PLANT FACT SHEET

Ipomoea polymorpha Roemer & Schultes

GENUS *Ipomoea* **FAMILY** Convolvulaceae

COMMON NAMES Silky Cowvine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tuber, Seeds

The tubers are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It can re-grow each year or last for a couple of years. This plant varies considerably. The stems can stick up or hang over. They do not twine. Stems are reddish. They come from a fleshy rootstock. The young growth is covered with fine white hairs. The leaves are 2-6 cm across and 0.5-2 cm wide. The leaves are oblong. The lower leaves have lobes or coarse teeth. The flowers are trumpet shaped and 1-1.5 cm across. They are pink or purple with a dark throat. The flowers occur singly in the axils of the upper leaves. Flowers only have very short flower stalks. The seed capsule is 0.5 cm across. The seeds have short hairs. There are 4 seeds in a capsule.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in semi-arid regions as well as tropical woodlands. It needs a sunny position. It needs good drainage. It can tolerate light frosts. Grasslands, sandy seashores below 100 m in China. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

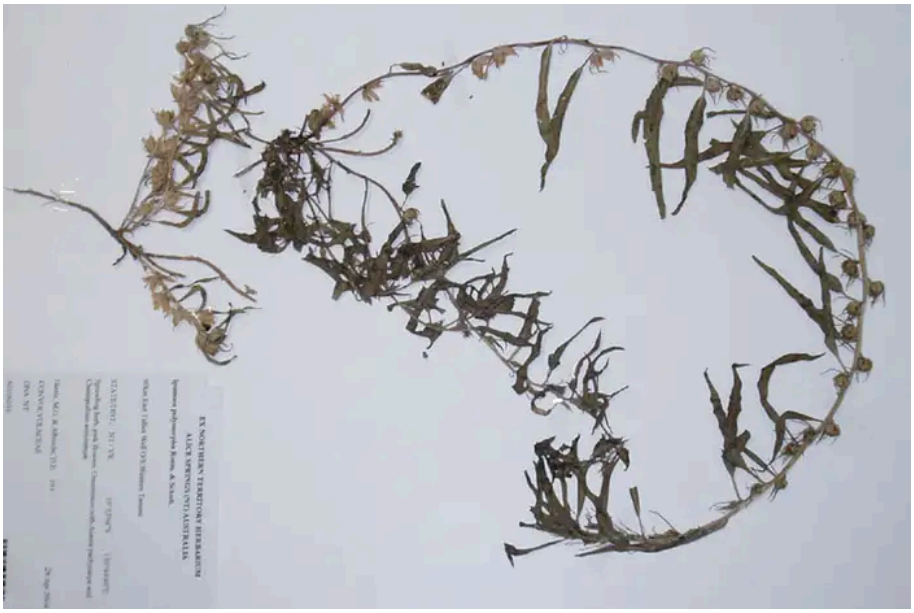
Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings. Cuttings grow easily.

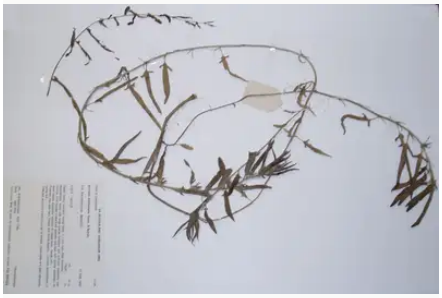
NOTES

There are about 500 Ipomoea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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