PLANT FACT SHEET

Pedalium murex L.

GENUS *Pedalium* **FAMILY** Pedaliaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are eaten boiled as a vegetable.
The leafy stems are used to thicken buttermilk. When briskly stirred in cold water they give a thick mucilage like the white of a raw egg.

DESCRIPTION

An annual plant. It has many branches. It is spreading and succulent. It grows 60 cm tall. It can cover an area one metre across. The roots are the colour of turmeric. The leaves are simple and opposite. They are oval. They are 1-5 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They have coarse teeth. The flowers are about 2 cm across. The fruit are 1-1.8 cm long and narrow at the base and have spreading spines at the other end. There are 1 or 2 seeds in each section. The seeds are oblong.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on moist alluvial flats. It can grow in salty soil. It needs an annual rainfall above 500 mm. It can grow in arid places. It is often near the edges of beaches. It can grow in salty, sandy and limestone soils.

NOTES

There is only one Pedalium species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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