PLANT FACT SHEET

Orthanthera jasminiflora (Decne.) Schinz

GENUS *Orthanthera* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Jasmine creeper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pod, Roots - drink, Leaves, Vegetable, Seeds

The young pod is eaten raw. The fruit is used as a staple food. They are also boiled and baked. They are treated as a vegetable.
It is eaten as a meat-like substance.
The crushed roots are used to make beer.

DESCRIPTION

A herb that lies along the ground. It spreads 3-10 m wide. It has a taproot. The leaves are opposite and sword shaped. The flowers are in groups. There are 2-10 flowers in a group. They are cream or pale yellow and have 5 petals. The flowers have a strong scent. The fruit are a pair of follicles. They are spindle shaped and 10 cm long by 12 mm wide. They taper to a long beak.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in sandy places. It grows in well-drained soils. It grows in dry savannah. In Southern Africa it grows between 800-1,500 m altitude. It is often along roadsides in the Kalahari. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are 5 Orthanthera species. It has also been put in the Asclepiadaceae family.

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