PLANT FACT SHEET

Eriosema shirense Baker f.

GENUS *Eriosema* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tubers

The roots are eaten raw by children. They are peeled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A woody herb. It grows 20 cm high. The taproot develops tubers 1.5 cm across and 2 cm long. The tubers are usually 10-25 cm below the soil surface. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaves are hairy and narrowly sword shaped. The flowers are in open groups. They are yellow with dark purple lines. The fruit are small hairy pods. They are 1.5 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in grassy and wooded savannah. In Kenya it grows between 1,400-2,200 m altitude. They are often in rocky areas. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

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