PLANT FACT SHEET

Dicliptera chinensis (L.) Juss.

GENUS *Dicliptera* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese foldwing

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Leaves - tea

The young leaves and tips are used uncooked or steamed to flavour food. They are used in soups and potherbs. They are also used to colour rice.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 30-50 cm high. It is much branched. It has soft hairs. The leaves are narrowly oval and 3-5 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They taper to a short tip. The flowers are pink-purple and small. They are 1.2-1.5 cm long. They do not have stalks. They are in groups in the axils of leaves.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from sea level to high altitudes. It is best in humid and shaded locations. In southern China it grows near streams below 1,800 m above sea level. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It grows easily from seed.

NOTES

There are about 150 Dicliptera species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics.

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