PLANT FACT SHEET

Marsdenia glabra Cost.

GENUS *Marsdenia* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Phak saeo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The tender shoots and young leaves are eaten blanched.

DESCRIPTION

A thin climber. The leaves are opposite. They are oval. The leaves are 4-9 cm long and 1.5-4.5 cm wide. The leaf stalk is hairy. It is 1-2 cm long. The flowers occur as a cluster of short stalked flowers. These occur in the axils of leaves. They are 1.5 cm long. The flowers are bell-shaped. They are 3-4 mm long. They are white. The many seeded dry fruit is dagger shaped. They are 5 cm long by 6 mm wide. The seeds have a beak. They are 8 mm long by 3-4 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in mountain forest between 500–800 m altitude in China. It occurs in evergreen or mixed deciduous forests. In Yunnan.

NOTES

The bark, leaves and flowers are used to make blue dye. There are about 25 Marsdenia species. They are mostly tropical.

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