PLANT FACT SHEET

Satyrium neglectum Schltr.

GENUS *Satyrium* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Pink-candle orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Roots

The tubers are peeled, cooked and eaten like potatoes.
They are also pound into flour and used to make cakes.

DESCRIPTION

An orchid. It grows in the soil. It grows 1 m tall. The tubers are hairy and produce slender or stout stems. The tubers are 1.5-3 cm long and 1 cm wide. The roots are hairy and wiry. There are separate leafy stems next to the flowering stems. There are 2-5 leaves on the sterile stems. The lowest one or two surround the stem. The upper leaves are long and narrow and 27 cm long by 6.5 cm wide. The flowering stalk is 4-35 cm long. It has 6-12 leaves that form a sheath around it. These leaves are 13 cm long. They are narrow and pointed. The flower head is 5-25 cm long. There are many small pink to yellow flowers. They have a sweet scent. The fruit is a narrowly oval capsule. It opens by slits to release the very small seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Tanzania it grows in grassland between 1,800-2,700 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from tubers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Tubers are harvested during and shortly after the rainy season. Tubers can be stored for several months if kept cool and dry.

REFERENCES

Msuya, T. S., et al, 2010, Availability, Preference and Consumption of Indigenous Foods in the Eastern Arc Mountains, Tanzania, Ecology of Food and Nutrition, 49:3, 208-227

Ruffo, C. K., Birnie, A. & Tengnas, B., 2002, Edible Wild Plants of Tanzania. RELMA p 590

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