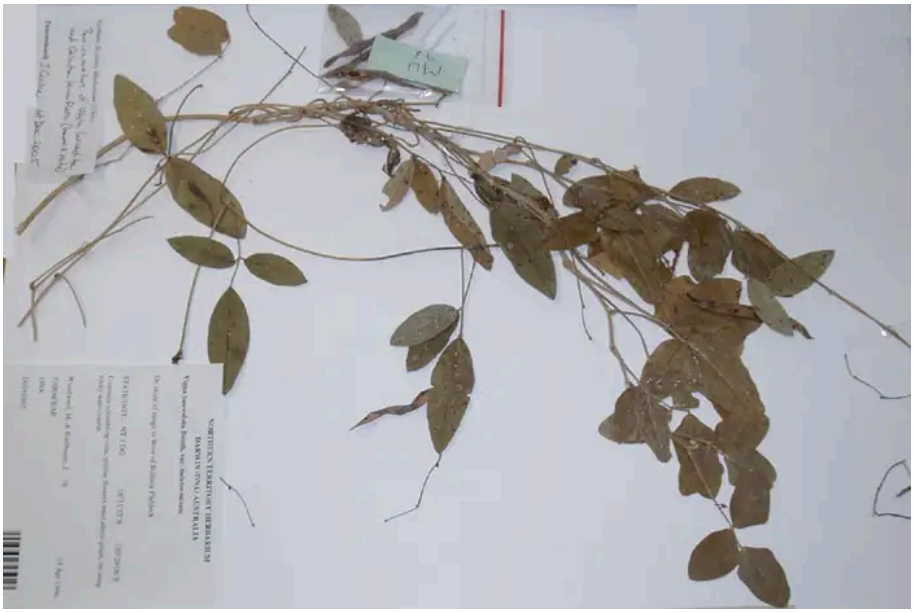
HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in monsoon forest and woodland. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 840 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. It grows in the Tanami.

NOTES

There are about 150 Vigna species. They are mostly in the tropics.

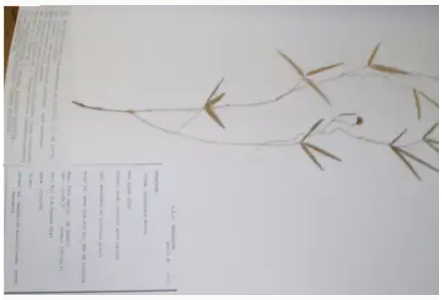
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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