PLANT FACT SHEET

Orthosiphon rubicundus (D. Don) Benth.

GENUS *Orthosiphon* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root, Starch

The tubers are eaten. They are sliced, and ground into flour then used for cakes and other dishes. They are also used to extract starch.

DESCRIPTION

A softwood herb. It grows up to 60 cm tall. It has a woody rootstock that contains starch. The stems are erect, slender and 4 sided. The leaves are simple and in opposite pairs. They are 4-8 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They have rounded teeth along the edge. The flowers are in rings along the stalk. There are 10-20 of these with 4-8 flowers. The nutlets are oval and 1.5 mm long by 1.2 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in savannah woodland in Africa.

NOTES

There are about 40-100 Orthosiphon species. They grow in the tropics.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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