PLANT FACT SHEET

Curculigo capitulata Kuntze

GENUS *Curculigo* **FAMILY** Hypoxidaceae

COMMON NAMES Weevil lily, Palm-grass, Star-grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves, Stems

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The leaves are used as a potherb.
The young stems and leaves are made into soup.

DESCRIPTION

A lily herb which grows up to 1 m tall. It forms spreading clumps. The rhizome is thick and black. It has fibrous roots. There are several thick rhizomes with tubers and slender creeping stolons. There are 4-7 leaves. The leaf stalks are 30-80 cm long. The leaves are oblong to sword shaped and 40-90 cm long by 5-14 cm wide. They may have some hairs. The leaves are bright green and pleated. The flowering stalk has a round head near ground level. The flowering stems are 15-30 cm long. The flowers are nodding. The flowers are 2 cm across. They are bright yellow. The fruit are berries. The individual berries are 7-16 mm long. They occur in clusters at the base of the plant. These contain many seeds. The fruit are edible.

The fruit is a white berry 4-5 mm across. The seeds are black with irregular stripes.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical rainforest. It suits humid locations. It grows in sheltered gullies. It will grow in subtropical and warm temperate locations. It grows up to 1,800 m above sea level. It grows in wet soil. They can tolerate moderate frosts. In Argentina it grows below 100 m above sea level. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It grows in hilly country in Malaysia. It grows in shady and moist places in forests between 800-2,200 m above sea level in southern China. Geelong Botanical Gardens. In XTBG Yunnan. In Sichuan. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Townsville Queens BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed or by dividing the clump. It can be grown by air-layering.

Harvesting and Seed Production

They are fast growing.

NOTES

There are 7 Molineria species. The fruit are tasteless but contain a sweetening agent.
Also put in the family Amaryllidaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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