PLANT FACT SHEET

Grona triflora (L.) H. Ohashi & K. Ohashi

GENUS *Grona* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Three-flower beggarweed, Black clover, Creeping tick trefoil, Three-flower tick-trefoil

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Leaves - tea

The leaves are eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A prostrate herb which forms mats. It can re-grow each year or continue growing from year to year. The plant can be 10-20 cm tall. The stems are 8-20 cm long. The stems are much branched and covered with yellow-brown hairs. The plant can form roots at the nodes of the stem. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are heart shaped. These are oblong and 0.4-1.4 cm long by 0.4-1.2 cm wide. They can be hairy underneath. The leaf stalk is 0.4-1.1 cm long. There are normally 1-3 flowers in the axils of leaves. They are about 5 mm long. The petals are blue, purple or red. The fruit is a pod 1.2-1.8 cm long and with 2-5 segments. These are like a half circle in shape. One edge of the pod is indented.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in drier areas. In Papua New Guinea it grows from sea level to 1110 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds. Because of the hard seed coat it is best to pour hot water over them.

NOTES

It is used as a green manure and cover plant. It is used for lawns. There are about 350 Desmodium species. They are mostly in the tropics. It is used in medicine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Altschul, S.V.R., 1973, Drugs and Foods from Little-known Plants. Notes in Harvard University Herbaria. Harvard Univ. Press. Massachusetts. no. 1769 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 168 (As Desmodium triflorum)

BARC, 2016, State of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. (As Desmodium triflorum)

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 807 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Cowie, I, 2006, A Survey of Flora and vegetation of the proposed Jaco-Tutuala-Lore National Park. Timor-Lests (East Timor) www.territorystories.nt/gov.au p 47 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Ekman Herbarium records Haiti (As Desmodium triflorum)

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org (As Desmodium triflorum)

Franklin, J., Keppel, G., & Whistler, W., 2008, The vegetation and flora of Lakeba, Nayau and Aiwa Islands, Central Lau Group, Fiji. Micronesica 40(1/2): 169–225, 2008 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Kayang, H., 2007, Tribal knowledge on wild edible plants of Meghalaya, Northeast India. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. Vol. 6(1), January 2007, pp. 177-181 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Kumar, R. & Saikia, P., 2020, Wild edible plants of Jharkhand and their utilitarian perspectives. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge Vol 19 (2), April 2020, pp 237-250 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Li, D. et al, 2017, Ethnobotanical survey of herbal tea plants from the traditional markets in Chaoshan, China. Journal of Ethnopharmacology. 205 (2017) 195-206 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Calatogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 428 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Peekel, P.G., 1984, (Translation E.E.Henty), Flora of the Bismarck Archipelago for Naturalists, Division of Botany, Lae, PNG. p 237, 236 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Pham-Hoang Ho, 1999, An Illustrated Flora of Vietnam. Nha Xuat Ban Tre. p 927 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Prodr. 2:334. 1825 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Sawian, J. T., et al, 2007, Wild edible plants of Meghalaya, North-east India. Natural Product Radiance Vol. 6(5): p 415 (As trifolium but probably triflorum)

Smith, A.C., 1985, Flora Vitiensis Nova, Lawaii, Kuai, Hawaii, Volume 3 p 193 (As Desmodium triflorum)

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN). [Online Database] National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. Available: www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/econ.pl (10 April 2000) (As Desmodium triflorum)

Verdcourt, B., 1979, Manual of New Guinea Legumes. Botany Bulletin No 11, Division of Botany, Lae, Papua New Guinea. p 409 (As Desmodium triflorum)

Wiersema, J. H. & Leon, B., 2013, World Economic Plants. A Standard Reference CRC Press. 2nd Ed. p 241 (As Desmodium triflorum)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ec1d7c85-995f-45fb-9c6a-669c2addac3e