PLANT FACT SHEET

Cayaponia laciniosa (L.) C. Jeffrey

GENUS *Cayaponia* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The leaves are boiled and eaten as a vegetable.
The young fruit are cooked and made into soup.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a vine like plant that is a climber. The leaves are 9-13 cm long by 5-7 cm wide. They are oval or oblong. The base is heart shaped and it tapers to the tip. Flowers are of separate sexes on the same plant. Male flowers are in groups in the axils of leaves and female flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a berry almost 1 cm across. It is red when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It will not grow in dry regions.

NOTES

It is used in medicine due to its antimicrobial activity. There is some confusion over the name - see GRIN. Some records include Diplocyclos palmatus.

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WATT (As Bryonopsis laciniosa)

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