PLANT FACT SHEET

Bidens biternata (Lour.) Merrill & Sherff ex Sherff

GENUS *Bidens* **FAMILY** Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES Bur marigold, Yellow-flowered blackjack

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds

The young leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
The seeds are mixed with half boiled rice in the making of rice wine.
The young leaves are eaten as a relish either raw or steamed.

DESCRIPTION

A small erect annual herb. It grows about 1 m high. It is branched. The stems are angular with furrows and some hairs. The stems are tough. The leaves are opposite with one or two pairs of leaflets and one at the edge. The leaflets at the base are lobed and have rounded teeth. They are hairy on both sides. They are yellowish green and lighter underneath. They are 2-7 cm long by 1-4 cm wide. The flowers are at the top of the plant. The flowers are in disk like heads. The flowers are yellow. The fruit has 3 or 4 bristles at the end.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in coastal locations. In southern Africa it grows between 950-1,300 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It occurs from Luzon to Mindanao in the Philippines. In Java it grows up to 1,250 m above sea level. It grows in fertile and well-drained soils. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 200 Bidens species. Most are in North America.

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