PLANT FACT SHEET

Corchorus trilocularis (L.) Burm.

GENUS *Corchorus* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Flowers, Vegetable

The leaves are cooked as a potherb. Because it is slippery it is cooked with other coarse leaves. They are also used as a sauce or relish. It cooks quickly. Leaves can be dried and stored.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It grows to about 1 m tall. It is an erect plant and branches. Sometimes the branches hang over. The young branches are often purple. When young they can be hairy on both sides of the stem. The leaf is 2-12 cm long by 0.5-3.5 cm wide. They are oblong and the tip is pointed. The edges of the leaf can have teeth or be indented. The leaf stalk is 2.5 cm long. Flowers occur as one to 3 together on flower stalks opposite the upper leaves. The fruit is a many seeded capsule 2.5-7 cm long. The fruit points upwards and is straight or slightly curved. It has 3-4 angles and 3-4 valves. The seeds inside these are dark brown and oval. They are about 1 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows as a weed along roadsides, hill sides and on grassy plains. It grows between sea level and 2,400 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. The seeds can be planted in rows or broadcast.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected during the rainy season.

NOTES

There are about 100 Corchorus species.

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