PLANT FACT SHEET

Oxystelma esculentum (L. f.) R. Br. ex Schult.

GENUS *Oxystelma* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Alpin's oxystelma, Rosy milkweed vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The shoots are eaten raw.
The fruit are eaten mixed with seasoning or salt.

DESCRIPTION

A soft slender climber. The plant contains a white latex. The leaves are opposite and each pair is at right angles to the ones above and below it. The leaves are long and sword shaped. They are dark green with light green veins. They are 3.5-8 cm long by 4-10 mm wide. The leaf stalk is 3-12 mm long. The flowers occur as 2-3 together. They are 2-3 cm wide. The flowers are bell shaped. There are 5 triangular lobes. These are hairy at the edges. The flowers are white with reddish streaks inside. The fruit are many seeded dry fruit. They are oblong and curved. They are 4-7 cm long by 1.6 cm wide. The seeds are oval and flat.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on the Deccan in India. It grows naturally on stream banks. It grows up to an altitude of 900 metres. In Yunnan, China it grows between 800-1300 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 4 Oxystelma species. Used in medicine.

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