PLANT FACT SHEET

Dendrocalamus brandisii (Munro) Kurz

GENUS *Dendrocalamus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Brandisii bamboo, Velvet leaf bamboo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots

The young shoots are used as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A loosely tufted bamboo. The culm is erect and the tip hangs over. The stem or culm can be 30 m high. They are 15-20 cm across at the base. The wall is 2.5-4 cm thick. They are greenish-grey. The internodes are 30-60 cm long. There is a shiny brown line of hairs below and above the node. The nodes are slightly swollen. There are aerial roots in the lower nodes. There can be branches from the middle of the culm. The culm sheath is 40-60 cm long by 20-35 cm wide. It is longer than the internodes. The leaf blade is sword shaped and 20-30 cm long by 2.5-5 cm wide. It is pale green on the upper surface.

HABITAT

It grows in the tropics and subtropics. It grows in wet places in evergreen forests up to 1300 m altitude. It is often on limestone soils. It needs well drained soils. In Yunnan. At ECHO.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed, from rhizome cuttings or by cuttings of the culm or stem. For culm cuttings a section of the stem with 2 nodes was planted horizontally just below the soil surface.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The young shoots emerge above the soil in the rainy season. A healthy clump produces several shoots each year.

NOTES

There are about 29 Dendrocalamus species. Chemical composition per 100 g edible portion: Water 92 g, Protein 1.1 g, Fat 0.3 g, carbohydrates 1.8 g, Fibre 0.8 g, Ash 0.6 g.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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