PLANT FACT SHEET

Schoenoplectus litoralis (Schrader) Palla

GENUS *Schoenoplectus* **FAMILY** Cyperaceae

COMMON NAMES River club-rushes

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Rhizome, Root, Stem

The underground stem was roasted and crushed then eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A sedge which keeps growing from year to year. It is 1.5 m high. It forms tufts and has long stout rhizomes. The stems are 3 angled near the flower but are rounded lower down. The stems are hollow. There are 3-4 leaves per stem. They are pale grey and mostly with just a sheath but the top leaf is 50 cm long. The flower head is brown and is a compound arrangement of many spikes. The spikelets are 0.5-2 cm long. The nut is curved on both sides and 2 mm long. It is smooth.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on the edge of swamps. Often it is in brackish water. It is often on coastal regions. It can grow on the edges of mangroves.

NOTES

There are about 60 Schoenoplectus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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