PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax lanceifolia Roxb.

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

Young leaves and shoots are cooked as a vegetable.
Ripe fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A thorny twining shrub. Stems are 1-2 m long. They are woody. The leaves are stalked. The leaf stalks are 1-2 cm long and with narrow wings. The leaf blades are oval or sword shaped and fattened towards the base. They taper to the tip. They are 6-17 cm long by 2-8 cm wide. The flowers are small and yellow. They occur in many flowered heads. The fruit is a berry. They are green when young. This plant varies a lot.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. In Nepal they grow to about 2000 m altitude. They grow in moist places in forested areas. In China they grow from 100-2800 m altitude. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 300 Smilax species.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c769ff6e-0eea-4c5a-a54b-d14715800e28