PLANT FACT SHEET

Causonis trifolia (L.) Mabb. & J. Wen

GENUS *Causonis* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Bush Grape, Slender water vine, Threeleaf cayratia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root, Fruit, Sap, Leaves

The sap from cut stalks can be drunk.
The roots are edible after they have been cooked in hot coals.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The leaves are boiled with salt and then eaten. The fruit are cooked in sour curry.

DESCRIPTION

A slightly woody creeper or vine. It grows 2-20 m long. It has a large taproot system. It climbs by suction pads on the tendrils. The branches have ridges along them. They are slightly hairy. The tendrils are 3-5 branched. The leaves are compound with 3 leaflets. The leaflets are oval and thin and softly hairy. They are 3-8 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. There are coarse teeth along the edge. They have hairs on top. The flowers are small and greenish. They occur in long clusters. The fruit are flattened berries. They are black and about 0.4 cm across. They have 2-3 seeds. The seeds are triangle shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the wet tropics. It suits tropical and subtropical places. It is often grown near houses. It grows naturally in Northern Australia in open forest. It is damaged by frost. It is commonly found along roadsides and in scrub. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds or cuttings. It dies back to the tuber in the dry season.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower and fruit June to December.

NOTES

There are about 45 Cayratia species. They are mainly in tropical areas.
It has several important medicinal properties.

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