PLANT FACT SHEET

Duchesnea indica (Andrews) Focke

GENUS *Duchesnea* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian Strawberry, Mock Strawberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Leaves - tea

The small fruit are edible. They are eaten raw. They are also used for jam.
The young leaves are eaten in salads.
The root and lower parts of the stem are eaten as betel nut.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 10 cm high and spreads 1.8 m wide. It is silky and has soft hairs. It has a rootstock that lasts from year to year and puts up slender runners. It has runners which root at the nodes and the tips forming new rings of leaves. The leaves are dark green and have 3 leaflets. The leaves have leaflets which are oval and wedge shaped at the base. They have coarse teeth. They are rounded at the tip. The end leaflet is 1-3 cm long and 0.7-2.5 cm wide. The side leaflets are slightly smaller. The flowers occur singly. The sepals are triangle shaped and 5-10 mm long. The petals are narrowly oval and 5 mm long. The flowers are yellow. The fruit are dry. They spread over a red, swollen, pulpy receptacle. The fruit are 2 cm long.
See Potentilla indica
See Potentilla indica - this covers some varieties.

HABITAT

It suits warm temperate places. It grows in moist shaded places. It grows in wetlands. It is often near river banks and grows in Assam up to 2,000 m above sea level. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,800 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 6-11. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. In Sichuan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or division of runners.

NOTES

There are 6 Duchesnea species. Chemical composition: emodin = 0.1%; ash = 9.3%. Rich in lime. Contains chrysophonic acid, phytosterol, sugars, and volatile oil.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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