PLANT FACT SHEET

Phanera vahlii (Wight & Arn.) Benth.

GENUS *Phanera* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Malu Creeper, Camel's foot climber

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit, Pods, Leaves, Flowers

The tender young pods and leaves are cooked as vegetables. They are stir-fried.
The flower buds are eaten as a vegetable.
The seeds are eaten raw, roasted, or dried and fried.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or very large climber. It can grow 10-30 m long. The stems are woody and 20 cm across. It has tendrils to attach to other plants. The branches end in a pair of tendrils. The leaves vary in size but are as broad and they are long. They are divided for about one third of their length. They can be 8-25 cm long. The flowers are white and fading to yellow. The fruit is a woody pod. It is flat, rusty and velvety. Pods can be 20-30 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Nepal it grows between 200-1500 m altitude. It needs well-drained soil. It suits a protected sunny position. It is resistant to frost but damaged by drought. It suits the wet tropics. It can grow in arid places. In Cairns Botanical Garden.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seed need treatment before planting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern India plants fruit December to March.

NOTES

There are about 250-350 Bauhinia species. Most are in the tropics. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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