PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassytha filiformis L.

GENUS *Cassytha* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Dodder laurel, Love vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The ripe fruit is eaten. There is only a small amount of edible flesh around the central seed.
CAUTION: Some Cassytha have an alkaloid that can cause abortion and should not therefore be eaten by pregnant women.

DESCRIPTION

A fine straggling leafless creeper or vine that climbs over plants and gets at least some if its food from the other plants. The leaves are very small and like scales, and clasp the stem. The stem is orange to yellow and twines around plants, attaching by small suckers. The flower is small and the sepals are like bracts. The petals are white and fleshy. The flowers are 0.1-0.2 cm long. It has very small, berry-like fruit (4-5 mm across) which are green when young and turn white when ripe. The flesh is clear and the black seed can be seen from the outside.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland mangrove swamp areas and in scattered forest. It suits sandy and infertile areas and is often on coastal dunes. It occurs throughout the tropics. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It grows wild. Seeds germinate in the soil, but the plants attach to another plant getting support and food from the host plant.

NOTES

There are 15-20 Cassytha species. Sometimes they are in the family Cassythaceae.

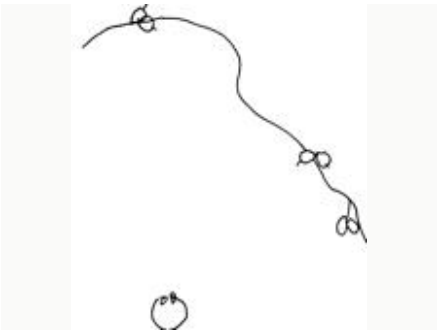
PICTURES



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