PLANT FACT SHEET

Scoparia dulcis Linn.

GENUS *Scoparia* **FAMILY** Plantaginaceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet broom, Macao tea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Shoots, Seeds - drink, Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are used to sweeten well water.
They are also used for tea.
The young shoots are eaten raw and also cooked as a vegetable. They are fried.
The young leaves can be stored for 3-4 days.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows 1 m tall. The stems are square. The leaves are simple and have 3 in a ring. They are 1-4 cm long and up to 2 cm wide. They surfaces are like sandpaper. The flowers occur in a cluster of 1 or 2 flowers. The flowers are 6 mm across. There are 4 white or pink petals. The fruit is a brown capsule. It is 2-4 mm long and has 2-4 valves. The seeds are brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rainforest and swamp forest. It suits humid locations. It grows in wetlands. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 950 m altitude. It is best in full sun. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds. The seeds are broadcast or scattered.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are available year round.

NOTES

There are 20 Scoparia species.

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