PLANT FACT SHEET

Piper peltatum L.

GENUS *Piper* **FAMILY** Piperaceae

COMMON NAMES Lizard's tail pepper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The young leaves are boiled or steamed and eaten with rice.
The leaves are used for wrapping fish that are roasted in the ashes.
The sweet ripe fruit are eaten especially by children.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It has a few branches. It can grow to 2.5 m tall. The stems are cylinder shaped and tapering and with a white powder on the surface. They are swollen at the nodes. The leaves are alternate and have long leaf stalks. They are broadly heart shaped and the leaf stalk joins away from the edge of the leaf. They taper to a short tip. They are a pale green above and whitish underneath. They are 15-50 cm across. The leaf stalk forms a sheath at the base. The flowering shoots occur singly in the axils of the leaves and develop as 7-32 spikes. The fruit are small berries with gland dots over them.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows throughout the tropics. In Indonesia it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level.

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