PLANT FACT SHEET

Blepharis maderaspatensis (L.) B. Heyne ex Roth

GENUS *Blepharis* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Creeping blepharis

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

The root tuber is edible and is used to quench thirst.

DESCRIPTION

A wiry herb. It grows each year from seeds. It lies along the ground. Stems form roots at the nodes. The leaves are in 2 unequal pairs almost forming a ring. The leaves are narrowly oval and 3-5 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The flowers are in clusters in the axils of leaves. They are white with pink or purple. The fruit is a capsule. It contains 2 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on bare ground including poor gravelly soils. In southern India it grows from sea level to 1,400 m altitude. It grows in forests and palm groves. It grows on limestone cliffs and rocks at about 800 m in southern China.

REFERENCES

Flora of Nilgiri Biosphere http://opendata.keystone-foundation.org

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/96b94911-79c1-4dfb-a51c-5e2f41e56f04