PLANT FACT SHEET

Indigofera tinctoria L.

GENUS *Indigofera* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Indigo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - dye, Flowers

The leaves are the source of a blue dye sometimes used to counteract the slightly yellow colour of icing sugar. The flowers are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or small shrub. It grows 60-120 cm high. The branches are hairy. The leaves are compound and 2-13 cm long. There are 7-13 leaflets and these are 5-26 mm long. The group of flowers are 5-12 cm long. They are pink. The fruit is a pod 2-4 cm long by 2.5 mm wide. There are 10-12 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in woodland.

NOTES

It is the source of the dye indigo.

REFERENCES

Amin, M., et al, 2023, Edible wild plant species used by different linguistic groups of Kohistan Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 19:6 p 10

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 106

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 81

http://palaeoworks.anu.edu.au/Nuno_PhD/04.pdf re Timor

Jackes, B. R., 2010, Plants of Magnetic Island. 3rd Edition. James Cook University, Australia. p 88

Molla, A., Ethiopian Plant Names. http://www.ethiopic.com/aplants.htm (As Indigofera houer)

Plants of Haiti Smithsonian Institute http://botany.si.edu/antilles/West Indies

Sp. pl. 2:751. 1753

Sujanapal, P., & Sankaran, K. V., 2016, Common Plants of Maldives. FAO & Kerala FRI, p 149

Sutjaritjai, N., et al, 2019, Traditional Uses of Leguminosae among the Karen in Thailand. Plants 2019, 8, 600 p 7

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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/af4a3bb5-156d-4392-b805-e5dd67c8645c