PLANT FACT SHEET

Piper umbellatum L.

GENUS *Piper* **FAMILY** Piperaceae

COMMON NAMES Shrubby Pepper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruits, Flowers, Bark, Vegetable, Spice, Ash - salt

The leaves are eaten raw or cooked as a flavouring. They are used for wrapping other dishes. They have a peppery taste.
The leaves and young flowers are cooked with fish.
The fruit are eaten.
The bark is used as a condiment.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It is erect and 1-2 m high. The stems are thick, strong and with lines along them. The leaf stalk is 15-25 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 17-37 cm long by 15-32 cm wide. They are like a membrane. They have brown glands. The base is deeply heart shaped. There is a sharp tip. There are 11-13 veins. The flowers have both sexes. The spikes are 2-7 together in clusters on short stalks in the axils of leaves. The spikes are 7-12 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It needs a sheltered position and moist, well drained soil. It grows within wet places in the forests at about 300 m in Taiwan. In Zimbabwe it grows between 400-1,200 m above sea level. In Nigeria it grows to 1,830 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed and cuttings. Stem cuttings with roots at the nodes can be used.

NOTES

There are between 1000-2000 Piper species. They are mostly in the tropics.

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