PLANT FACT SHEET

Asparagus cochinchinensis (Lour.) Merr.

GENUS *Asparagus* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese asparagus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Root

The tubers are candied and eaten. They are also boiled.
The fruit are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. The roots are swollen. The form tubers which are 3-5 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The stems are climbing and 1-2 m long. They are slightly woody. The branches are angled and have narrow wings. The leaf spur sometimes has spines. The spines are 2.5-3.5 mm long on the main stems. The true leaves are reduced to small scales. In the axils of these scale leaves there are 2-3 leaf-like small branches. These are 3 angled. The flowers are in the axils of the leaves. The fruit is a berry. It is green and 6-7 mm across. There are 1 or 2 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on thinly forested slopes and waste fields from near sea level to 1700 m altitude. It is often in arid areas. It can be on coral or limestone rocks. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

The tubers are used in medicine. There are between 160-300 Asparagus species.

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