PLANT FACT SHEET

Isonema smeathmannii Roem. et Schult.

GENUS *Isonema* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The young leaves are eaten cooked as a potherb.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing shrub. It has a rusty red covering. It grows 5 m tall. The branches are 20 m long. The main stem is 2 cm across. The leaves are opposite and simple. The leaves are 4-12 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. The base is rounded and they taper to the tip. They are leathery and hairy underneath. The flowering stalks are near the end of the branches and are 27 cm long by 6 cm wide. They are hairy. The flowers have both sexes. The flowers are tube shaped and red-brown in colour. The fruit are made up of 2 follicles. They are cylinder shaped and 11-20 cm long by 1 cm wide. They have rusty velvety hairs. There are many spindle shaped seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in swamp forest. It is often along river banks.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seeds.

NOTES

There are 3 Isonema species. They are in tropical Africa.

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