



PLANT FACT SHEET

Tephrosia vogelii Hook. f.

GENUS *Tephrosia* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Fish-poison-bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

CAUTION: It contains the poison tephrosin.
The leaves are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A softly woody herb. It is a branched shrub. It grows 1-4 m high. The stems are covered with dense hairs. The leaves have 13-29 leaflets. These are oblong and 5-9 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They have silky hairs on top. The flowers are about 2.7 cm long in dense stalked clusters. The flowers can be white or violet. The fruit are 10-14 cm long pods which are 1.2-1.7 cm wide. They are densely hairy. The hairs near the edges are rusty brown and the ones towards the centre are white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in grassy slopes. In Papua New Guinea it occurs from 1200 to 2280 m altitude. It can re-grow after fire. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 870-2,670 mm. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds. Stored seed should be soaked in hot water before planting.

NOTES

It is cultivated as a fish poison. It is also used as shade for coffee.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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