PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax riparia A. DC.

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

COMMON NAMES Ma mi kit, Miu wei cai

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The young leaves are parboiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A vine. Mostly it grows each year but can keep growing from year to year in tropical places. It is a climber. The stems are branched. They are 1-2 m long. They can be slightly woody near the base. They can be smooth or hairy and hollow and pithy. The leaf stalk is 0.7-2 cm long with small wings. Tendrils are usually present. The leaf blade is usually oval and 7-15 cm long by 5-11 cm wide. There is one flowering stalk which is slender. It is 3-5 cm long. Flowers of both sexes occur. There are 5-20 flowers on the stalk. The flowers are yellow. The fruit are blue-black berries. They are 7-9 mm across. Some varieties have been described depending on the hairiness of the leaves and flowers.

HABITAT

It it a temperate to subtropical plant. It grows in forests and grassy slopes from sea level to 2100 m altitude in China. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 300 Smilax species.

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