PLANT FACT SHEET

Echinochloa stagnina (Retz.) Beauv

GENUS *Echinochloa* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Long-awn water grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stems, Shoots, Seeds, Cereal, Sap

The succulent submerged stems are rich in sugar. This can be used for sugar or liquor. The sugary extract is used for making vinegar and a cider like drink.
THe shoots can be cooked as a vegetable.
The seed is cooked as a cereal. It is used in kreb a grain mixture eaten in Chad.

DESCRIPTION

An annual swamp millet grass. It grows 1-2 m high. It has long creeping rhizomes. It can lie over and form roots at the nodes. The leaf blade is 8-50 cm long by 6-10 mm wide. The flower arrangement is a narrow sword shape. It is 7-20 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It occurs as floating masses in several river basins. It grows in seasonally waterlogged and alkaline soils. It grows in wetlands. It grows between 1,000-2,100 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It grows in the Sahel.

NOTES

There are about 35 Echinochloa species. They grow in tropical to warm temperate regions. The African samples may belong to Echinochloa scabra. It is an important fodder grass for Fulani.

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