



PLANT FACT SHEET

Piper aduncum L.

GENUS *Piper* FAMILY Piperaceae

COMMON NAMES Spiked pepper, Hooked pepper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Spice, Leaves

The peppery fruit are used as a spice. It is used for flavouring fish.

The fruit are sweet when black and very ripe.

The leaves can be used as a potherb.

DESCRIPTION

A shrubby tree. It grows 2-8 m high. It spreads 2.4-5 m wide. The trunk can be 10 cm thick. The bark is smooth and grey. The leaf blade is oblong and sword shaped and 12-20 cm long by 3-9 cm wide. The nodes where the leaves join is swollen. The flowering head curves over. They are cord like and flexible. The fruit is an oval berry. These have small seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open and disturbed places. It grows up to 1500 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

NOTES

There are about 1,000 *Piper* species. It is used in medicine. It has become invasive near Finschhafen in Papua New Guinea.

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