PLANT FACT SHEET

Gynochthodes officinalis (F.C.How) Razafim. & B. Bremer

GENUS *Gynochthodes* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese herbal morinda, Chinese morinda

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

The root is used fresh or dried and cooked with pork to make a broth.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen woody creeper. The bark of the root is enlarged in some places to form fleshy sections 1-2 cm across. It is greyish-yellow outside. It is roughened with lines along it. There are also cracks across it. The young branches are softly hairy. The leaves are opposite and oblong. They are 6-10 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. They can taper to the tip. The leaves have a few hairs. The flowers are white and without stalks. There are 2-10 flowers joined together in a head. These are 5-9 mm across. The fruit are fleshy and made up of several parts joined together. They are yellow-red and almost round. They are 6-11 mm across. There are several woody stones inside. These are pitted and have an oblong seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is native to southern China. It grows in forests on mountains between 100-500 m above sea level. It is best with temperatures of 21-23°C. It can tolerate shade.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can ge grown from cuttings or division of the root stock.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The roots are harvested 4-5 years after planting. They are washed then spread in the sun to dry and then beaten and returned to the sun to dry.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b7800ad3-b5e3-49f3-9af4-76e409832e7b