PLANT FACT SHEET

Curculigo ensifolia R. Br.

GENUS *Curculigo* **FAMILY** Hypoxidaceae

COMMON NAMES Grass potato, Grass-lead yam, Ngambiri

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Rhizome, Root

The long fleshy tubers are dug up and roasted in coals then peeled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A grass-like herb. It has long fattened tubers or corms. The plant can re-grow from these. It grows 20-50 cm high. There is a creeping rhizome. The leaves are 20-50 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. They are erect. They are dark green with prominent veins. The flowers are in short spikes. These have few flowers but many papery bracts. The flowers are 1.5 cm across. They are yellow and hairy. They have a long slender perianth tube. The fruit is a capsule about 0.5 cm long. It is enclosed in a bract.

HABITAT

It suits subtropical and warm temperate climates. It grows in moist areas and rainforests. It grows in litter on rocky slopes. It needs a well drained soil and protected location.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or by dividing the rhizome.

NOTES

There are 10 Curculigo species. There are 2-5 species in South America.

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