PLANT FACT SHEET

Sinofranchetia chinensis (Franch.) Hemsl.

GENUS *Sinofranchetia* **FAMILY** Lardizabalaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild wood-gourd

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten. They are also used for wine and jelly.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen creeper or vine. The leaves are compound. They have leaflets arranged like fingers on a hand. There are 3-5 leaflets. The size and shapes vary. They are oblong and 6-10 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. The male and female flowers are separate on the same plant. They are greenish-purple with an unpleasant smell. The fruit is narrowly oval and pale purplish blue. It is 2 cm long by 1.5 cm wide. The seeds are oval and 4-6 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in dense forests along rivers. It is recorded between 1,000-2,000 m above sea level. In Sichuan and Yunnan. It suits hardiness zone 6.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds. Cuttings of half ripe wood can also be used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. In China the plants flower May to June and fruit September to October.

NOTES

There is only one Sinofranchetia species.

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