PLANT FACT SHEET

Ormocarpum kirkii S. Moore

GENUS *Ormocarpum* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Curled caterpillar bush, Caterpillar-pod

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The dried leaves are pounded and sieved. This powder is stirred into warm water and boiled to produce a paste which is then eaten with groundnuts or rice.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 2-9 m tall. The small branches are white. The bark is rough, corky and has furrows along it. The leaves are single and spread out along the young shoots. There are 7-13 leaflets. They are 6-12 mm long by 2-7 mm wide. The flowers are in groups of 1-3. The fruit is a coiled pod. It usually has one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in woodland. It grows between 100-1,500 m altitude. It can grow in stony or sandy soil. It cannot tolerate frost. It is drought tolerant. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected during the rainy season and early dry season. The vegetable powder can be stored for several months.

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

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