PLANT FACT SHEET

Dioscorea pubera Blume

GENUS *Dioscorea* **FAMILY** Dioscoreaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root

The tubers are boiled with salt. Unless well treated, they are bitter.

DESCRIPTION

A yam. It keeps growing from year to year by sprouting from tubers. It is softly hairy. The stems have raised spots but not thorns. The stems twine to the right. There are 1-2 tubers each year. The tubers are 2 m deep in the soil on long stalks. The tubers are 8 cm across. The skin colour is orange. The flesh is yellow and fibrous. It has large bulbils. The leaves are usually alternate. The leaf stalk is as long as the blade. The blade is oval or heart shaped and 12-24 cm long by 9-20 cm wide. The lower leaf surface is always hairy. The male flowering stalks occur as 1-2 together and are 18 cm long. The female flowering stalks are 15 cm long and have 40 flowers. The capsules have wings.

HABITAT

A tropical plant.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds, bulbils and tubers.

NOTES

There are about 650 species of Dioscorea.

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WATT (As Dioscorea anguina)

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

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