PLANT FACT SHEET

Dioscorea polygonoides Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.

GENUS *Dioscorea* **FAMILY** Dioscoreaceae

COMMON NAMES Biter jessie

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root

The root is cooked and eaten.
It is also roasted and ground into a powder and used as a coffee substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A yam. It is a climbing plant that keeps growing from year to year by producing slender twining stems from a large tuberous rootstock. The vine can be 8 m long. The stems are almost cylinder shaped. The leaves are alternate and oval with 7-11 veins. The leaves are 8-21 cm long by 5-17 cm wide. They taper to the tip and are heart shaped at the base. The upper surface is shiny and the lower surface is dull. The leaf stalks are 5-8 cm long. The bulbils on the stem are angular and 5 cm wide. The flowers hang down in the axils of the leaves. They can be branched and 50 cm long. The flowers are in groups without stalks. The capsule has 3 wings and is about 3 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rainforest clearings. It is often on limestone soils. It grows between 150-900 m in Jamaica.

NOTES

There are about 650 species of Dioscorea.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d09db209-5b59-4de3-af95-7eae9d4cafee