PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Gymnanthera oblonga* (Burm.f.) P. S. Green

**GENUS** *Gymnanthera* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Sea rubber vine, Harpoon bud

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

The young fruit are cooked and eaten but ripe fruit are eaten raw.

## DESCRIPTION

A small vine with milky sap. It can be a climber. It grows 3-6 m high. It has milky sap. The stems can be 4 cm across. Leaves are in pairs opposite each other. They are smooth and vary in shape. Often they are oblong 4.5-13 cm long by 1.2-6 cm wide. They are dark green on top and paler underneath and with a pointed tip. There are about 6-13 veins on each side of the midrib. The leaf stalk is 2 cm long. The flowers are green or cream and have a scent. They form tubes with star like petals. The flowers are 1.5-2 cm across. The fruit is a green capsule and with green ridges along it. Inside the fruit is composed of small green leafy type coverings. The fruit are about 8.5 cm long by 0.5 cm wide. There are many seeds. The seeds have feathery wings.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. Grows in the Nipa zone along the coast. It grows above the beach on dunes. It is often near streams and on the edges of swamps. It grows near sea level in the mangroves.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It grows wild. It can be grown from seed or cuttings.

## NOTES

There are 2-5 Gymnanthera species. Probably now in the Apocynaceae.

## PICTURES




Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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