PLANT FACT SHEET

Alysicarpus vaginalis (L.) DC.

GENUS *Alysicarpus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Alyce, Buffalo Clover

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Herb, Leaves

The herb is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A spreading low lying shrub or herb. It has many stems. They are 10-60 cm long. These spread out from a rootstock which continues to live from year to year. The leaf has one leaflet. The leaflet is oblong or sword shaped and 0.5-6.6 cm long by 0.3-2.6 cm wide. The leaflets are dark green above and pale underneath. They are oval and have netted veins. They can be notched or with a tip at the end. The flowers are small and not easily seen. They are 6 mm long at the ends of branches. The flowers occur in clusters 2-13 cm long. The flower colour varies. The pods are deep red and not quite round. They stick upwards. They contain 4-7 seeds. The seeds are brown and sometimes they are mottled.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Papua New Guinea it grows from sea level to 840 m altitude. In Nepal it grows between 200 and 1200 m altitude. It grows in bare patches in grassland. It grows on sandy sea sides. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants were flowering and fruiting in March to May in northern Australia. A plant will continue to grow for 3 years.

REFERENCES

Ambasta S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 33

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 122

Franklin, J., Keppel, G., & Whistler, W., 2008, The vegetation and flora of Lakeba, Nayau and Aiwa Islands, Central Lau Group, Fiji. Micronesica 40(1/2): 169–225, 2008

Huang Puhua; H. Ohashi, FABACEAE (Draft), Trib. Desmodieae (Bentham) Hutchinson. Flora of China.

Hussey, B.M.J., Keighery, G.J., Cousens, R.D., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G., 1997, Western Weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia. Plant Protection Society of Western Australia. p 148

Jackes, B.R., 2001, Plants of the Tropics. Rainforest to Heath. An Identification Guide. James Cook University. p 54

Kenneally, K.E., Edinger, D. C., and Willing T., 1996, Broome and Beyond, Plants and People of the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Land Management. p 152

Manandhar, N.P., 2002, Plants and People of Nepal. Timber Press. Portland, Oregon. p 84

McMakin, P.D., 2000, Flowering Plants of Thailand. A Field Guide. White Lotus. p 95 (As Alysicarpus nummularifolius)

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 416

Pham-Hoang Ho, 1999, An Illustrated Flora of Vietnam. Nha Xuat Ban Tre. p 935

Plants of Haiti Smithsonian Institute http://botany.si.edu/antilles/West Indies

Prodr. 2:353. 1825

Singh, H.B., Arora R.K.,1978, Wild edible Plants of India. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. p 39

Sujanapal, P., & Sankaran, K. V., 2016, Common Plants of Maldives. FAO & Kerala FRI, p 30

Swaziland's Flora Database http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora

Thaman, R. R, 2016, The flora of Tuvalu. Atoll Research Bulletin No. 611. Smithsonian Institute p 88

Verdcourt, B., 1979, Manual of New Guinea Legumes. Botany Bulletin No 11, Division of Botany, Lae, Papua New Guinea. p 421

WATT

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 367

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c9223870-af61-4cf2-92f6-3c66f1b19bfd