PLANT FACT SHEET

Afrosolen coerulea (Schinz) Goldblatt & Manning

GENUS *Afrosolen* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Corm, Bulb, Root

The corm is eaten raw. It is also used in vegetable dishes. They can be pounded and cooked with water, fat or milk. It is popular roasted in the ashes.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It has a bulb or corm. The corm is cone shaped with a flat bottom. It has a covering of net like fibres. It is 12-16 mm across at the base. It is an erect plant and keeps growing from year to year. It can grow 40 cm high. It can form stands of one plant. Their are 2-4 leaves and they re 2-4 mm wide. The upper leaves get smaller. The leaves are corrugated. The flowers are blue with a yellow throat. They are in a loose group with 3-5 flowers on each branch.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It is often in seasonally waterlogged and poorly drained locations. It can be in sandy, loam or clay soils. It grows between sea level and 1,800 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

REFERENCES

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World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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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/97a82517-4dd2-495a-b406-38364cdae215