PLANT FACT SHEET

Embelia sessiliflora Kurz.

GENUS *Embelia* **FAMILY** Primulaceae

COMMON NAMES Sour chicken vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fruit are sweet-sour and are eaten fresh.
The young leafy shoots are used for salads or cooked as a potherb.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or climber. There is a soft covering on the young branches and flowers. The branches are angled with sharp ridges along them. The branches are 2-3 mm thick. The leaf stalk is 5-10 mm long. The leaf blade is oblong and 5-12 cm long by 2.2-4.5 cm wide. They are papery. The base is rounded and extends along the leaf stalk. It tapers to a short tip. There are 18-27 side veins each side of the midrib. The flowering stalk is at the end of the branch and is shaped like a pyramid. It is 5-15 cm long. The flowers are greenish white. The fruit is round and red. It is 3-4 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In China it grows in mixed forests and scrubland between 1400-2800 m altitude in S China. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In NE India plants flower and fruit in September.

NOTES

There are about 140 Embelia species. Also put in the family Myrsinaceae.

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