PLANT FACT SHEET

Dioscorea cayenensis subsp. cayenensis Lam.

GENUS *Dioscorea* **FAMILY** Dioscoreaceae

COMMON NAMES Dunguey

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root

The tubers are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A yam. It is a climbing plant with stems up to 10 m long. The stems are spiny with spines that curve back and are 1 cm long. The stems are angular and 1.5 cm across. The leaves are alternate. The leaves are large and oval but heart shaped at the base. They are 8-15 cm long by 7-16 cm wide. The edges are slightly wavy. They are shiny on the upper surface and dull underneath. It has a large tuberous rootstock. The flowers are in a simple spike. The fruit is a capsule 3 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in moist forest. It has been recorded growing up to 2,200 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 650 species of Dioscorea.

REFERENCES

Bortolotto, I. M., et al, 2018, Lista preliminar das plantas alimenticias nativas de Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil. Iheringia, Serie Botanica, Porto Alegre, 73 (supl.):101-116 (As Dioscorea altissima)

Chu, E. P., Figueiredo-Ribeiro, R. C. L., 1991, Native and Exotic Species of Dioscorea Used as Food In Brazil. Economic Botany, Vol. 45, No. 4, pp. 467-479 (As Dioscorea altissima)

Fern, K., 2012, Tropical Species Database http://theferns.info/tropical/ (As Dioscorea altissima)

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

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b42f50f4-cad4-464f-921a-eebb4e3c53e0