PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhynchosia hirta (Andrews) Meikle & Verdc.

GENUS *Rhynchosia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

DESCRIPTION

A robust creeper. It grows 5 m high. The main stems can be 8 mm across. The stems have dense rusty hairs. The leaves have 3 leaflets. These are often pale underneath. The end leaflet is 5-18 cm long by 4-14 cm wide. The side leaflets are 4-13 cm long by 3-9 cm wide. They taper to the tips. The flowering stalks can be branched and they have velvety rusty hairs. The flowers are yellow. The fruit are twisted pods 2-3 cm long by 4-7 mm wide. They are narrowly oblong. They have velvety hairs. The seeds are blue.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on the edges of forests and among rocks. In Malawi it grows between 1,300-2.200 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

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

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