PLANT FACT SHEET

Boerhavia erecta L.

GENUS *Boerhavia* **FAMILY** Nyctaginaceae

COMMON NAMES Hogweed, Pigweed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Root

The young tops are eaten. They are used in the preparation of sauces.
The tuberous root has been recorded as being used in earlier times. (Its use may have been for medicine.)

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It becomes a perennial weed. It can be 1 m tall and either upright or lying over. The leaf stalk is 1.5-4 cm long. The leaves are stalked, opposite, and variable in shape and size. They are 1.5-3.5 cm long by 1-2.5 cm wide. They are white-grey underneath. The flowers are produced in the axils of leaves. The fruit is cone shaped. It is about 3 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It mostly occurs in the coastal areas below 700 m altitude. It grows in dry, open places. It is more common in regions of seasonal rainfall. In China it grows in open sandy places.

NOTES

There are about 40 Boerhavia species. They are mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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