PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax aristolochiifolia Mill.

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

COMMON NAMES Mexican sarsaparilla

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Rhizome - flavouring, Leaves

The root is used to make a drink. The roots are used for sarsaparilla flavouring. It is used commercially for flavouring root beers, baked goods, ice cream candy and drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing vine. It has tendrils. It grows 4-5 m long. The roots can be 2-2.5 m long. The leaves are papery and arranged alternately. The leaves are 10-30 cm wide. The flowers are small and green. The fruit are small red berries with 2-3 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in warm and swampy areas. It grows between 850-1,760 m above sea level.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/cb800f5d-8c21-4969-be06-295c3a1d21af