PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Diplocyclos palmatus (L.) C Jeffrey

GENUS *Diplocyclos* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Striped cucumber, Native Bryony

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Vegetable

The leaves are eaten, cooked.
CAUTION The fruit are claimed to be poisonous.
It is considered to be poisonous in Australia, but is eaten in India and Nepal. It probably needs to be well cooked.
The young fruits are occasionally cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a pumpkin family plant. It is a slender climbing plant with angular stems. The stems are weak but the lower part can be somewhat woody. It can climb to 2-4 m high. The stems are angular and grooved. The rootstock is fleshy. The leaves have 3 or 5 lobes divided like fingers on a hand and are 10-15 cm wide by 6-17 cm long. There are fine teeth on the top edges of the leaves and the leaves are angular. The leaves are rough on top but smooth underneath. The leaf stalks are 3-9 cm long. The stem has tendrils which have 1 or 2 branches. Flowers are small and yellow or green. Male and female flowers are separate but often together near a leaf. Often one or two female flowers are surrounded by several male flowers. The fruit is 4 cm long and green with pale streaks along it. The leaves and stems give off a bad smell when damaged.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It occurs on the coast in Papua New Guinea and grows up to about 1000 m above sea level. It Africa it grows to 1,830 m above sea level. It needs a well drained soil and can grow in a sunny or partial shady position. The plant also grows in Africa, India, Malaysia, China and Australia. There are a couple of subspecies. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

The seeds are used as medicine in Nepal. There are 3-5 Diplocyclos species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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