PLANT FACT SHEET

Proboscidea louisianica (Miller) Thellung

GENUS *Proboscidea* **FAMILY** Martyniaceae

COMMON NAMES Common Devil's claw

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Pods, Leaves, Fruit

The young pods are pickled in vinegar and eaten. They can also be sliced and added to soups as thickening.
The cooked leaves and roasted seed are also eaten.
The seeds also yield an edible oil.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It is a soft stemmed plant. It grows 30-90 cm high. It branches to spread over a metre across. The leaves are like pumpkin leaves. The leaves are large and 30 cm long by 12 cm across. They are covered with glandular nectar. The plant produces a slimy exudate. The flowers are tube shaped and purplish with yellow mottling inside. They are 3-6 cm long. They often have green, purple or violet spots. The plant has a bad scent. The fruit is a tear shaped capsule. It has a green outer husk. The fruit are fleshy at first. Later the inner woody shell remains and it has a long curved beak. These capsule turn yellow to black at maturity. The capsules have rough grooves at the base. They are 10-17 cm long. The beak eventually splits open and the shell opens.

HABITAT

It needs warmth and sun. It can grow in warm temperate and tropical places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994) (As Martynia louisianica)

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 834

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 148

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 405 (As Martynia proboscidea)

Heywood, V.H., Brummitt, R.K., Culham, A., and Seberg, O. 2007, Flowering Plant Families of the World. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. p 204

http://www.botanic-gardens-ljubljana.com/en/plants

Illustrated Flora of Central Texas p 880

Jordan, J., et al, 2006, Vascular Plants Utilized by the Plains Apache in Southwestern Oklahoma, Publications of the Oklahoma Biological Survey. 2nd Series. Volume 7: 24-33, 2006

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 702

Kiple, K.F. & Ornelas, K.C., (eds), 2000, The Cambridge World History of Food. CUP p 1874

Lamp, C & Collet F., 1989, Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. Inkata Press. p 229

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 198

Loughmiller, C & L., 1985, Texas Wildflowers. A Field Guide. University of Texas, Austin. p 164 (As Martynia louisianica)

Mem. Soc. Sci. Nat. Cherbourg ser. 4, 38:480. 1911-1912

Moerman, D. F., 2010, Native American Ethnobotany. Timber Press. p 436

Morley, B. & Everard, B., 1970, Wild Flowers of the World. Ebury press. Plate 162

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 294

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Rangel-Landa, S., et al, 2017, Sociocultural and ecological factors influencing management of edible and non-edible plants: the case of Ixcatlan, Mexico. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 13:59

Smith, N., Mori, S.A., et al, 2004, Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Princeton. p 238

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 452

Terra, G.J.A., 1973, Tropical Vegetables. Communication 54e Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, p 68 (As Proboscidea jussieui)

Tozer, F., 2007, The Uses of Wild Plants. Green Man Publishing. p 156

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/aa6ace36-ecf6-4749-933d-dd18731f28bc