PLANT FACT SHEET

Flemingia trifoliata (Jungh.) C. Y. Wu

GENUS *Flemingia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Flemingia, Nandjirr

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 50 cm to 1 m high. It spreads 50 cm to 1 m across. It has a thick rootstock from which it can re-grow year after year. Some branches re-grow each year while others continue to grow. The young shoots are softly hairy. The leaves are divided into 3 leaflets. The leaflets are 5-8 cm long by 2-4 cm across. They are oval and pale green and pointed towards the tip. They are softly hairy on both surfaces. The dense clusters of flowers are 2-3 cm across. They are produced in the axils of the upper leaves near the ends of small branches. The flowers are 0.8 cm long and purple. They have distinct outer bracts which are sword shaped. They are brown and form a covering around the flowers. The fruit are pods which are 0.6 cm long. The seeds are black and 4.5 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open places often amongst rocks. Plants can die back and regrow in dry places. In Papua New Guinea it grows to 2,000 m altitude but mostly it is near sea-level. In southern China it grows in disturbed grassland between 500-1,000 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

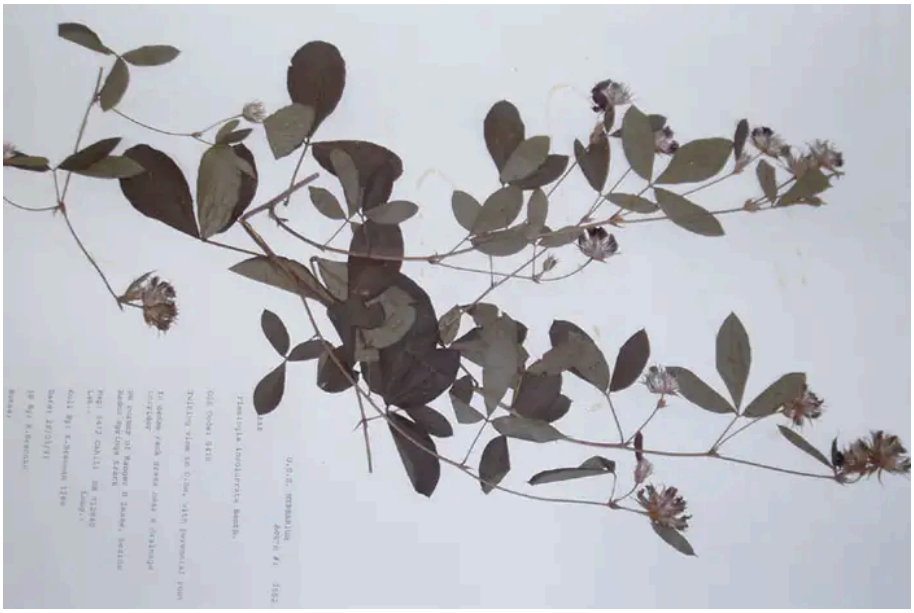
Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed need to be treated to break the hard seed coat.

NOTES

There are about 35 Flemingia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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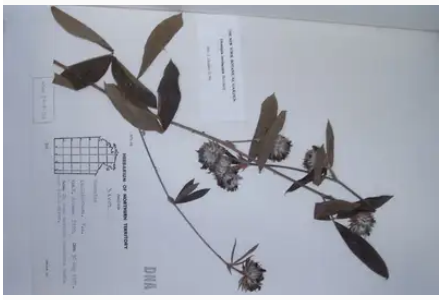

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