PLANT FACT SHEET

Rheum acuminatum Hook. f. & Thomson

GENUS *Rheum* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Pongaju

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: leaves, Leaves - tea

The leaf stalks are pickled or used for chutney. They are also chewed raw after peeling.
The leaves are used as a tea substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows to about 1 m high. The lower leaves are 15-30 cm long and wide. They are oval and taper to a short tip. The base is heart-shaped. They are hairy underneath. The upper leaves are smaller. The flowers are red. They occur in loose flower clusters in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The fruit is dry and round and notched at the base and tip.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. In Nepal it grows between 3300-4200 m altitude. It grows in open rocky places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or root offshoots.

NOTES

There are about 30 Rheum species. They occur in Central Asia.

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